

Roseville High Theatre Company
2015 Fall Play



Audition Packet & General Info

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Important Fall Play Dates:

The tentative schedule for this production is listed below. A formal schedule will be issued at the first rehearsal.

Tuesday, August 25: Open Auditions, 3pm, JB Gale Little Theater

Wednesday, August 26: Open Auditions, 3pm, JB Gale Little Theater

Thursday, August 27: Callbacks, 3pm, JB Gale Little Theater

Friday, August 28: Cast List Posted, JB Gale Little Theater

Monday, August 31: First Rehearsal (read-through), 3pm - 5:30pm, JB Gale Little Theater

Tuesday, September 1: Parent Meeting, 7:00pm JB Gale Little Theater (*informational meeting for parents about the play process & how they can get involved & be supportive*)

Thursday, November 12: Production, Patti Baker Theater

Friday, November 13: Production, Patti Baker Theater

Saturday, November 14: Production, Patti Baker Theater

Thursday, November 19: Production, Patti Baker Theater

Friday, November 20: Production, Patti Baker Theater

Friday, November 20: Strike, 9:30pm until finished, Patti Baker Theater (*all cast & crew are required to help take the set down & put all show supplies away*)

Rehearsals will be on the dates indicated on the rehearsal schedule from 3pm to 5:30pm in the JB Gale Little Theater and Patti Baker Theater. Most dates on Mon - Fri, but may vary due to school conflicts. Also, as the show gets closer, rehearsal time length will increase. Please be flexible.

Fall Play Rehearsal / Performance Guidelines & Info:

Rehearsal Times:

Not every actor will be required to attend rehearsal everyday. Make sure you refer to the rehearsal schedule to find out what characters are needed when. Rehearsals typically run Monday through Friday 3pm to 5:30pm. Unless there are extenuating circumstances, all students scheduled to be at rehearsal are expected to remain there for the entire time. **The week before the show and the week of the show will consist of late and long hours for everyone involved in the production. Be sure your parents and/or guardians understand this before you audition for the show.**

Rehearsal Attendance & Conflicts:

The fall play is an extracurricular activity. If you are already participating in another major activity, you must be willing to compromise & keep up on your schoolwork. **You must be at rehearsals!**

Be on time to rehearsals. If you are consistently late or absent, you will be asked to withdraw from the show.

Illness is an accepted excuse except in chronic illness during which you would miss more rehearsals than could be allowed. In the instance that you should become chronicle ill & miss several rehearsals, your participation level in the fall play may be altered (i.e. given a different role). Concerts, movies, extended family vacations, birthdays, reschedule (beyond normal daily scheduled) athletic practices, and other events will not be valid excused for missing rehearsals. **If in doubt about any of these things, check with Ms. White.**

I am aware that the fall play is a huge time commitment. Attached is a **conflict sheet**. Parents/guardians and students should take care in filling this out. Any conflicts that are listed on the sheet will be considered "excused" and will not hinder your role in the show. However, conflicts during mandatory rehearsals will need to be discussed with Ms. White directly. Anything not listed on the conflict sheet and considered "last minute," risks being considered an "unexcused absence." **Please indicate on your conflict sheet if you have a job, participate in athletics, or have other major commitments.**

Rehearsal Behavior:

Misconduct at rehearsals will not be tolerated. This includes, but is not limited to, disrespect for production staff, fellow actors, props, costumes, and removal of items from the theater without permission. Any misconduct will result in dismissal from the production.

While at rehearsals, students are required to always dress comfortable and **bring their scripts and a pencil** to make notes.

Rehearsal Change & Cast/Crew Communication:

In the rare event of a rehearsal change or cancellation, there will be an email sent out, as well as a post to the Roseville High Theatre Company Facebook, Twitter, & Instagram pages. It will also be announced on the Roseville High Theatre Company website.

School Cancellations & Bad Weather Policy:

If school is cancelled or dismissed early because of weather conditions or other emergencies, rehearsal for that evening will be cancelled & made up later. Please check your email & the Roseville High Theatre Company social media accounts & website for announcements.

Script Memorization:

It is expected that all students learn, practice, and memorize all their lines and blocking by the dates assigned. Start learning lines & blocking right away.

Costumes:

All students participating in the cast will be responsible for their shoes. Girls are expected to have black or tan character shoes (or plain heels) & boys are expected to have black dress shoes. If there are financial concerns with the cost of shoes, please see Ms. White. The majority of the costumes for the show will be provided by the Roseville High Theatre Company. Students are not required to purchase clothing, but are responsible for undergarments such as pantyhose.

Saturday Rehearsals & Work Calls:

Students will be expected to attend some Saturday rehearsals. Saturday rehearsals and work calls will typically run from 9am to 5pm.

Audition Information:

How to prepare for the audition:

Your monologue is a key component of your audition. You should select and prepare a **1 minute comedic monologue**. When selecting & preparing audition material, please keep the following in mind:

- age appropriateness
- monologue must be from a published play or monologue book
- be familiar with the story
- rehearse!

