

WCT Winter 2026
King Midas and the Touch of Gold
Audition Packet

Thank you for your interest in our **Winter 2026** production of *King Midas and the Touch of Gold* by Vera Morris! We are thrilled to revisit this classic tale of mystery, magic and mayhem. To help you prepare for auditions, we are providing important details about the production, along with some encouragement to 'break a leg'. Please remember to HAVE FUN!

Reading through this packet and preparing in advance is **completely optional**, but we encourage those who may feel nervous about auditions or cold readings to review the material. It can also help you get ready for your character and start thinking about how you may want to portray each role. Below, you'll find a full production calendar, a synopsis of the show, a character breakdown, and audition sides (excerpts from the script used for readings during auditions).

Please note:

- **Memorization is not required.**
- **Copies of the scripts, and Madame Dido monologues, will be provided to all auditioners throughout the audition process**

Plot Overview:

King Midas is a powerful ruler who can think only of gold. His lovely daughter, Princess Penelope, is having a birthday, and noble guests come from far and wide, including the handsome Prince Ajax, who loves Penelope. Three mystical sisters present the princess with the gift of one wish, which Penelope lovingly gives to her father. He uses his wish to receive 'The Golden Touch.' At first he's ecstatic, but slowly it dawns on him that even a king cannot eat gold food or drink gold water. When he mistakenly touches Penelope, she, too, turns to gold! A rich moral and laughter abound as Midas painfully learns his lesson and is punished for his greed.

Casting Information:

Auditions are open to anyone ages 10-20. No experience required and there are no audition or participation fees! Casting for all characters is fluid in terms of race, ethnicity, gender, physical ability, and experience level. Walpole Children's Theatre welcomes anyone aspiring to be on stage.

We are looking for a cast of 25 to 28 performers. Unfortunately, we cannot cast everyone who auditions for this production. Casting notifications will be made in the days following auditions via phone or email.

We encourage all auditionees to bring their enthusiasm, creativity, and love for storytelling! We look forward to seeing you at auditions and can't wait to bring *King Midas and the Touch of Gold* to life together. Have fun!!

Our Attendance Expectations for Participating Cast Members:

- All rehearsals are in-person
- Cast members are expected to list all rehearsal conflicts (confirmed and/anticipated) at auditions
- Missing more than 50% (90 minutes) of a scheduled rehearsal will count as an absence
- As a reminder, please see the provided calendar
- Non-emergency absences after 1/25/2026 will be subject to production team approval
- All tech rehearsals and production dates (2/17-3/1/26) are mandatory

King Midas Calendar

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
November 2025						
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
Midas Auditions! VFW 12:30-4pm		1st Rehearsal 6:30-9pm Shop				
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
Rehearsal 4-7pm VFW <i>*4pm Parent Mtg</i>		Rehearsal 6:30-9pm Shop				
30						
Rehearsal 4-7pm VFW						
December 2025						
	1	2	3	4	5	6
		Rehearsal 6:30-9pm Shop				
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Rehearsal 4-7pm VFW (Crew Mtg 3pm)		Rehearsal 6:30-9pm Shop				
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
Rehearsal 4-7pm VFW		Rehearsal 6:30-9pm Shop				
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
Rehearsal 4-7pm VFW		No Rehearsal				
28	29	30	31			
Rehearsal 4-7pm VFW		Rehearsal 6:30-9pm Italian-American				

January 2026						
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Rehearsal 4-7pm VFW		Rehearsal 6:30-9pm Italian-American				
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Rehearsal 4-7pm VFW		Rehearsal 6:30-9pm Italian-American				
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
Rehearsal 4-7pm VFW		Rehearsal 6:30-9pm Italian-American				
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
Rehearsal 4-7pm VFW (Crew Mtg 3pm)		Rehearsal 6:30-9pm Italian-American				
FEBRUARY						
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Rehearsal 4-7pm VFW <i>*4pm Parent Mtg</i>		Rehearsal 6:30-9pm WFL		Rehearsal 6:30-9pm WFL		
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Rehearsal 3:00-5:30pm VFW		Rehearsal 6:30-9pm WFL		Rehearsal 6:30-9pm WFL		
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
Rehearsal 4-7pm VFW	(No Cast)	Tech Rehearsal 6-9pm All Cast- Mandatory	Half-Dress 6-9:30pm All Cast- Mandatory	Full Dress 4-9:30pm All Cast- Mandatory	Show-7pm 4pm Cast Call All Cast- Mandatory	Shows- 2pm & 7pm 11am Cast Call All Cast- Mandatory <i>** All cast stay at theater between shows</i>

