



Character Breakdown

Estimated cast of 30 students
Multiple ensemble small speaking roles
Female featured dance ensemble
Swings & understudies

FRANK JR. (16-20)

a handsome, youthful con artist; grew up learning to disappear into another skin to avoid his problems; eventually falls in love with Brenda, desperately tries to change his ways; range: G2-C5.

BRENDA STRONG (20)

a hard-working young nurse, and initially insecure, she meets Frank Jr. after running away from a wedding; comes to trust him but his true identity clouds her feelings; range: G3-A5.

CARL HANRATTY (35-45)

an FBI agent leading search for Frank Jr.; a knowledgeable and habitual workaholic who idolizes the moment he catches his perp; lives a private life of loneliness and depression; range: G2-G4.

FRANK SR. (45)

Frank Jr.'s father; an inspiration when it comes to swindling; upbeat and fast-talking, he undergoes a series of progressive failures that leaves him a miserable drunk; range: F2-G#4.

PAULA ABAGNALE (45)

Frank Jr.'s gorgeous mother; met Frank Sr. in France, during the war, but has fallen out of love; caring and loving, with an underlying resentment toward her husband and son; range: A3-C5.

CAROL STRONG (45)

Brenda's traditional mother; talkative and boisterous. range: Bb3-A5.

ROGER STRONG (50)

Brenda's conservative father; stern and interrogatory, but reveals himself to be deeply romantic.

BRANTON – Agent, tough on Hanratty, speaking role only

COD – Agent, speaking role only

DOLLAR – the “rookie” Agent, not the brightest bulb on the tree, speaking role only

CINDY – Lead Stewardess, (Soloist for “Jet Set”), contemporary pop belt voice

CHERYL ANN – model turned “lady of the night,” upset that Frank tricks her, Speaking role only

NURSE – Lead Nurse, (Soloist for “Doctor’s Orders”), contemporary pop belt voice

Catch Me If You Can Synopsis

Act I

In the 1960s, Frank Abagnale Jr., a young con man, is cornered at the Miami Airport by FBI Agent Carl Hanratty and his team. Before his arrest, Frank pleads with Hanratty to allow him to inform the people in the airport why they're beating at him, though Hanratty only wants to know how he passed the bar exam in New Orleans to pose as a lawyer. Frank promises he will tell him all his secrets if they allow him to tell his story. A reluctant Hanratty agrees.

In a home in New Rochelle, New York, Frank lives with his parents Frank Sr. and Paula. His parents met in France during World War II. Paula was performing at a diner, and noticed Frank Sr. among the soldiers in the audience, marrying him soon after. Due to money shortages, Frank is unable to attend private school, nonetheless wearing his school jacket to public school. He is taunted there as looking like a substitute teacher, which gives Frank an idea; a few days later, the principal informs his parents that Frank has been teaching French class at the school.

One day, Frank walks home from school to find his mother dancing with one of Frank Sr.'s friends. She pleads with him not to tell Frank Sr., but a distraught Frank is soon in court, with Paula and Frank Sr. fighting over custody of him. Frank decides to run away. He soon learns how to create fake checks, cashing them at banks across the country and successfully conning millions of dollars.

While entering a New York City hotel, Frank notices several attractive stewardesses; he decides to become a pilot. After creating a fake ID card, he finds a co-pilot job at Pan American World Airways. Hanratty finds several fake checks on his desk in Washington, D. C.. He and Agents Branton, Dollar, and Cod are assigned to track down the writer of these fake checks.

Feeling homesick, Frank goes to visit Frank Sr., upset to find out that he had to close his store to save money. Frank offers him several checks to improve his financial situation, but Frank Sr. declines, believing that Frank should be happy with his success and not worry about him. Meanwhile, Hanratty sorts through leftover items from the hotel Frank had just stayed at. Hanratty tracks Frank to a hotel room in Los Angeles, but Frank escapes after tricking Hanratty into believing that Frank is a Secret Service agent named Barry Allen.

Frank attends a holiday party for the airport staff, but ultimately feels lonely, calling Hanratty on a pay phone for comfort. Hanratty, realizing the culprit is just a kid, reveals that he, too, has no one to spend Christmas with.

Act II

Frank comes across another staff party, this time for a hospital. When asked what his job is by one of the doctors, Frank lies that he is a pediatrician. The doctor finds him a job at the Atlanta General Hospital.

Hanratty is still searching for Frank, going through missing person reports. He eventually finds the house of Paula and her new husband, questioning her on the whereabouts of Frank. She tells him not to worry, as does Frank Sr. While talking to Frank Sr. at a bar, Hanratty realizes that both men had overbearing fathers.

Meanwhile, Frank has fallen in love with one of the nurses, Brenda Strong. Brenda brings Frank to meet her family in New Orleans, where he lies that he's a lawyer, a doctor, and a Lutheran to impress her father. Her father does not believe him, but gives him permission to be with Brenda after Frank admits how much he loves her. Brenda's parents, Carol and Roger Strong, invite Frank to a "family sing-along"; Frank proposes to Brenda and she accepts.

Shortly before the engagement ceremony, Frank discovers that Hanratty has figured out where he is. He admits the truth to Brenda. He promises to return after escaping. Just as he leaves, Hanratty enters, asking Brenda where Frank went. She laments that she loves Frank and would never tell on him, but is tricked into doing so shortly after.

The story returns to the opening scene, where Frank is cornered in the airport. Hanratty informs Frank that his father is dead; a drunken Frank Sr. had fallen down stairs at the bar, breaking his neck. Realizing he has nobody, Frank gives in to Hanratty. Although sentenced to 15 years in prison, Frank is released after 7. Shortly after his release, he is hired by Hanratty and the FBI to track down others who committed crimes like his. Hanratty and Frank embrace, noting that their partnership is "Strange But True". Before the curtain closes, Hanratty makes Frank keep his promise, telling him how he passed the New Orleans bar exam. Frank tells a surprised Hanratty that he didn't cheat: "I studied."