

AUDITION CALL

JOHN PROCTOR IS THE VILLAIN

Written by Kimberly Belflower

Directed by Sloan Elle "G" Garner

Synopsis: At a rural high school in Georgia, a group of lively teens are studying *The Crucible* while navigating young love, sex ed, and a few school scandals. Holding a contemporary lens to the American classic, they begin to question who is really the hero and what is the truth, discovering their own power in the process. Alternately touching and bitingly funny, this new comedy captures a generation in mid-transformation, running on pop music, optimism, and fury, writing their own coming of age story.

The production is seeking actors to play 9 named roles plus 5 ensemble/understudy roles. All roles are currently open. Please see the following notes regarding casting from the director and the playwright.

- "rural Georgia doesn't mean all white. never has. the case can be made for any of these girls to be a person of color, but certain combinations lead to stereotypes and/or commentary I'm not trying to make. as such:
 - Nell is Black, but if at all possible, she shouldn't be the only POC onstage.
 - Nell and Shelby shouldn't be the only POC.
 - Lee and Mr. Smith are white. full stop. I imagine Beth is white too, given the nature of her fumbles and oversights, but she can also be a non-Black POC."
- This play has a complex series of power dynamics which require a matrix of nuanced if:then statements regarding perceived race, ethnicity, gender, and even religion. There are some requirements dictated by the playwright, but otherwise the director, in consultation with trusted collaborators, will work with the other season directors' needs and the actors auditioning to develop a cast list which honors the script, deals sensitively with power dynamics, and offers educational opportunities within the balance of this matrix. Special consideration will be given to those in the theatre major or minor, but enrollment in either is not necessary to be cast.
- All named characters in the play use he/him or she/her pronouns. Unnamed ensemble characters who will also serve as understudies for named characters may use any pronouns while playing unnamed ensemble characters. Actors are welcome to audition for any role which will not cause them gender dysphoria.
- It is expected (and best practice) that all actors auditioning have read the play script and therefore have some knowledge of its content. That being said, the following disclosures are necessary:
 - Onstage nonconsensual kissing
 - Vulgar language
 - References to statutory rape, pedophilic behavior, and inappropriate relations between teachers and students
 - Microaggressions regarding race and gender
 - Use of outdated language referencing Native Americans
 - Threats of physical violence

All these topics and occurrences are purposefully framed as problematic and dealt with to various extents in the content of the show. This is/will be reiterated throughout the writing, the rehearsal process, and the production at large. An intimacy choreographer will be hired to facilitate necessary work throughout.

WHAT TO EXPECT

Those interested in auditioning should prepare a 1-2-minute contemporary (1970-) monologue not from the play. Callbacks will include readings of sides.

Rehearsals will begin November 25, 2024 with two more rehearsals prior to fall semester exams. Actors must be off book upon return to rehearsals on January 6, 2025. A typical rehearsal week will include rehearsals Monday-Friday 6:30-10:30pm and Saturdays 10:00am-4:00pm, though every attempt will be made to release actors when not needed. The Actors' Equity Association break schedule will be followed as the professional standard. Performances are scheduled for mid-February (February 14 – 23, 2025). All conflicts communicated prior to the role's acceptance will be considered, and the staging staff will do their best to accommodate requests. However, please note that this ensemble-driven show will require a considerable time commitment of any actor cast in one of the 9 named roles.

CAST BREAKDOWN

3M/6W + Ensemble

Carter Smith – teacher, mid-late 30s, M, white. a former golden boy, but one of those rare smart and sensitive ones. now he's a great teacher: charming, engaging, goofy.

Shelby Holcomb – student, 16, F. her brain works faster than her mouth, but her mouth works pretty dang fast. people have always underestimated her.

Beth Powell – student, 17, F. nervous and ambitious and enthusiastic. kind of like if Rory Gilmore and Paris Geller had a baby and raised her in the Deep South.

Nell Shaw – student, 16, F, Black. from Atlanta. grounded and sincere. genuinely curious about things. A good judge of character, and a quick study.

Ivy Watkins – student, 17, F. fiercely loyal and always well-intentioned. from money. resist the urge to play her as a mean girl.

Raelynn Nix – student, 16, F. a cheerleader type who's always lived her life by other peoples' standards. she was paying careful attention the whole time. will require work with intimacy choreographer.

Mason Adams – student, 17, M. he's never really tried before, and he's surprised by how good it feels. earnest and affable.

Lee Turner – student, 16, M., white. a carhartt-wearing good ol' boy. deeply insecure and without the tools to deal with it. he's always been good at getting what he wants. will require work with intimacy choreographer.

Bailey Gallagher – counselor, 24, F. sweet in all the ways Southern women are supposed to be. this is her first real job out of college. she's trying her best.

An ensemble of 5 actors will play unnamed students (with their own line/s) in the large classroom scenes while understudying Mason, Beth, Nell, Ivy, or Raelynn.