22	23	24	25	26	27	28
Show- 2pm 11am Cast Call All Cast- Mandatory	<i>Off/Rest</i>	<i>Off/Rest</i>	<i>Off/Rest</i>	<i>Off/Rest</i>	Show- 7pm 4pm Cast Call All Cast- Mandatory	Shows- 2pm & 7pm 11am Cast Call All Cast-Mandatory ** All cast stay at theater between shows Cast Party
March 1						
Strike 11am-12:30pm All Cast- Mandatory						

Audition Info & Links

Sunday, November 16th 2025 at 1PM

Walpole VFW, 33 Robbins Rd

Walpole MA

Audition Schedule:

12:30 - 1:00 PM: Arrival & Registration

1:00 - 2:30 PM Introductions & Madame Dido

END of Primary Auditions - only a portion of auditionees will be asked to stay for callbacks

3:00 - 4:00 PM: Callbacks

Please complete the following registration form prior to auditions

[AUDITION REGISTRATION LINK](#)

Madame Dido Monologue ([link to monologue](#))

All auditionees are asked to perform a monologue, Madame Dido, in the first part of the auditions. It does not have to be memorized but that is highly encouraged to showcase their volume, diction, physicality, and character if it is memorized

AUDITION PACKET ([link to audition packet](#))

Open the Audition Packet for more information about the production, the schedule, and the readings (sides) that will be used for auditions.

Auditionees will be given an opportunity to read excerpts from the script as part of the audition. These readings, called "Sides", are included in this packet and can be reviewed before the auditions. Auditionees do not need to print the sides to bring. There will be copies of the sides will be available for auditionees to read at the auditions.

Please review the Calendar included in the Audition Packet prior to auditioning.

All conflicts need to be disclosed on the audition registration form. Attendance at rehearsals is expected.

Conflicts for Tech Week and performances are not allowed.

Audition FAQs:

Can I stay at the auditions with my child?

Auditions are closed to everyone except the crew and those auditioning. Parents and guardians are welcome to wait outside or leave and return between audition sections. Crew members will have phones available to arrange pickups or provide updates.

How will I know if my child is involved in callbacks?

Callback determinations will be made by 2:30 PM. Those asked to stay or leave can use crew phones to arrange pickup. Everyone else should expect to stay until 4:00 PM unless other arrangements have been made with the producers or directors.

Does everyone get cast?

Casting depends on the number of roles available and the director's vision. Not everyone who auditions may receive a role, but those not cast are encouraged to try again at future auditions or productions.

Where are the auditions?

Auditions will be held at VFW Walpole, Robbins Road, from 12:30 to 4:00 PM on Sunday, November 16th, 2025

When are rehearsals?

Rehearsals are held on Sundays, Tuesdays throughout November, December, January and February, and some Thursdays in February 2026

Are rehearsals mandatory?

Not all rehearsals are mandatory. Attendance is expected unless a conflict was previously disclosed, or the director notifies cast members of an exception or cancellation. Rehearsals during Tech Week (Feb 15-Feb19) are mandatory.

When is the final production?

There are seven performances between February 20-28, with tech rehearsals starting on February 15.

Are production weeks mandatory?

Yes, participation is mandatory from February 15 - March 1, 2026.

Audition Tips

Volume & Pronunciation – Be Heard!

Make sure we can hear you! Speak up, project your voice, and enunciate so your words are clear. The director may be sitting close to the stage, but we want to know you can be heard at the back of a filled auditorium. Project your voice to the back of the room.

Embrace the Characters

This show is a comedy with magic and mystery. Explore the personality of the characters. The more fun you have, the more we'll enjoy watching you. Don't hold back—this is your chance to bring the scenes to life.

