

Phantom Made Easy:

A Scene by Scene Guide to What's Happening on Stage



Autism
Theatre
Initiative

Dear Friends,

Soon you will see *The Phantom of the Opera*, one of Broadway's most popular musicals. It began in London in 1986 and came to the United States in 1988. It has been at Broadway's Majestic Theatre ever since. This makes it the longest-running Broadway show ever. Set in late 1800s France, it tells the story of a physically disfigured man who lives beneath an opera house. He loves a beautiful young singer and he helps her to become the leading lady of the opera house. When she realizes who he is, she cannot love him and he vows to get revenge.

The aim of this guide is to help people who have developmental disabilities to understand the show and be able to follow along with the music. *Phantom Made Easy* breaks down each scene using simple language and pictures so that the setting is clearly explained along with why people do and say the things that they do. Unfamiliar terms are defined as well. Modifications that might be made for a performance for a special audience are not included in this guide. For easier reference, the guide is designed to be printed out, three-hole punched or stapled, and used as a booklet.

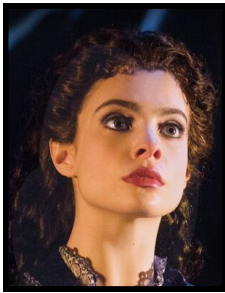
We hope *Phantom Made Easy* will provide parents, educators and individuals who have disabilities with a go-to resource for understanding this wonderful show.

The Authors

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The authors of Phantom Made Easy: A Scene by Scene Guide to What's Happening on Stage are a TDF consultant and his brother. They are proud to work with the Autism Theatre Initiative to help people who have autism enjoy theatre.

This Show is About...



Christine Daaé

Christine is a singer and dancer. She and Raoul were friends when they were children.



The Phantom of the Opera

The Phantom lives beneath the Opera House. He wears a mask to hide his face. He loves Christine. He writes music and is a dangerous man.



Vicomte Raoul de Chagny

Raoul is a rich man who wants to help the Opera House and its Opera Populaire.



Gilles André

Monsieur André is the new co-manager of the Opera House and co-owner of the Opera Populaire.



Carlotta Giudicelli

Carlotta is the lead female singer of the Opera Populaire. She believes she is the best singer of all.



Richard Firmin

Monsieur Firmin has the same job as Monsieur André. They are business partners.



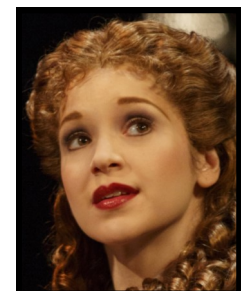
Madame Girya

Madame Girya is the ballet teacher.



Ubaldo Piangi

Ubaldo Piangi is the lead male singer of the Opera Populaire.



Meg Girya

Meg is Madame Girya's daughter, a dancer and Christine's friend.

About the Photographs

The photographs in this guide were generously provided by the Broadway production of *The Phantom of the Opera*.

Sometimes actors stay in a role for a long time. Sometimes they leave the show so that they can learn a new role in another show. Sometimes substitutes, called understudies or standbys, perform for an actor when the actor is sick or unable to perform for one or just a few shows.

Perhaps you will see some of the actors in these pictures when you see *The Phantom of the Opera*. Even if you do not, the costumes and scenery will be the same and you will be able to recognize which actor plays which part when you see them on stage.

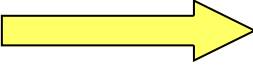
Prologue

The Stage of the Paris Opera House, 1911

Chandelier:

A chandelier is a large, beautiful light that hangs from a ceiling.



- An old man in a wheelchair is at an auction. He is Raoul, the Vicomte de Chagny, a French nobleman. At an auction, an item is sold to the person willing to pay the most money. The auction takes place at the grand Paris Opera House. It has been closed for many years.
- The auctioneer is the person in charge of selling the items. Raoul buys a poster from the opera “Hannibal” and a music box with a monkey playing cymbals.
- The Opera House’s chandelier is being sold in pieces. The auctioneer says it has been partially repaired. The chandelier was destroyed long ago by a mysterious man known as The Phantom of the Opera.
- The Phantom wore a mask to cover part of his face. 
- To understand the story, we must go back to the late 1800s, when Raoul was a young man.



