

Footloose Character List

The major characters in Footloose have one trait in common: they are all survivors. Their circumstances, no matter how tragic, have not defeated them. As a consequence, the audience finds them likable, sympathetic, and human. This means that each role is unique and presents the actor with specific challenges. Thumbnail sketches of some of these characters are provided below.

REVEREND SHAW MOORE (Baritone)- The minister of Bomont County and father of a teenage girl, Ariel. The secret to the character of Reverend Moore is that he is charismatic and even a little charming. Shaw has a quick mind, a loving heart, and a sense of humor which endear him to his congregation. While trying to be strong for so many people, he continues to mourn the death of his son; the one person he could not save. Only Ariel and Vi, and eventually Ren, get a glimpse of this private anguish and the flashes of frustration and temper that arise from that.

VI MOORE (Mezzo)- Reverend Shaw's wife. Despite the loss of her son and the strained relationship with her husband, Vi fully understands what kind of unflagging good humor she must display in order to keep her household, and her husband's congregation, running smoothly. With her plucky irreverence, she gives us a glimpse of what life with Shaw was like before the tragedy, when theirs was a marriage both passionate and playful.

ARIEL MOORE (Mezzo)- Shaw and Vi's daughter. Ariel is smart. She understands the rules of the different worlds she moves between and, she plays her part brilliantly in each situation. When she's in her father's presence, for instance, she is buttoned-up and demure; with Chuck, she burns off all her unexpressed, explosive energy with raucous, thrill-seeking behavior. Ariel loves to laugh; with Chuck, her girlfriends, and eventually, even with Ren. This is her attempt to keep a lid on the grief she feels about her brother's death and the loss of her once loving relationship with her father.

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REN MCCORMACK (Tenor)- A teenage boy from Chicago. Ideally, Ren must sing and dance – and he must also be fairly witty. Ren is a joker who enjoys a good time (which is why his pals are upset to find out he's leaving Chicago in the opening number). Lately though, his fun-loving attitude has taken on a tone of desperation. He is trying too hard to convince the world, and himself, that his father's desertion hasn't wounded him as deeply as it has. Ariel is the first character to get Ren to talk about that sticky subject. Sharing that intimacy early on becomes the basis for Ren's and Ariel's relationship. Ren's emotional journey starts with his being feisty and flippant in Act 1, continues through his thoughtful argument to the Town Council, and ends with this emotional final confrontation with Reverend Moore. It's a journey from boyhood to maturity.

ETHEL MCCORMACK (Mezzo)- Ren's mother. She is where Ren get his intelligence, his resilience, and his sense of humor. It's hard for Ethel to be living in her sister's home and abiding by her brother-in-law's rules. However, she never succumbs to the pathos of her situation. After all, she has to be strong for Ren. Their mutual loss (the walking-out of her husband/Ren's father) has brought them closer together. They share a teasing, good-natured relationship.

LULU WARNICKER (Alto)- Ren's aunt.

WES WARNICKER- Lulu's husband.

COACH ROGER DUNBAR- The high school gym teacher.

ELEANOR DUNBAR- Roger's wife.

RUSTY (Soprano/Strong Belt/Mix)- Ariel's best friend. Rusty may come off as sassy and self-assured, but in many ways she is the most deeply romantic character in the story. She truly believes that she and Willard were meant to be together. However they are so inept about expressing themselves, that it takes Ren, and a little time on the dance floor, to ultimately bring that about.

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URLEEN (Mezzo)- Ariel's friend.

WENDY JO (Mezzo)- Ariel's friend.

CHUCK CRANSTON (Tenor)- Ariel's boyfriend.

LYLE (Tenor)- Chuck's buddy.

TRAVIS (Baritone)- Chuck's buddy.

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BETTY BLAST- Owner of The Burger Blast restaurant.

PRINCIPAL HARRY / HARRIET CLARK- Principle of the high school.

WILLARD HEWITT (Baritone/Tenor)- Ren's friend, a country boy. Willard is not dumb. He is a gentle soul with quick fists, which are his defense against a world that he often has trouble comprehending. Willard just hasn't had anyone come along to puncture his macho belligerence, until Ren arrives. After that, the humor in the character of Willard derives from his innocent and giddy discovery of the new worlds that Ren opens up to him.

JETER (Tenor)- Ren's friend.

BICKLE (Tenor)- Ren's friend.

GARVIN (Baritone)- Ren's friend.

COWBOY BOB– Lead vocalist at the Bar-B-Que restaurant and dance club.

TOWNSPEOPLE and HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS