

CHARACTER NOTES

Older Adults

- **Mother** controls ‘The Pharm’. She promotes herself as a saviour-figure, a maternal deity and the poster-child for The Pharm’s products (pharmaceuticals). Despite being a clone herself, Mother is intent on achieving eternal youth by means of organ transplants from her sister clones. She is a megalomaniac, whose behaviour suggests she is both narcissistic and psychopathic. (Low Contralto D3 – Bb4)
- **Marion** was once an idealistic cadet intent on revolution but was captured and tortured for broadcasting ‘subversive’ material. Mordaent’s cruelty has left her disfigured and traumatised. Marion was salvaged by Dr Ankh, to whom she is bound in a relationship of co-dependence and abuse. In Lab Seven Marion is responsible for raising human lab rats and clones. She also manages the Lab’s sweatshop, manufacturing drugs. Marion has a maternal bond with Chrissy, a clone who she raised from the incubator. Chrissy’s namesake was Marion’s younger sister, who was culled by Mordaent. (mezzo sop B4 – G5)
- **Ankh** (Dr.) is a scientist/surgeon who runs Lab 7, raising Mother’s clones, trialing drugs on human lab rats and manufacturing drugs for Nature Pharmaceuticals. As a young lecturer at the Academy, Ankh had an unrequited crush on Marion. When she is sent to Lab 7 to be culled, he salvages her for his own gratification. He is controlling and jealous of her affection for her charges. (Tenor/high baritone C3 – F#4)
- **Mordaent** (Open gender) is the most powerful of Mother’s cronies, s/he/they command the Guardians and oversee the running of the Pharm’s operations with the flair of a sadistic ringmaster. S/he/they orchestrate the cull—the removal of underperforming or subversive workers on the farm. (Tenor D3- E4/ contralto alto)
- **Blemish** A lab technician for Lab Seven, who is not very clever. (Open gender)
- **Remora** Mother’s cowardly lackey. (Open gender.)
- **Guardians** The Guardians are the Pharm’s security force. At least four guardians are required, one of whom is Corporal Hatch, assigned by Mordaent to ‘chaperone’ Dr. Ankh.
- **Pharm Newscaster** (open gender) The newscaster is a Guardian officer. S/he/they presents propaganda via the Pharm’s news broadcasts.
- **Captain Blain** (open gender) The Guardian Captain responsible for the Academy. S/he,they is culled for failing to maintain discipline.
- **Captain Mortimer** (open gender) The new Captain appointed to run the Cadet Academy.

The Young Adults

Clones and Lab rats

Mother's clones are raised in labs to provide organ transplants to ensure her longevity. The lab rats have been bred for drug and surgical trials. Dr Ankh uses them as slave-labourers to produce drugs in Lab Seven's pharmaceutical sweat shop. With the exception of Marion's Pets, the lab rats wear collars and are sedated. (Three lab rats provide backing vocals in the songs, 'Labrats Work Song, 'Pop Another Pill' and 'Marionette'.)

Marion's 'pets'

- **Jason** (young adult), a fiercely independent young man. He is privileged among the lab rats as he was raised to be Chrissy's playmate and is not sedated. His overalls are printed with the number 34.
- **Chrissy** (young adult) is one of Mother's clones, raised among the lab rats by Marion as her own child. Chrissy (C-13) is particularly dear to Marion and is not sedated. Ankh reveals Chrissy's clone identity to Mordaent, who plans to harvest her organs for Mother. (Mezzo sop A4 – E5)

Cadets

An elite group of young people in training at the Academy to become the next generation of pharmaceutical scientists, guardians and technicians.

- **Helen** (young adult) Helen is the leader of the rebel cadets and an activist. She is captured for disseminating illicit literature and sent to Lab Seven to be culled. Ironically old footage of Marion's illicit broadcasts helped inspire Helen in her revolutionary thinking. (Contralto/alto, Bb4 – B5)
- **Cadets** (young adults) At least four additional uniformed Academy cadets, who are not part of the rebel group.

Helen's friends (The Rebel Cadets)

- **Alex** (young adult, open gender) In Helen's absence, Alex assumes leadership of the group.
- **Jill** ((young adult) Jill is the youngest of the rebel cadets. She is still grappling with dismantling her own prejudices which have been propagated by the Pharm.
- **Sam** (young adult) Sam develops feelings for Chrissy, when he encounters her while scouting-out a means of escape for the rebel cadets. His feelings for her are in conflict with his loyalty to the Cadets. Sam becomes determined to free Chrissy. (Tenor A3 - G4)