What to bring to the audition:

On the day of your audition remember to bring:

- a resume if you have one
- a headshot or recent photograph of yourself
- a copy of your monologue for the audition panel (if available)
- signed audition form

What to expect during the audition:

Remember that the audition panel is on your side. They will be looking for your best qualities. We have gone through the audition process ourselves as actors & understand how nerve-wracking it can be. So relax and do your best. The audition will include your performance of a 1 minute memorized monologue.

Callback Information:

How to prepare for the callback:

Your callback performance is another key component of your overall audition. You should be prepared to do cold-reads from the script. So make sure you understand the characters and the plot of the play.

Favoritism & Pre-Casting Policy:

Under no circumstances does the Roseville High Theatre Company play favorites or pre-cast any productions. It is my philosophy that every student, whether they are new to the program or a seasoned veteran, has a place in the Roseville High Theatre Company. Casting & placement decisions are not determined by what a student has done for the drama program in the past or other arts education/community theatre organizations. I ensure that every student has a place in the Roseville High Theatre Company. This policy is strictly enforced. There will be a panel of auditors helping cast all productions.

You Can't Take It With You Synopsis & Character Descriptions



Brief Synopsis:

At first the Sycamores seem mad, but it is not long before we realize that if they are mad, the rest of the world is madder. In contrast to these delightful people are the unhappy Kirbys. The plot shows how Tony, attractive young son of the Kirbys, falls in love with Alice Sycamore and brings his parents to dine at the Sycamore home on the wrong evening. The shock sustained by the Kirbys, who are invited to eat cheap food, shows Alice that marriage with Tony is out of the question. The Sycamores, however, though sympathetic to Alice, find it hard to realize her point of view. Meantime, Tony, who knows the Sycamores are right and his own people wrong, will not give her up, and in the end Mr. Kirby is converted to the happy madness of the Sycamores, particularly since he happens in during a

visit by an ex-Grand Duchess, earning her living as a waitress. No mention has as yet been made of the strange activities of certain members of the household engaged in the manufacture of fireworks; nor of the printing press set up in the parlor; nor of Rheba the maid and her friend Donald; nor of Grandpa's interview with the tax collector when he tells him he doesn't believe in the income tax.

Character Descriptions: (in random order)

- **Penelope "Penny" Sycamore:** Penny is the mother of Essie & Alice, wife of Paul, & daughter of Martin. She writes plays & paints as hobbies because it makes her happy, but is terrible at both. Penny is a loving mother & wife & is constantly concerned with the welfare of her family. Her main goal is to make sure everyone is happy, particularly her daughter Alice. A huge part - onstage almost the whole show.
- **Martin "Grandpa" Vanderhof:** Referred to mostly as Grandpa in the play. Father-in-law to Paul, father of Penny, grandfather of Alice & Essie. He is an eccentric happy old man who has never paid his income tax because he doesn't believe in it. He lives his life by the philosophy: "Don't do anything that you're not going to enjoy doing." He goes to circuses, commencements, throws darts, and collects stamps. A challenging role indeed.

- **Alice Sycamore:** Fiancé of Tony Kirby, daughter of Paul and Penny, Granddaughter of Martin, sister of Essie. She the only "normal" family member. She has an office job, and is rather embarrassed by the eccentricities of her family when she has Tony and his parents at her house, yet she still loves them. She tends to be a pessimist. The actress for Alice needs to show characteristics of love, embarrassment, worry...and many more.
- **Tony Kirby:** Fiancé of Alice, Son of Mr. and Mrs. Kirby. He sees how, even though the Sycamores appear odd, they are really the perfect family because they love and care about each other. His own family is very proper and has many issues none of them will admit. He is vice president of Kirby and Co. This actor will need to have an adorable properness to him. The audience will need to be on Tony's side right from the start.
- **Anthony W. Kirby:** Husband of Mrs. Kirby, father of Tony. He is a very proper man who is president of Kirby and Co. and secretly despises his job. His hobby is raising expensive orchids. He is also a member of the Harvard Society, the Union Club, the National Geographic Society, and the Racquet Club. Being rich and borderline snobby is a good start for an actor to experiment with for this role. Whoever has this role will also need to not laugh when hilarity ensues.
- **Essie Carmichael:** Wife of Ed, daughter of Penny and Paul Sycamore, Granddaughter of Martin, sister of Alice. She is childish. As a hobby she makes candy that Ed sells. Essie dreams of being a ballerina. She has spent 8 years studying with Boris Kolenkhov, but is a terrible dancer. Actresses who perform these embarrassing, bad dances need to keep a very straight face, and is willing to dance intermingled with Kolenkhov. Hilarity will ensue.
- **Boris Kolenkhov:** A Russian who escaped to America shortly before the Russian Revolution. He is very concerned with world politics, and the deterioration of Russia. He is the ballet instructor of Essie, aware that she is untalented at dancing, but knows that she enjoys dancing so he keeps working with her. He likes the Greeks and the Romans, questions society, and is interested in world affairs. He is opinionated and often loudly declares that something "stinks"! This actor can be either very large and boisterous. Will need to be able to support Essie physically, and keep a straight face.
- **Paul Sycamore:** Father of Essie and Alice, husband of Penny, Son-in-law of Martin. He is a Tinker who manufactures fireworks in the basement with the help of his assistant Mr. De Pinna. His hobby is playing with erector sets. It will help have an age appropriate actor for this role. A common, fatherly character is all Paul needs.
- **Ed Carmichael:** Husband of Essie, son-in-law of Paul and Penny. He is a xylophone player, and distributes Essie's candies. Ed is an amateur printer who prints anything that sounds good to him. He prints up dinner menus for his family and little quotes that he places in the

boxes of Essie's candy. He also likes to make masks. The actor will need to be confident in all his crafts, but show meekness when he is later confronted with a visit from the feds.