Act 1, Scene 1

The Dress Rehearsal of “Hannibal,” Paris, Late 1800s

Monsieur:

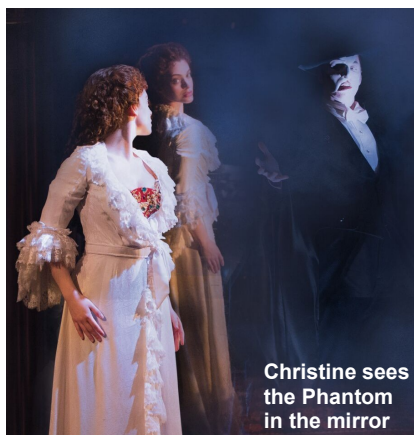
This is the French word for Mister. It is used often throughout the show.



- The Opera Populaire is the name of the group of singers, actors and dancers who perform in the Paris Opera House. They are rehearsing for the opera “Hannibal.” A rehearsal is a practice session for actors. “Hannibal” is the story of a war general.
- Carlotta Giudicelli and Ubaldo Piangi are the most important people in the show. Carlotta plays Hannibal’s wife and Piangi plays Hannibal.
- The man in charge of the Opera House, Monsieur Lefevre, is going to retire. This means he will stop working. Then, Richard Firmin and Gilles André will be in charge. They watch Meg and Christine, dancers in the show.
- André asks Carlotta to sing. While she sings, a curtain falls to the ground. This was not supposed to happen. Joseph Buquet, the man in charge of the curtains, blames the Phantom of the Opera. Carlotta is angry and says she will not perform.
- Madame Girly, Meg’s mother and the ballet teacher, gives André and Firmin a note from the Phantom. The note says he has his own seat in the Opera House and they must pay him his salary. A salary is a regular payment of money.
- Meg and Madame Girly say that Christine can sing Carlotta’s part. André and Firmin do not want to cancel the show, but they do not think Christine can sing the part. Madame Girly talks them into it.
- Christine performs instead of Carlotta. In the audience, Raoul watches Christine. They were childhood friends. Raoul is the patron of the Opera House. This means he gives money to the Opera House.

Act 1, Scenes 2 and 3 After the Gala

Gala: another word
for first performance



- Madame Giry tells Christine that “he” will be pleased, but she does not say who “he” is.
- In her dressing room, Christine hears the Phantom’s voice. He says she did a good job. Christine is surprised.
- Meg arrives. She asks how Christine learned to sing so well. Christine says that she learns from an “Angel of Music,” but has never seen him. Her teacher really is the Phantom.
- André and Firmin bring Raoul to see Christine. Christine is happy to see him. They talk about their childhood memories and a poem called “Little Lotte.” Christine first heard about an “Angel of Music” in this poem.
- Raoul asks Christine to dinner, but she says no. She tells him the Angel of Music is very strict. Raoul wants her to go anyway and leaves for a moment to get his hat.
- The Phantom has been listening and makes fun of Raoul. The Phantom appears in Christine’s mirror.
- The mirror opens and the Phantom reaches for Christine. Raoul returns and the dressing room door is locked. The mirror closes behind Christine. The door to the dressing room unlocks, and Raoul sees that the room is empty.



Christine and Raoul

Act 1, Scenes 4 and 5

The Labyrinth Underground

Labyrinth:

A maze of paths and tunnels in which it is easy to get lost



- The Phantom and Christine have disappeared through the mirror and are traveling to the Phantom's home under the Opera House. It is a dark place across an underground lake.
- The Phantom and Christine sing about the Phantom's power over Christine. She hears his voice in her head all the time, but never understood whether he was real or a dream.
- When they arrive at the Phantom's home, he sings a song about choosing Christine to sing the music he writes.
- As Christine becomes less afraid, the Phantom leads her to a mirror. He removes the cover over the mirror and Christine sees an image of herself in a wedding gown. The image is really a large doll, but Christine does not know this.
- As Christine walks toward the mirror, the doll in the mirror reaches out through the glass. Christine is so frightened that she faints. The Phantom catches her and lays her down on a bed. He is still singing that she will help him make his music.



Act 1, Scene 6

Beyond the Lake, the Next Morning



- While Christine is sleeping, the Phantom is writing a song at his organ.
- Christine wakes up and tries to take off the Phantom's mask. She wants to know who he is.
- After a few attempts, she succeeds in removing the mask and screams in horror at the sight of the Phantom's face.
- The Phantom is angry. He sings that he looks like a monster but is a person who loves beautiful things. He wants Christine to see a man and not a monster when she looks at him.
- Christine gives him the mask and he places it on his face.
- The Phantom says he and Christine must return to the Opera House before André and Firmin make any more mistakes.

