

# SHORT PLAY FESTIVAL 2019

## AUDITION PACKET

Hello!

Thank you for auditioning (or considering auditioning) for the ETHS Short Play Festival. Short play (as it is often called) is exactly what it sounds like — a festival of short plays. This year's festival consists of six plays:

**After Twenty Years** by Gerald P. Murphy

Directed by Eve Fishman

**Please Have a Seat and Someone Will Be With You Shortly** by Garth Wingfield

Directed by Isabella Miller

**Death Comes for a Wedding** by Joe Tracz

Directed by Carmiya Bady and Noam Hasak-Lowy

**Kitty the Waitress** by Christopher Durang

Directed by Tess Dinerstein

**Mime in a Box** by Stephen Bittrich

Directed by Moksha Paudel

**Mary Just Broke Up With This Guy** by Garth Wingfield

Directed by Dar Anderson

Rehearsals for your play will be at the discretion of your director—you may not have rehearsal every day, but you should expect to be called at least twice a week. You and your cast will rehearse your play with your director and perform for ONE NIGHT ONLY, either Thursday or Friday.

How to audition in five easy steps:

1. [Sign up for a slot at ethstheatre.com](http://ethstheatre.com) or [click this](#).
2. Print/fill out the audition form and conflict sheet to bring to your audition.
3. Choose TWO pieces from this packet. **Gender is unimportant.** (It's not required to be memorized, but it is recommended)
4. Practice your audition.
5. Show up and perform your pieces!

Thank you for reading this long introduction!

Thank you for (considering) auditioning!

~Your Short Play Festival 2019 Directors~

# The Plays and Characters:

## **Kitty the Waitress** by Christopher Durang

We open on a tropical island restaurant where Mr. O'Brien has decided to dine the day after his wife leaves him. This restaurant is brimming with class, each of the waitstaff with polished french accents. Then Mr. O'Brien meets Kitty, his waitress. She's overly flirtatious (though not in the way you'd expect), and her every move as a waitress is overshadowed by her unconscious advances on Mr. O'Brien. Along with this the play features strange, seductive dancing, bongos, and a trip to the vet.

### **Characters:**

**Hostess**, gracious and French

**Mr. O'Brien**, the American customer, middle aged, nice, but average

**Kitty**, Seductive and French

**The Waiter**, also seductive, also french? somewhat reticent, plays the bongos

**Veronique**, another waitress, accommodating, French and then cockney

**The Veterinarian**, not french, professional and concise

## **Death Comes for a Wedding** by Joe Tracz

Beth is the unwilling sacrifice linked to her small towns harvest. Today, she is going to be married off to death (she even has a Greek chorus of playground kids!) But, Beth wants more than getting married and dying, so she enlists the aid of the oldest woman in town to escape the engagement. The stories personification of Death shows that he really isn't that bad of a guy- it's all in the timing and perspective.

### **Characters:**

**BETH**, a young woman of about twenty

**OLD WOMAN**, one hundred and seventy-seven years old

**EDDIE**, aka Death, looks like he works in advertising

**KIDS**, let's say three

## **After Twenty Years** by Gerald P. Murphy

After making a pact with his best friend, Bob, a wanted fugitive, returns to his hometown of New York to reunite with Jimmy. However, things don't go as plans when he arrives.

### **Characters:**

**BOB**, a wanted criminal, but a good friend

**COP**, a random police officer Bob encounters while waiting for Jimmy

**MAN**, not who he appears to be

**Please Have a Seat and Someone Will Be With You Shortly**  
by Garth Wingfield

David and Sue sit week after week in their therapists' waiting room, never daring to speak to one another. Until now. Who says you should never talk to strangers?