Make Us Laugh

This story is filled with humor, so find moments to make your performance funny. Think about **timing**—a well-placed pause, reaction, or movement can make a joke land perfectly.

Make a Bold Choice – Stand Out

Give us something memorable. Whether it's the way your character moves, talks, or reacts, don't be afraid to make **strong** choices. Even small details can set you apart. Take a risk and have fun with it.

Bring the Energy

Even if you're playing a slow-moving character, that's still an *active* choice. Stay engaged in every moment, even when you're not speaking. React, listen, and keep the energy up. We want to see characters that feel *alive*, not just actors reciting lines.

Final Reminder: We're excited to see what you bring to the table, and we *want* you to succeed. Trust your instincts, commit to your choices, and let your personality shine. You've got this! 🤖✨

CHARACTERS

KING MIDAS...loves gold

COURT ADVISOR ...advises the king by giving no advise

QUEEN HELENA ...Midas's no-nonsense wife

OLYMPIA ...her servant

GARDENER ...prefers real flowers to golden ones

QUEEN ALEXANDRA ...Penelope's future mother-in-law

PRINCE AJAX ...her son

COOK ...prefers flour to gold dust

CYRA ...lady-in-waiting to the princess

DELPHINE ...another

PRINCESS PENELOPE ...lovely girl, loyal daughter

ATHENA ...commands the Palace Guard

SHEPHERDESS ...from the hills

CITIZEN 1 ...subject of King Midas

CITIZEN 2 ...another

CITIZEN 3 ...another

SABRINA ...possesses unusual gifts

LYDIA ...her sister

CHLOE...another

FISHERMAN ...another subject

UNICORN ...very rare animal

SIDE #1 *(the information in parentheses are stage directions and do not get read)*

- 1 **OLYMPIA:** Did you notice how radiant the young princess was when she cut the cake?
 ATHENA: I don't think her radiance had anything to do with the cake.
 OLYMPIA: Ah. I know what you mean. She only has eyes for Prince Ajax.
- 5 **ATHENA:** He only has eyes for Princess Penelope.
 OLYMPIA: One day they will both rule this Island.
 ATHENA: And more. Much more. His parents have a kingdom larger than this. I hear he is skilled with the sword and javelin.
 OLYMPIA: Not as skilled as you, Athena. No one could be.
- 10 **ATHENA:** *(Touch of conceit.)* True.
 CITIZEN 1: There's nothing I like better than a birthday party.
 CITIZEN 2: Let's find a nice quiet spot and eat our cake.
- 15 **CITIZEN 1:** Some spot shady and cool.
 CITIZEN 2: I wonder if the unicorn likes cake?
 FISHERMAN: I certainly do. I had three slices.
 OLYMPIA: Greedy fellow.
- 20 **SHEPHERDESS:** The king kept complaining. He said the frosting should have more gold coloring in it.
 ATHENA: There's nothing the king likes better than gold.
 OLYMPIA: There's one thing.
 OTHERS: What?
- 25 **OLYMPIA:** The princess, of course.
 OTHERS: Of course.
 OLYMPIA: She's the apple of his eye.
 SHEPHERDESS: I bet King Midas wishes it were a golden apple.
 ALL: A golden apple?! *(ALL except OLYMPIA laugh.)*
- 30 **OLYMPIA:** Enough of that. Show some respect.
 ATHENA: *(Suddenly military, comes to attention.)* Olympia is quite right. Show some respect. Respect for mighty King Midas.
 OTHERS: Mighty King Midas. *(They bow.)*
 ATHENA: Tell me something, Fisherman.
- 35 **FISHERMAN:** You have but to ask.
 ATHENA: Are you absolutely certain that net you gave the princess is magical? Looked quite ordinary to me.
 OLYMPIA: And to me. Fit for nothing but baby squid.

1 **SHEPHERDESS:** Where did you find it?

FISHERMAN: I didn't find it. It found me.

CITIZEN 1: How do you mean?

5 **FISHERMAN:** One day when I was in my little fishing boat a dolphin popped its head out of the sea.