Act 1, Scene 7

Backstage

- Backstage, Buquet is showing off for the ballerinas by imitating the Phantom. He has a piece of fabric to use as a pretend cloak and a piece of rope to use as a pretend lasso.
- He tells the girls that the Phantom has yellow skin and a black hole where his nose should be. Buquet says the Phantom uses the lasso to kill people. He tells the girls to be careful and the girls applaud.
- The Phantom and Christine enter through a trap door. The girls see the Phantom's shadow and run away in fear. The Phantom stares at Buquet before leaving with Christine. Madame Giry is watching nearby.
- Madame Giry warns Buquet that he should not talk about the Phantom. He will be in danger if he does.

Act 1, Scene 8

The Managers' Office



- Carlotta has quit and Christine is missing. André is worried, but Firmin says people everywhere are talking about the opera and buying tickets.
- Almost everyone has received letters from the Phantom. André's letter says that Christine was a success, but the dancing was terrible. Firmin's letter asks for money.
- Raoul's letter says that Christine is with the Angel of Music. He thinks André and Firmin sent the letter, but they did not.
- Carlotta and Piangi think Raoul wrote their letter. It says that Christine must sing that night instead of Carlotta. Carlotta will have a silent part in the opera "Il Muto."
- Madame Giryl announces that Christine has returned. She also has a letter saying that Christine must sing instead of Carlotta. The Phantom writes that this is a last chance for André and Firmin to follow his instructions. If they do not obey, there will be a disaster worse than any ever before.
- André and Firmin do not obey. They beg Carlotta to sing the lead role of the Countess.

- Raoul asks Madame Girya if Christine's Angel of Music is the same person as the ghost of the Opera House. Madame Girya warns André and Firmin to rethink their decision. She says they are fools to disobey the Phantom.
- The Phantom has overheard the conversations and declares war against the Opera House, André and Firmin.



Firmin and André convince Carlotta to sing

Act 1, Scene 9

“Il Muto”

Overture:

A musical introduction to an opera



- The Opera Populaire is giving its first performance of “Il Muto.”
- As the orchestra performs the show's overture, Raoul, André and Firmin take their seats. Raoul sits in Box Five, where the Phantom usually sits, because every other seat is taken.
- The overture ends and the story begins. As André and Firmin planned, Christine plays the silent Pageboy and Carlotta is the Countess.
- The Phantom is angry because Raoul is sitting in Box Five. His voice interrupts the performance and Meg, Christine and Raoul call out. Carlotta calls Christine a toad for speaking when her part is a silent one. A toad is an insult for someone who behaves badly.
- The Phantom says Carlotta is the toad. When she tries to sing again, she can only croak like a frog.
- The Phantom is on a walkway high above the stage. The chandelier lights blink on and off and the chandelier shakes as he pulls a rope that holds it up. Carlotta runs off the stage.

- André and Firmin announce that the opera will begin again in 10 minutes with Christine as the Countess, and the ballet dancers will perform until then.
- As the dancers perform, the Phantom moves behind the curtain. Meg sees him and makes mistakes in her dancing.
- The curtain opens suddenly. Buquet is hanging from a rope. He has been killed.
- André and Firmin tell the audience to stay in their seats.
- Christine is frightened and runs with Raoul to the roof of the Opera House.



Act 1, Scene 10

The Roof of the Opera House

La Victoire Ailee:

*A huge statue
whose name means
Winged Victory.*



- A huge statue of a woman with wings is visible on the stage, above the Opera House.
- Christine tells Raoul that she is afraid of the Phantom. She has seen his frightening face and knows he will kill people, yet she is drawn to his music and thinks he is sad. She thinks she hears his voice. Raoul says there is no Phantom of the Opera.
- Raoul sings that he wants to protect Christine forever and Christine sings that she wants everything Raoul tells her to be true.
- Christine returns to the stage and Raoul follows.
- The Phantom comes out from behind the statue. He is angry with Christine now. He gave her his music but she loves Raoul. He wants revenge.
- During bows of “Il Muto,” Christine is dressed in Carlotta’s costume. The Phantom laughs from high above the stage and cuts the chandelier loose from the ceiling.
- The chandelier crashes to the stage. It lands in front of Christine.

