

CASTING/AUDITION INFORMATION

They Must Be Women Now

Staged Reading as a Part of Parkway Playhouse's Appalachian Playwriting Festival

Written by Nedra Pezold Roberts

Directed by Jamie Knox

PRODUCTION DATES:

- Open Auditions: May 6, 2023 at 2pm-4pm
- Rehearsal Period: TBD (Minimal rehearsals late May through early September)
- Tech: TBD
- Performance Dates: Staged Readings on September 9, 2023 at 7:30pm & September 10, 2023 at 4pm

AUDITION INFORMATION:

- Please come prepared with a resume, headshot, and a one-minute monologue. You will be asked to read sides at the auditions. Sides for this reading can be found here: <https://parkwayplayhouse.com/get-involved/audition/>

SUMMARY OF SHOW:

- *They Must Be Women Now* explores multiple social issues, from gender and race to marriage and class/caste. Like her ancient precursor Antigone, Charleen (alias Sweet Tea) has a big mouth that gets her into trouble—specifically, fired from her high-powered job in Atlanta where she was feeling demeaned by men. Unemployment sends her home to Half Way, Georgia, and to her mother, the feisty owner of Miss Althea's Bridal Boutique and Bail Bonds; Althea's black business partner, Olivia; the imperious Lurleen and her daughter Betsy, pregnant by her "passing" fiancé Trey; and Althea's long-haul trucker husband, Skip.

ABOUT THE APPALACHIAN PLAYWRITING FESTIVAL:

- The Appalachian Playwriting Festival will take place on September 8, 9, and 10, 2023 at Parkway Playhouse. This festival will feature staged readings of new plays written by Appalachian Playwrights that celebrate Appalachian Culture. Script submissions were read by our Appalachian Playwriting Committee and Industry Professionals and these 3 scripts were the ones we felt were the best fit for this festival. One script from this festival will be chosen to be produced on our stage in 2024.

CHARACTERS/CASTING NEEDS:

- SWEET TEA/CHARLEEN: 30 years old. Althea's daughter. A professional who speaks her mind; her honesty often gets her into trouble.
- ALTHEA: 45 years old. A self-made Southern businesswoman. Needs to be in control.
- OLIVIA: 60 years old. A confident Southern Black woman, even-tempered but with attitude.
- SKIP*: 50 years old. Althea's husband. A long-haul trucker with a poet's soul.

- BETSY: Early 20s. A shy-ish, sometimes comical girl under her mother's thumb but about to break free. She communicates more with movement and gestures than with words.
- LURLEEN: 45 years old. Arrogant, Southern woman, country club set, used to getting her way.
- BOSS*: 45-60 years old. Male, manager, loyal to "the company line." *SKIP can double as BOSS.
- SOMEONE TO READ STAGE DIRECTIONS.

REHEARSAL AND PERFORMANCE LOCATIONS:

- Rehearsals will be held at Attic Salt Theatre located at 2002 Riverside Dr studio 42-o, Asheville, NC 28804.
- The staged readings will take place at Parkway Playhouse, located at 202 Green Mountain Drive.
- 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.