**Characters:**

**DAVID**, 20s, 30s, or 40s. The kind of person you might not notice at first.

**SUE**, same. Pretty, though she has no idea about that.

**Mary Just Broke up With this Guy**  
by Garth Wingfield

The play begins on Mary's first date after her recent breakup with Tony, her boyfriend for six years. The first date begins well, but soon things start to go badly. Over the course of the play, Mary goes on 23 dates with men she met a variety of ways. Whenever she wants a date to end, she presses a game-show-like buzzer to move on to the next date. The dates range from hilarious to creepy to boring as Mary tries not to get discouraged through all the failures.

**Characters:**

**MARY**, an optimistic woman (20s to 30s) looking for a relationship after a recent breakup

**DATES #1-22 (each person will play a few of the different men)**, men with a wide variety of personalities that agree to go on dates with Mary

**DATE #23 (the only date with its own individual actor)**, a young man looking for a relationship after a recent breakup

**Mime in a Box**  
by Stephen Bittrich

Two friends, Lenny and Harv, interact with a mime which is locked in a "box". Harv does not like this mime, messing with it and getting mad at it over the course of the play. Larry, however, appreciates the art of mime, and tries to educate Harv. Their interactions with the mime scale from hilarious to cruel as they discover what this mime can do.

**Characters:**

**Harv**, an uptight person from New York with a semi-closed mind and lack of respect.

**Larry**, A calmer, more appreciative person, who sort of likes mimes

**Mime**, a silent mime with extreme emotions and gestures

# Monologues:

Please choose the 2 pieces that speak to you most, pay no mind to the gender of the characters. You don't have to memorize, but it is recommended.

## **Kitty from Kitty the Waitress**

In this monologue, Kitty is introducing the evening's specials to a new customer. She is simultaneously inadvertently being somewhat seductive, though in a very strange way.

**KITTY:** (In an over-the-top French accent) Would you like to 'ear the specials, Monsieur? Tonight we 'ave filet of red snapper avec un sauce of artichoke et sardine. We 'ave Mahi Mahi avec un sauce de Mieu Mieu, in honor of ze French actress Mieu Mieu. Ze fish is flown in by aeroplane from ze island of Maui. Meow, meow. C'est une grande delicacée. What would you like from ze menu zis evening? Kitty does not judge. Kitty loves all choices, she sees no difference between any of zem. (laughs seductively) Et moi? Oh no monsieur! Non, non, non. Kitty is not on ze menu

## **Larry from Mime in a Box**

The mime can't leave the box, and Harv is starting to get mad; this is Larry's response.

**Larry:** You're never going to get him to do the walk by pissing him off. Harv, mimes aren't stupid. No, no, you've gotta use psychology on him. These mimes are a very proud and sensitive lot. Look, just follow my lead, okay? (pause) Oh Harv, that is why he can't do the mime walk. He's just not skilled enough to do the walk inside a small\space--inside the box. He needs more room. ( pause) wow, this guy's a professional...even incorporated the box into the whole walk thing.

## **Old Lady from Death Comes for a Wedding**

In this part of the play the Old Lady is telling Beth that she has lived a full enough life to be unafraid and even welcoming of Death.

**OLD LADY.** I'm one hundred and seventy-seven years old. I've done a lot of things people don't know. I was twenty when I climbed to the top of the mountain. It took six years, and for three of them all I had to eat was snow and cabbage. It was cold at the top-- but the view? Made it worth it. I've explored every corner of the forest. Well, there are no corners, just places where it ceases to be. I've never seen the bottom of the sea, though. But it wasn't for lack of trying. I spent four years going down, and it took another four years to come back up. I don't think there really is a bottom. I think it goes down forever. At fifty, I packed my bags and took the train. I shared a one-room apartment with three other women of different ages, and one man who liked other men. We stayed up late and worked all sorts of jobs and had sex in every possible combination. Our lives became the basis of a popular television sitcom. They were the best eleven years of them all, because that part I didn't do alone.

### **David from Please Have a Seat and Someone Will Be With You Shortly**

David may or may not have crossed a line in his conversation with Sue (you know, confidentiality, privacy, and all that jazz).