INTERMISSION



Act 2, Scene 1

The Staircase of the Opera House, New Year's Eve, 6 Months Later

Masquerade Party:

a party where people wear masks. This picture shows the costume and mask that the Phantom wears to the party.



- The Phantom has been gone for six months. No one at the Opera House has seen him since he cut the chandelier.
- André and Firmin are having a New Year's Eve Party at the Opera House to celebrate their next season. The party is a masquerade. All guests wear masks.
- Raoul and Christine are engaged. This means they have promised to marry each other. The Phantom wants Christine for himself.
- The Phantom interrupts the party. He is wearing a red costume with a skeleton mask, but everyone knows who it is.
- He has written an opera, "Don Juan Triumphant." He wants it performed immediately with Christine in the lead role. He throws the script to André and says if his instructions are not followed, he will do something worse than when he broke the chandelier.
- The Phantom sees Christine and says she belongs to him. She is wearing the engagement ring Raoul gave her on a chain. The Phantom rips the necklace off her neck and vanishes in a fire burst. He appears again at the top of the staircase as the guests run away.

Act 2, Scene 2 Backstage



- Raoul wants to talk to Madame Giroux backstage. He thinks she knows who the Phantom is.
- Madame Giroux remembers a circus in Paris long ago. A man there was good at writing music, but his face was so frightening that he was kept locked in a cage.
- Madame Giroux tells Raoul that the man was a magician and escaped the circus. Everyone forgot about him except her. He is the Phantom of the Opera.
- Madame Giroux thinks that she has said too much and that the Phantom might have heard her. She says that there have been too many accidents. She is frightened and leaves.
- Raoul follows her.

Act 2, Scene 3

The Managers' Office



- André and Firmin are reading “Don Juan Triumphant,” the Phantom’s opera about a Spanish hero. They do not like it, but they are afraid to not perform it.
- They find two more letters from the Phantom. The first says two musicians in the orchestra are playing the music wrong. He wants new musicians.
- The second letter says that some people cannot sing and should be taken out of the show. Those who cannot act have small roles in the show.
- Carlotta and Piangi have a third letter. Carlotta is angry because she has been given the smallest part in the show.
- Christine and Raoul arrive. André says that Christine will sing the lead in “Don Juan.” Carlotta does not think Christine can do it. André and Firmin are afraid of what the Phantom might do if Christine is not the lead.
- Carlotta blames Christine for putting her in the smallest part. Christine says that she did not do it and will not perform.

- Madame Girya has a letter from the Phantom. It says that Carlotta cannot act, that Piangi should lose weight, that André and Firmin should not work at the Opera House, and that Christine should return to the Phantom for lessons.
- Raoul knows the Phantom will come to the first performance of “Don Juan Triumphant.” He decides this will be the right time to capture the Phantom. Madame Girya says a trap is a bad idea. She reminds everyone that the Phantom has killed people. Carlotta and Piangi think Madame Girya is helping the Phantom.
- Christine is upset and frightened and does not want to perform. Raoul says Christine must perform to help them catch the Phantom.
- Christine is confused about whether she loves Raoul or the Phantom. She runs away. Raoul says that the next bad thing to happen in the theater will happen to the Phantom.



Act 2, Scene 4

A Rehearsal for “Don Juan Triumphant”



- Rehearsals have started for the Phantom’s opera.
- Piangi cannot sing the music as the Phantom has written it. Carlotta says that Piangi’s way of singing it is better. Madame Giryl reminds Carlotta that the Phantom might be listening.
- Piangi tries again to sing. He cannot do it, and everyone begins talking.
- Suddenly, the piano starts to play by itself. Everyone sings the music as the Phantom wrote it, without arguing. Christine sings separately, the same words she first sang about the Phantom.
- Christine moves away from the group, and sings the poem she and Raoul recited when they were children, as bells begin to ring.
- Part of the poem is, “Her father promised her/ That he would send her the Angel of Music./ Her father promised her.”
- Christine leaves the Opera House.

Act 2, Scene 5 A Graveyard

Graveyard:

A graveyard is a place where people are taken when they die. Their bodies are buried below the ground or in a small building above ground called a tomb or a crypt.