OTHERS: (*Impressed.*) A dolphin?

FISHERMAN: That's what I said. A dolphin. It popped its head out of the sea and began talking dolphin talk which, naturally, I don't understand.

SIDE #2

(the information in parentheses are stage directions and do not get read)

- 1 **OLYMPIA:** Kicking pebbles, too. He loves to kick pebbles and watch them slowly turn to something precious.
- QUEEN HELENA:** Tsk, tsk. This time Midas has gone too far! The water in the birdbath is solid gold.
- 5 I ask you, how can a pigeon wash in that? Precious, indeed. Useless, if you ask me. Possibly dangerous. Suppose I dived into the royal swimming pool, and Midas had just taken a swim? I could be knocked unconscious... or worse.
- OLYMPIA:** What are you going to do, your Majesty?
- 10 **QUEEN HELENA:** I'm not sure, Olympia. However, something must be done.
- PRINCESS PENELOPE:** *(ENTERS with PRINCE AJAX from LEFT, holding a gold bird in the cup of her hand.)* Mother, look at this.
- QUEEN HELENA:** *(Observes.)* A tiny bird.
- 15 **QUEEN ALEXANDRA:** Made out of gold.
- PRINCE AJAX:** It's made out of gold now, but it wasn't before. The king saw it eating a berry for its juice. He touched it and...
- QUEEN ALEXANDRA:** Say no more.
- QUEEN HELENA:** Woe, oh, woe. What a calamity!
- 20 **PRINCESS PENELOPE:** The birds don't sing. The vines are so heavy with golden grapes they break and fall to the ground.
- OLYMPIA:** It's not a golden touch, your Majesties. It's a golden curse.
- QUEEN HELENA:** You are so right, Olympia. A curse.
- QUEEN ALEXANDRA:** A golden curse.
- 25 **KING MIDAS'S VOICE:** *(From OFFSTAGE, RIGHT)* Curse? Curse? What's a golden curse? *(He ENTERS. Behind him are ATHENA and COURT ADVISOR.)*
- QUEEN HELENA:** Your golden touch. What else? *(QUEEN HELENA strolls to the bench, DOWN*
- 30 *LEFT. QUEEN ALEXANDRA follows. They both sit. OLYMPIA moves behind the bench.)*
- KING MIDAS:** Complain, complain, complain.
- COURT ADVISOR:** His Majesty intends to turn the entire palace into something fabled and wondrous. *(To audience.)* I'm back in his favor. *(Winks.)*
- 35 **KING MIDAS:** Yes, yes. A golden palace. King Midas and his Palace of Gold. I like the sound of that. Don't you, Court Advisor?
- COURT ADVISOR:** You're the king, King.
- KING MIDAS:** I shall touch all the shields and turn them into gold. Won't that be magnificent, Athena?
- 1 **ATHENA:** I don't think so, your Majesty. We must be practical. A golden shield would be too heavy to carry.
- KING MIDAS:** I hadn't thought of that.

QUEEN HELENA: You haven't thought of a great many things.

5 **KING MIDAS:** Complain, complain, complain.

QUEEN ALEXANDRA: Speaking common sense is not complaining.

PRINCE AJAX: A shield made of gold would be no good for battle, your Majesty. Besides the weight, gold is too soft.

10 **KING MIDAS:** Hmmmmm. I suppose you're right. I promise not to turn shields into gold, Athena.

ATHENA: Thank you, your Majesty.

KING MIDAS: *(Extends his hand.)* Here. Let's shake on it. *(ALL gasp. ATHENA jumps back, afraid.)*
What is it? What's wrong?

15 **PRINCESS PENELOPE:** I think Athena is afraid your touch will turn her into gold, Father.

QUEEN HELENA: Precisely.

QUEEN ALEXANDRA: No wonder she's afraid.

PRINCE AJAX: An army of gold warriors might be interesting to look at, but they wouldn't be of much use.

20 **QUEEN ALEXANDRA:** They'd be nothing but ornaments.

COURT ADVISOR: Hmmmmm.

PRINCESS PENELOPE: *(Holds out bird.)* Father, this tiny bird. It can't fly and it can't sing.