**DAVID.** Just so you know, there's no need to worry about changing your therapy night. Because this is my final session with Dr. Reifenschneider. He's closing up his practice and moving to Vermont to spend his twilight years running this little candle shop. And I only wish I was making that up because that is JUST SO FREUDIAN. I mean, CANDLES? So starting next Monday, I'll be seeing Dr. McBee down in the Village. Dr. Reifenschneider says he's a kid - which is cool - who wears shorts in the summer. I'm looking forward to a change of pace. But I saw you sitting here tonight and I don't know, I just decided... I had to say hello to you before I could say goodbye.

### **Bob from Twenty Years Later**

**BOB.** Twenty years ago tonight, I had dinner with Jimmy Wells. He was my best friend and the best fellow in the world. We grew up together here in New York, like two brothers. I was 18 and Jimmy was 20. I had to leave New York though. I was headed to Kansas City. I was going to get a job with my Uncle Louie and make great success. I would have brought Jimmy with me, but you couldn't pull Jimmy out of New York with a crowbar. He loves this joint! He thought it was the only place on Earth worth anything. For a time we wrote to each other, but after a year or two we stopped. The West is big. I moved around everywhere, and I moved quickly. Hard to stay in touch when you move so much, but I know that Jimmy will meet me here if he can.

### **Date #23 from Mary Just Broke up With This Guy**

After the first minute of their date, Date #23 is ready to leave. He was expecting to really like Mary, but she acted really strange. She's just started smoking a cigarette.

**DATE #23:** Um, would you mind not doing that? I'm kind of... asthmatic... and I didn't realize you smoked actually... Look, Mary, I should go. I had no business being here in the first place. The thing is, I just broke up with this girl, I don't know like three months ago. (*Admits:*) One month ago. (*Admits:*) Tuesday. It's just... you're not at all what I was expecting from your website. Look, maybe I'm new to this, but you seemed like this really funny, madcap sort of... I mean, those photos of you on the Cyclone laughing your head off were great. And the picture of you with your dog. And then I meet you in person and you're... Anyway, it was nice sharing half a latte with you.

# Short Play Festival 2019

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Grade (circle one): 9/10/11/12

Pronouns: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

What is the best way to contact you? Phone? Email? Other?: \_\_\_\_\_

Relevant theater experience?:

Can you jump rope? Can you double dutch?:

What accents can you do? (in particular, French, cockney, New York or British?)

Any impressions?:

Can you play the bongos (or can you at least try?):

Can you mime ( or at least try?):

Please fill out a conflict sheet with any and every conflict you may have.

# SPF Conflict Sheet

This is a very short rehearsal process so we need to be aware of things up front. Please list every possible conflict you may have. Lots of conflicts doesn't necessarily mean you won't get cast, the directors just need to know ahead of time so they can work around their actor's schedules. **Dates in bold are tech and performances.** You will likely not be called all of tech, depending on how shows are configured. You will definitely not be called all of tech Saturday.

Monday May 6th 3pm-6pm

Tuesday May 7th 4pm-6pm

Wednesday May 8th 4pm-6pm

Thursday May 9th 4pm-6pm

Friday May 10th 4pm-6pm

Saturday May 11th 10am-4pm

Monday May 13th 3pm-6pm

Tuesday May 14th 4pm-6pm

Wednesday May 15th 4pm-6pm

Thursday May 16th 4pm-6pm

Friday May 17th 4pm-6pm

**Saturday May 18th 10am-6pm**

**Monday May 20th 4pm-10pm**

**Tuesday May 21st 4pm-10pm**

**Wednesday May 22nd 4pm-10pm**

**PERFORMANCE: Thursday May 23rd call time 6pm** if your play is performing that day.  
(But you should come even if you're not.)

**PERFORMANCE: Friday May 24th call time 6pm** if your play is performing that day. (But you should come even if you're not.)