

CASTING/AUDITION INFORMATION

Driving Miss Daisy

Written by Alfred Uhry

Directed by Jenny Martin

PRODUCTION DATES:

Open Auditions: Feb 22 10am-4pm and Feb 23 1pm-5pm 2020

Callback Audition Date: TBD

Company Meeting/1st Rehearsal: August 23, 2020

First Tech: September 13, 2020

Performance Dates: September 19-October 3, 2020 (weekends only)

School Performances: None

SUMMARY OF SHOW:

Miss Daisy is an elderly, white woman of Jewish descent. Due to her ailing health, she is forced to hire a driver when she backs her car into a neighbor's garage. Her son, Boolie, hires Hoke, an African American who is initially dismissed by his elderly boss as an unnecessary nuisance.

AUDITOR(S): Jenny Martin (Director)

CHARACTERS/CASTING NEEDS:

2 men, 1 woman

Daisy Werthan: (age 72-97) a Jewish widow, native to Atlanta, Georgia. She is 72 years old in 1948 at the beginning of the play, and 97 years old in 1973 at the end of the play. Born 11 years after the end of Civil War, she witnessed some of the most significant social changes in American history. She was in Atlanta when Leo Frank was lynched in 1913 – one of the most horrific displays of anti-Semitism in Atlanta's history. She lived through the woman suffrage movement and the passage of the 19th Amendment (which guaranteed women's right to vote), World Wars I and II, the Temple bombing of 1958, Martin Luther King Jr.'s ascension to fame and the Civil Rights Movement, the Cold War and the beginning of the Watergate Scandal. Her father-in-law was a self-made man who founded his own business, and she and her husband enjoyed financial success. Yet through it all, she remains fiercely rooted in her frugal upbringing, her early career as a teacher, her Southern propriety and her Judaism.

Hoke Coleburn: (age 60-85) an African-American man, native to Georgia. He is 60 years old in 1948 at the beginning of the play, and 85 years old in 1973 at the end. Before meeting Daisy, he had neither traveled nor learned to read. He has a daughter and granddaughter. Although he is 12 years younger than Daisy, he has also witnessed the same pivotal events in American history. He was a young man in 1913 when Leo Frank was lynched, but as a child he had already witnessed the lynching of his friend's father (which was a common occurrence in the state of Georgia in the late 1800s). He grew up in the thick of the Jim Crow era, experiencing for almost his whole life segregation, discrimination, injustice and racism.

Boolie Werthan: (age 40-65) Daisy's son, also born and raised in Atlanta. He is 40 years old in the first scene of the play in 1948, and 65 years old at the show's end in 1973. He grew up through World War I, and was a young man during the Great Depression. He observed his parents' dedication to their work and took over the family business, increasing its success. He is dutiful to his mother, despite her prickly personality. Though he clearly cares for Daisy, it's not in the way that she would find most fitting.

AUDITION PROCEDURES:

Professional actors should be prepared to present a monologue and have a headshot/resume that details their credentials. All actors should be prepared to read from the script. Actors may be asked to attend a callback audition at the discretion of the director.

REHEARSAL AND PERFORMANCE LOCATIONS:

Rehearsals will be held at the Mountain Heritage Center located at 113 Green Mountain Drive in Burnsville and at Parkway Playhouse, located at 202 Green Mountain Drive. Performances will be at Parkway Playhouse. Any/all known conflicts should be disclosed prior to or at auditions and confirmed at the first company meeting.

Additional calls for the purposes of costume fittings, research, PR, and other issues pertaining to production will be scheduled as needed by the Production Manager/Stage Management.

TENTATIVE REHEARSAL DAYS AND TIMES:

Sundays-Thursdays 6:30pm

Saturdays 10am

Tech Week - Sunday-Friday 6pm

COMPENSATION:

Actors who present a professional audition and meet the associated criteria will be paid a modest stipend.

NOTIFICATION:

ASAP via email or phone call no later than March 31. Due to time constraints the theatre will only notify those persons we intend to cast. Actors may be asked to attend a callback audition at the discretion of the director.