KING MIDAS: Why should it? It's solid gold.

25 **PRINCESS PENELOPE:** Seeing it like this... It saddens me.

SIDE #3

(the information in parentheses are stage directions and do not get read)

- 5 **GARDENER:** Your Majesty!
 SHEPHERDESS: Mercy, Mighty Midas.
 KING MIDAS: What's this? More complaints, I imagine.
 GARDENER: How can I water the groves and gardens when everything is gold?
- 10 **KING MIDAS:** I leave all gardening matters to you. Don't bother me with minor details.
 GARDENER: But, your Majesty, if I water the gold, it will rust.
 KING MIDAS: *(Insulted.)* Gold does not rust.
 SHEPHERDESS: Your Majesty, you touched two of my little lambs, and now they are gold. All gold.
- 15 **KING MIDAS:** You want me to touch more lambs? Is that it?
 SHEPHERDESS: *(Horried.)* Oh, no, King Midas! I beg you not to touch another lamb. Let them stay as they are.
 KING MIDAS: *(Miffed. To audience.)* How do you like that? I give her gold, and she clamors for wool. There's no pleasing people. *(To GARDENER and SHEPHERDESS.)* I don't want to hear any
- 20 more complaints. You may leave. Move it!
 GARDENER/SHEPHERDESS: But, your Majesty---
 KING MIDAS: I'm running out of patience!
- 25 **GARDENER/SHEPHERDESS:** A thousand apologies, great King. *(Frightened, GARDENER and SHEPHERDESS run OUT LEFT)*
 QUEEN HELENA: *(Stands.)* Your once happy subjects are now quite unhappy.
 QUEEN ALEXANDRA: *(Stands.)* A king who loses the love of his subjects is no king at all. He might as well be a tax collector.
 KING MIDAS: *(Hands to his ears.)* Complaints, complaints, complaints. *(QUEEN HELENA and QUEEN ALEXANDRA advance on him as if they were birds of prey, chattering nonstop.)*
 QUEEN HELENA: What a ridiculous idea turning everything you touch into gold.
 QUEEN ALEXANDRA: You don't deserve a lovely daughter like Princess Penelope. You don't deserve a loyal wife like Queen Helena.
 KING MIDAS: Squawk, squawk, squawk.
 QUEEN HELENA: You only think of yourself!

SIDE #4

(the information in parentheses are stage directions and do not get read)

- 10 **SABRINA:** Remove the net, Midas. You may rise.
KING MIDAS: *(Stands.)* I thank you, sisters of Naxos.
- 15 **SABRINA:** We'll take the net.
LYDIA: You'll have no further use for it.
CHLOE: Hopefully.
KING MIDAS: Yes, yes, of course. Whatever you say. *(Hands the net to SABRINA who passes it to LYDIA.)* I'm so grateful. What do you think of all this, Court Advisor?
- 20 **COURT ADVISOR:** Hmmmmm.
KING MIDAS: I had a feeling you'd say that.
SABRINA: We have taken back our gift, Midas. But you are not to escape without punishment.
- 25 **COURT ADVISOR:** Punishment?
KING MIDAS: Haven't I been punished enough?
LYDIA: Because you have been so foolish, so greedy, so inconsiderate of others, you shall wear a pair of donkey ears,
CHLOE: Always. *(COURT ADVISOR and KING MIDAS gasp.)*
- 30 **COURT ADVISOR:** Did you say "donkey ears"?
KING MIDAS: Did you say "always"?
SABRINA: You heard my sisters. *(Suddenly KING MIDAS gives a loud braying sound as if he were a donkey. As COURT ADVISOR looks on in astonishment, KING MIDAS gallops about the STAGE for a few moments. Then he claps his hands strongly to his ears and runs OFFSTAGE, RIGHT.)*
- 35 **COURT ADVISOR:** *(To audience.)* I thought I'd seen everything.
SABRINA: We will soon return to our island.
COURT ADVISOR: *(Insincere.)* Oh. Must you?
- 1 **LYDIA:** But we will return on the day when Princess Penelope and Prince Ajax are wed.
CHLOE: Happy wedding day.
COURT ADVISOR: *(To audience.)* I'll write "No gifts" on their invitation.
- 5 **SABRINA:** Tell your master to enjoy the roses.
LYDIA: Enjoy his family.
CHLOE: Enjoy being alive.
SABRINA: Come, sisters. *(EXITS LEFT, LYDIA and CHLOE follow.)*
COURT ADVISOR: *(Waves good-bye.)* Don't forget to write.
- 10 **SISTERS:** *(Calling back.)* Farewell!
COURT ADVISOR: Farewell, farewell. *(We hear KING MIDAS give another BRAY. He runs IN.)*
KING MIDAS: *(He does, indeed, have donkey ears. He holds a hand mirror, stares at his reflection.)* Look at me, look at me. It's so undignified for a monarch to have donkey ears. *(He brays.)*
- 15 **COURT ADVISOR:** *(Grins, tries not to laugh.)* I think they look elegant. Hee, hee, hee. Ha, ha, ha.
KING MIDAS: *(Furious)* Are you making fun of me?!

