

## Getting To Know... Footloose

### Casting Suggestions

#### REN MCCORMACK

Ren has recently traded in the big city for small-town life after his father walked out on him and his mother, Ethel. He's trying his best to put his past behind him, but his new home has problems of its own. Ren tries to encourage Bomont to loosen its strict ban on dancing and live a little. Cast a young man who can do it all – act, sing, and of course, dance. This young performer should possess the magnetism to inspire a whole community to cut loose.

Vocal Range:



#### CHICAGO FRIENDS: DANI, LINDSAY, STEVIE, MARTY

The Chicago friends (Dani, Lindsay, Stevie & Marty) celebrate with Ren on his last night in town before his big move. They only appear at the top of the show, so feel free to double cast these parts with teenagers in Bomont.

#### ETHEL MCCORMACK

Ethel has recently arrived to Bomont with her son, Ren, stepping away from a failed marriage and trying to make a fresh start. She's got a sense of humor about her situation and a great need to make sure her son is adjusting. Find a young woman with a great singing voice who can convey a mature presence.

Vocal Range:



#### REVEREND SHAW MOORE

Reverend Shaw Moore is the most influential figure in Bomont. His conservative, religious views became strident after his son Bobby passed away in the Potawney Bridge accident, after driving home from a big dance – in fact, he's outlawed dancing altogether. This is a great role for a young man who reads as a bit older onstage and an actor who can command the stage with his acting and singing.

Vocal Range:



#### CHUCK CRANSTON

Chuck Cranston is Ariel's boyfriend and a recent high school dropout. He doesn't have much ambition besides making sure he has control over Ariel. Cast a young man with the acting chops to appear intimidating and physically overbearing.

Vocal Range:



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#### **ARIEL MOORE**

Ariel is a young lady caught between her father Reverend Shaw Moore's conservative beliefs and her own aspirations to experience life and enjoy it for herself. Ren ignites an excitement in her, and she learns quickly that she has to stand up to her father to get what she wants. Ariel is a role for a charismatic performer who can act, sing, and dance.



**Vocal Range:**

#### **VI MOORE**

Vi is married to Reverend Shaw Moore, and though she usually agrees with her husband's point of view, she's not afraid to disagree when the tensions rise and tempers flare in the house. Cast a young woman who possesses a more mature energy and is a proficient vocalist.



**Vocal Range:**

#### **LULU**

Lulu has recently invited her sister Ethel to stay with her and her husband, Wes, in the small town of Bomont. As Ren struggles to fit in with the rest of the teenagers, Lulu does her best to remain a patient and supportive host. Find a young woman who is a talented actor and a suitable fit with Wes.

#### **WES**

Wes is Lulu's husband and a small-town kind of a guy. He helps Ren find a job, but, unfortunately, Ren's employment doesn't last long. Wes grows impatient but continues to support his family in this tough, transitional period. Cast a young man who will make a good pairing with Lulu.

#### **RUSTY**

Rusty is Ariel's best friend who talks a mile a minute and has a crush on the soft-spoken Willard. She's unafraid to say what she wants, if only Willard would pick up on the clues. Cast a spunky young female who can do it all and can encourage Willard to finally ask her out.



**Vocal Range:**

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#### URLEEN & WENDY JO

Urleen and Wendy Jo are part of Ariel's group of girlfriends who stick together no matter what. While Urleen may be a little more blunt, Wendy Jo is definitely a little more eccentric. Cast a pair of young ladies who are both talented and complements to Ariel and Rusty.



Vocal Range for Urleen:



Vocal Range for Wendy Jo:

#### WILLARD HEWITT

Willard is a country boy of few words and even fewer dance steps. At first, he may appear physically aggressive, but really he's just a soft-spoken guy. He quickly becomes friends with Ren, and the unlikely pair lead the charge to bring dancing back to the town. Though at the top of the show he has two left feet, he commits to learning dance steps at the Bar-B-Que and dazzles the entire club. This role is great for a young man who is a skilled actor, dancer, and singer.



Vocal Range:

#### PRINCIPAL CLARK

Principal Clark is the boss at Bomont's high school and an adamant enforcer of the town's strict guidelines. Cast a young woman who can emulate an older presence and is unafraid to take command of the stage.

#### COACH DUNBAR

Coach Dunbar is a teacher at the high school who strongly supports the town's anti-dancing laws. When Ren arrives, Coach Dunbar does not make it easy for him, and exacerbates Ren's situation by pitting him against other students. This is a great cameo role for a young man who has an authoritative energy.

#### LYLE & TRAVIS

Lyle and Travis are two members of the wrestling team who don't like Ren, the new kid in school. This pair of cameo parts is a good fit for two young men who can make strong character choices.



Vocal Range:

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#### **BETTY BLAST**

Betty Blast owns the burger joint in town and gives the struggling Ren a job when he's down on his luck. Be sure to cast a girl who can offer a bit of personality and strength. She has no trouble kicking anyone out of her restaurant if they're causing trouble.

#### **ELEANOR DUNBAR**

Eleanor Dunbar is a prominent member of the town council and Coach Dunbar's wife. She, along with other council members, must decide on whether they should uphold its existing moral laws. This is a suitable cameo role for a young woman who can make big acting choices.

#### **COWGIRL BONNIE**

Cowgirl Bonnie leads a band that frequents the Bar-B-Que. She's the club's favorite entertainer, so be sure to cast a young woman with a great singing voice and a lot of stage presence.



**Vocal Range for all Cowgirls:**

#### **COWBOY BOB**

Cowboy Bob is a usual patron at the Bar-B-Que and takes a liking to Rusty when the high school teens visit the dance hall for the first time. This featured role is perfect for a young man with strong dancing abilities.

#### **COWGIRL JUDE, COWBOY CHET & COWGIRL LAURA JO**

Cowgirl Jude, Cowboy Chet, and Cowgirl Laura Jo are part of Cowboy Bob's entourage who are having a routinely good night dancing when the Bomont teenagers make a visit. Cast a trio of performers who have a lot of presence and elevated dancing skills.

#### **BICKLE, JETER & GARVIN**

Bickle, Jeter, and Garvin are teenage boys ready to help Ren and Willard take on the town's laws. Find three young men who are good singers, actors, and dancers, and who work well together as a team.



**Vocal Range:**

#### **COP**

The Cop in town is the ultimate enforcer of the town's strict laws. This is a wonderful cameo role for a young man or woman who can exude confidence and intimidation.

#### **ENSEMBLE**

*Getting To Know... Footloose* is truly an ensemble story. From big-city Chicago to small-town Bomont, the cast must fill out the world by making distinct and specific character choices. Each role helps elevate the tension between the restless young people and the strict adults trying their best to protect their community and shield their children. Cast young performers of various skills and backgrounds in the following roles to enrich the story: **PEOPLE, KIDS, FRIENDS, CONGREGATION, BOY, CHOIR, PARISHIONERS, ADULT PARISHIONERS, STUDENTS, GIRLS, GUYS, BOY 1, BOY 2, BAND, COWBOYS, COUNCIL MEMBERS, TOWNSPEOPLE.**