- Christine goes to the Perros Cemetery, the graveyard where her father is buried. She wishes he was still alive so he could help her.
- The Phantom appears and softly sings to Christine. For a moment, Christine wonders whether she sees her father or the Phantom. The Phantom says he is the Angel of Music and calls Christine to him.
- Raoul arrives and stops Christine before she can reach the Phantom. Raoul tells the Phantom that he will never have Christine for himself.
- The Phantom dares Raoul to walk toward him and shoots fireballs at Raoul. Raoul is not afraid and moves closer. The Phantom laughs at Raoul's bravery.
- Just before Raoul reaches the Phantom, Christine pulls him away and they leave the graveyard.
- The Phantom is furious. He declares war on both Christine and Raoul and vanishes in a flash of lightning.

Act 2, Scene 6

The Opera House Stage before the Premiere

- It is the night of the first performance of “Don Juan Triumphant.” The audience is not seated yet.
- André and Firmin have police and firemen on guard, ready to shoot the Phantom. One policeman is hiding in the orchestra pit ready to shoot toward Box Five.
- While the orchestra is practicing, the police lock the exit doors. The Phantom arrives and his voice travels from place to place around the theater until at last it comes from Box Five.
- The policeman in the orchestra pit fires a shot toward Box Five. Raoul scolds him for firing too early.
- The Phantom’s voice is heard again, and everyone looks up. He says the audience must come into the Opera House and the opera should begin at once.

Act 2, Scene 7

“Don Juan Triumphant”



- A few hours later, the performance of “Don Juan Triumphant” has reached its final scene. Christine is singing the female lead role, Aminta, and Piangi sings as Don Juan.
- Piangi exits the stage. Secretly, backstage, the Phantom kills him. The Phantom himself will be Don Juan when that character next appears.
- Christine realizes that she is singing with the Phantom instead of Piangi.
- The Phantom changes his song and sings to Christine using her name. He removes a ring from his finger and gives it to her. She puts it on her finger.
- Before the song ends, Christine removes the Phantom’s mask, revealing his horrible face to the audience.
- As the police try to get near him, the Phantom covers himself and Christine with his cloak and they vanish.
- Meg opens another stage curtain and screams as the audience sees Piangi’s dead body on a bed.

- André, Firmin, Raoul, Madame Giry and Carlotta rush backstage. They realize that the Phantom has killed Piangi. Carlotta attacks André and blames him for allowing this to happen.
- Madame Giry tells Raoul she knows where Christine and the Phantom are. Raoul wonders whether to trust her. She tells him how to protect himself from the lasso the Phantom uses to kill people.
- Meg wants to go with them, but Madame Giry says no.

Act 2, Scene 8

The Labyrinth Underground

- The Phantom is angry with Christine and tells her that the reason he wears a mask and lives under the Opera House is because of his disfigured face.
- An angry mob follows them. The Phantom hears them in the distance calling him a murderer.
- Raoul reaches the underground lake and decides to cross it by himself. Madame Girya warns him again to keep his hand near his eyes to protect himself from the Phantom's lasso. Keeping his hand up will prevent the lasso from closing.
- Raoul reaches the place where the Phantom lives.

Act 2, Scene 9 Beyond the Lake



- Christine asks the Phantom why he kills people and asks if she will be next.
- The Phantom explains that because he is ugly, no one ever loved him, not even his mother. He has been sad for all of his life.
- The Phantom says Christine must stay with him forever and places a bridal veil on her head.
- Christine tells the Phantom that the way he thinks is a bigger problem for him than the way he looks.
- The Phantom hears Raoul and Christine is shocked to see him behind the metal gate.
- Raoul demands that the Phantom let Christine go. As he enters the hideaway, Raoul is caught by the Phantom's lasso.
- The Phantom tells Christine to choose between letting Raoul live or die. He will live if she chooses to stay with the Phantom forever.

- Christine says that any kindness she felt toward the Phantom has turned to hate. But, as she listens to him, she realizes that she can show him that he is not as alone as he thinks he is. She walks toward him and kisses him for a long time as Raoul watches.
- The Phantom feels love for the first time in his life. He uses a candle to break the lasso and free Raoul.
- The Phantom hears the angry mob. He tells Raoul and Christine to forget him and everything that has happened, and orders Raoul to use the boat to take Christine away.
- The monkey music box begins to play, and the Phantom sings the song from the masquerade party. Christine comes back and returns the Phantom's ring. The Phantom tells Christine he loves her and then she leaves with Raoul. The Phantom says that without her, his music means nothing.
- The Phantom sits on his throne and covers himself with his cloak just as the angry mob arrives at the gate. Meg pulls the cloak away. The Phantom has vanished. All that is left is his mask, and she holds it up.