- 20 **COURT ADVISOR:** Certainly not, your Majesty. How could you think such a thing? I was trying to hold back a sneeze. (*Fakes a sneeze.*) Ah-choo.
KING MIDAS: Hmmmm. (*Strongly.*) You will tell no one about my ears, understand?
- 25 **COURT ADVISOR:** My lips are sealed. I wouldn't breathe a word.
KING MIDAS: I shall have to adjust. I'll wear a special hat. That way no one will ever see my ears. I am famished. Oh, to taste a real salad and a real fish and to sip real nectar. Life is good. (*Moves RIGHT.*) Remember, Court Advisor, this is our little secret. No one must know.
- 30 **COURT ADVISOR:** I wouldn't dream of telling a fly on the wall. If you can't trust me, your Majesty, who can you trust?

SIDE #5 *(the information in parentheses are stage directions and do not get read)*

KING MIDAS: Thank you, thank you, Sabrina, Chloe, Lydia. *(To audience.)* Such dear girls. *(Calls after them.)* If there's ever anything I can do for you, don't be afraid to ask. I can be generous. *(Sudden thought.)* What if it isn't true? What if they're playing a joke on me? *(Flustered, he moves to the edge of the STAGE.)* What shall I do? Tell me? I need advice. *(Moves RIGHT.)* Someone, please. Advise me. *(Moves LEFT.)* Any suggestions? *(Regardless of response, KING MIDAS carries on.)* That's a good idea. I'll put the touch of gold to a test. Now what shall I touch? *(Looks about.)* Hmmmm. Hmmmm. Hmmmm. *(Eyes the flowers.)* Aha, the flowers. *(To audience.)* I'll start small. I'll try my touch of gold on a single flower. Mustn't overdo first time out. I'll have to get the feel of the thing. *(Delighted with the prospects, KING MIDAS moves to the bowl of flowers and inspects with his eyes what's there.)* I don't want this one... or that... wait! I see a rose. *(Looks closer.)* A rose. Yes, that would look so much nicer if it were gold. *(To audience.)* What do you think? Shall I touch it? *(He grins, pushes up his sleeve, shuts his eyes and cautiously dips his hand into the bowl. KING MIDAS slowly lifts from the bowl... a rose of gold!!! KING MIDAS is astonished... and delighted.)* Look! Look! It's true. I touched the rose, and it became pure gold. Oh, happy man. Oh, happy king! *(Runs RIGHT, shouts.)* Everybody! Come in here! I have wonderful news! *(Runs LEFT, shouts.)* Hurry! Hurry! Hurry! The king commands!

MADAME DIDO MONOLOGUE

Come one! Come all!

And see the great, Madame Dido*

Jump from this 100 foot tower

Into this one foot pail of water.

Are you ready Madame Dido*?

“Yes, I’m ready” (said as an aside in a Madame Dido voice behind hand)

Then on the count of three, you shall jump!

One... two...three...

Jump, Madame Dido*, Jump!

whoooooooooooooooo- SPLAT!

(Look of disgust in direction of Splat)

(Dance off stage)

*Dido pronunciation= Die - Doh