

SHOW INFO AND SYNOPSIS

SWEENEY TODD: THE DEMON BARBER OF FLEET STREET was first produced in 1979 with music and lyrics by Stephen Sondheim and a book by Hugh Wheeler. The musical was adapted from a 1973 play, which itself was based on a character from Victorian “penny dreadful” books.

Sweeney Todd, an unjustly exiled barber, returns to nineteenth century London, seeking vengeance against the lecherous judge who framed him and ravaged his young wife. The road to revenge leads Todd to Mrs. Lovett, a resourceful proprietress of a failing pie shop, above which, he opens a new barber practice. Mrs. Lovett's luck sharply shifts when Todd's thirst for blood inspires the integration of an ingredient into her meat pies that has the people of London lining up.

CHARACTERS

Please note that the gender, physical attributes, and ethnicities of the characters are subject to change from traditional productions of the show.

SWEENEY TODD / BENJAMIN BARKER (*Bass-Baritone*) – A brooding, menacing, formerly-imprisoned barber, returned to London for vengeance. Must have a commanding voice and presence.

MRS. LOVETT (*Alto*) – The owner of a failing pie shop. Quick-witted, devious, and devoted to Mr. Todd. Must have impeccable comedic timing.

JOHANNA (*Soprano*) – Todd's daughter, a prisoner in the home of Judge Turpin. Voice of a bird.

ANTHONY HOPE (*Tenor*) – A young sailor. Madly in love with Johanna.

JUDGE TURPIN (*Bass-Baritone*) – A wicked officer of the law. Must be convincingly perverse.

BEADLE BAMFORD (*Tenor*) – Turpin's lackey. Smug and dim-witted.

TOBIAS RAGG (*Tenor*) – Pirelli's young assistant and later Mrs. Lovett's ward. A lovable street urchin.

BEGGAR WOMAN (*Mezzo-Soprano*) – A mad beggar with a dubious past.

ADOLFO PIRELLI (*Tenor*) – A flamboyant Italian snake-oil salesman. Challenges Todd to a shaving contest.

A CHORUS of narrators, townspeople, customers, victims, and more.