- **Mr. DePinna:** The iceman who came inside to speak to Paul five years before, and never left. He helps Mr. Sycamore build fireworks, and moonlights as a model in Mrs. Sycamore's paintings. He is a nutty guy. This is kind of a side-kick role to Paul. Witty, random jokes. A perfect role for someone who can have a lot of fun designing a uniquely written character.
- **Donald:** The boyfriend of Rheba, who seems to serve as volunteer handyman for the Sycamores. In the words of Mrs. Sycamore, "The two of them are really cute together." Can be a hilarious character.
- **Rheba:** The maid and cook to the Sycamore family. She is dating Donald. She is onstage a lot, but doesn't have a lot of lines. Can be a hilarious character.
- **Wilbur C. Henderson:** An employee of the IRS. He comes to collect the tax money owed by Grandpa, and can't understand why the latter won't pay income tax. A one-scene role that has brought out tons of laughs and stomach cramps from audience all over. Perfect for someone who wants to act, but may not have a lot of time to commit.
- **Miriam Kirby:** Wife of Mr. Kirby, mother of Tony. She is an extremely prim and proper woman and is horrified by the goings-on in the Sycamore household. Her hobby is spiritualism. A small, female role, but one that shows a great deal of emotion.
- **The Grand Duchess Olga Katrina:** She was one of the Grand Duchesses of Russia before the Revolution. Since then she has been forced to flee to America where she has found work as a waitress in Childs Restaurant. She loves to cook as a hobby. This character will appear later in the play, and the actress needs to be able to be a bit over-the-top, but not over do it. A memorable, not necessarily overwhelming, Russian accent is desired.
- **Gay Wellington:** An actress whom Mrs. Sycamore meets on a bus and invites home to read one of her plays. She gets very drunk and passes out shortly after arriving at the Sycamore's home. A very small role, but onstage for several scenes. The actress mustn't be afraid to be physically carried by another actor, and can act "passed out," in hilarious positions, without breaking character.
- **3 G-Men:** Three agents who come to investigate Ed because of the communist things he prints. These actors must be okay having a very small role in the show. Perfect for anyone who may not have a lot of time to commit.

Audition Form - You Can't Take It With You

Name: _____ Home Phone: _____

Address: _____ Cell #: _____

Student Email: _____ Grade: _____

Guardian(s) Name: _____ Guardian(s) cell: _____

Guardian(s) Email: _____

Please list the 3 most recent acting (or theatre) experiences &/or attach resume:

1) Character(s): _____ Show: _____

2) Character(s): _____ Show: _____

3) Character(s): _____ Show: _____

Please list any acting/performance/dance workshops/classes you have had &/or attach resume:

Are you able to do accents? [] Yes [] No If yes, please list which ones: _____

Do you play an instrument? Which one(s): _____

Any other special skills: _____

Please check one of the following:

_____ I will accept any role.

_____ I prefer the role of _____, but will accept any role.

_____ I will only accept the role of _____.

If you are not cast, are you interested in working on the show? [] Yes [] No

Cast & Crew: Which areas would you be most interested in helping with?

[] Set [] Props [] Costumes [] Lights [] Sound [] Publicity [] Hair/Makeup

What technical experience do you have in the above areas?

Rehearsals & Conflicts: Rehearsals are M-F 3pm - 5:30pm. You will receive a rehearsal calendar on the day of the read-through. If cast in the show, you must attend the August 31st rehearsal. Write any known or suspected conflicts and mention if you are in athletics, have a job, or have any other major commitments that could hinder your participation.

What is your school schedule?

I understand that education is my first priority and that I need to be passing all my classes. I understand that if for any reason I am suspended I will not be able to participate in the play. I understand that if I am excessively absent or late to rehearsal, I can be taken out of the play. I understand that if I am unable to perform in the play, for any reason, I must tell Ms. White. I also understand that the week before the play, I will be at every rehearsal.

Student Printed Name	Student Signature	Date
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As a parent/guardian, I understand that my student needs to attend all rehearsals that they are a part of. I understand that if my student is excessively late or absent, my student may be taken out of the play. I understand that my student needs to be at every rehearsal the week before the show. I also will help in making sure that my student understands this too. Students will receive a rehearsal schedule the first day of rehearsals and will be posted on the website and social media accounts.

Parent/Guardian Printed Name	Parent/Guardian Signature	Date
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