



SPRING AUDITION INFORMATION

The information contained in this document will help you in preparing for your audition/participation in our Spring shows- *Harvey* and *Falling*. Please share this information sheet with your parents so they know what the expectations and requirements of the show are.

General Audition Info

Everyone can audition for the show or speech events. We do not work on a seniority system and casting will be based on what we see during the audition process. Not everyone will be cast. Please do not judge yourself/your abilities on this one audition. We have many opportunities throughout the year. Also, if not cast, you can still be a part of the production. We need crew members to assist with set, lights, sound, costumes, props, and publicity. We are a company of theatre artists and each member's work is what allows us to produce a successful show!

All those who would like to work on one of the shows should sign up for Virtual Stage Manager (VSM). This is an online scheduling tool and our first line of communication with all students. Parents may also sign up so that they will receive messages and schedules. You can sign up at www.stagemanagement.com. The signup code is: pvspartandrama

The production staff are all educators. We have dedicated our lives to working with young people. We know how nerve-wracking auditions can be! We are as nervous as you! We want you to do well and we agonize over casting! Take a deep breath and do your best. We know we have a wealth of talent and our job is to find the best way to showcase that. Casting choices are based on talent and the overall look of the show. While we would love to be able to cast everyone, we cannot. Even if you were to not be chosen, we hope that you will join us for one of our crews. A production takes many people working together as a well-oiled machine.

Harvey

What is the show about?

Elwood P. Dowd insists on including his friend Harvey in all of his sister Veta's social gatherings. Trouble is, Harvey is an imaginary six-and-a-half-foot-tall rabbit. To avoid future embarrassment for her family—and especially for her daughter, Myrtle Mae—Veta decides to have Elwood committed to a sanitarium. At the sanitarium, a frantic Veta explains to the staff that her years of living with Elwood's hallucination have caused her to see Harvey also, and so the doctors mistakenly commit her instead of her mild-mannered brother. The truth comes out, however; Veta is freed, and the search is on for Elwood, who eventually arrives at the sanitarium of his own volition, looking for Harvey. But it seems that Elwood and his invisible companion have had a strange influence on more than one of the doctors. Only at the end does Veta realize that maybe Harvey isn't so bad after all.

When is the show?

The show runs April 22 and 23 and will be in the Main Stage Theatre.

How can a person be involved?

You can audition for the show or sign up to work on one of our technical crews.

When are auditions and what must I do?

Auditions will be held in the theatre on Monday February 28 from 3:45-6:00pm. Auditions will be done individually and each student will sign up for a 5 minute slot at

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0C4AA4AF2CA6FAC16-harvey>

During your audition you will choose one of the scenes that have been chosen by our director, Mrs. Myatt. Someone in the audition room will read with you.

Scenes are posted on our website- www.pleasval.org/theatre.

If you are unable to attend the auditions, you may submit a video audition. Video should include your name and which scene you are doing (have someone else read off camera with you.)

Videos must be received by 6pm on Monday, February 28.

What if I want to be on a technical crew?

Please see the form linked on the website to sign up for crews. The form will be due by 6:00pm on Tuesday, March 1.

What is the rehearsal/tech schedule like?

Rehearsals will be held after school from 3:45-5:30 Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. As we get closer to the show, some rehearsals may run later or start later. Tech crew schedules vary. They sometimes work after school, evenings, or weekends. Not everyone will be needed at all rehearsals/technical work sessions in the beginning. As we get closer to the show, you will need to be here every day. A detailed schedule will be posted on VSM during the first week of rehearsals that lists when you will need to be there. While we understand there may be some conflicts, we ask that you try and plan lessons, appointments, and work schedules around your rehearsal times. There are no conflicts accepted two weeks prior to the performance.

Cast Breakdown

Elwood P. Dowd- 40-50-

A sweet, mild mannered yet dignified man who has a dreamy and innocent quality about him; a friendly eccentric who spends his days and nights in the taverns of his unnamed town. Elwood is non-judgmental and without malice, charming and extremely likeable. Elwood's best friend is Harvey, an invisible six and a half-foot-tall white rabbit.

Veta Louise Simmons- 40-50

Elwood's sister, who loves her brother but finds him to be an embarrassment to the family, especially when his behavior interferes with her efforts to pave her daughter's way into society. Also, his friendship with Harvey distresses her for another, very personal reason. She's a chronic worrier who often comes across as a bit manic and high strung.

Dr William R Chumley- 40-50

An esteemed psychiatrist and the head of Chumley's Rest sanitarium. A difficult, exacting man who has a very secure sense of his own authority and who inspires loyalty from his staff; secretly he would like to escape his everyday responsibilities and live a simpler life.

Dr Lyman Sanderson- 20-30

A young and highly qualified psychiatrist at Chumley's Rest, handpicked by Dr. Chumley. His talent is only surpassed by his vanity and arrogance. He is as infatuated with Nurse Kelly as she is with him, although he often conceals those feelings with his callous, condescending behavior.

Nurse Ruth Kelly- mid to late 20s

Nurse at Chumley's Rest; a kind and intelligent young woman and a pleasant and efficient nurse. She is in love with Dr. Sanderson, but also finds his manner infuriating at times when he refuses to acknowledge his feelings for her.

Myrtle Mae Simmons- mid to late 20s

Veta's spoiled extremely self-centered daughter who is unmarried and eager to meet eligible men but believes her uncle's peculiar behavior is ruining her chances.

Duane Wilson- late 20s-early 30s

The orderly at Chumley's Rest who is responsible for handling difficult patients who will not cooperate voluntarily. Not the most intelligent or sophisticated man. He is extremely devoted to Dr. Chumley and is attracted to Myrtle Mae.

Judge Omar Gaffney- 60-70

An old and somewhat cantankerous family friend of the Dowd's and the family's lawyer. Judge Gaffney is fiercely protective of the family, especially Veta.

Mrs. Ethel Chauvenet- 60-70

An old friend of the Dowd family, Mrs. Chauvenet is an overly affected wealthy socialite who is a shameless gossip monger. However, she does have a warm spot in her heart for Elwood.

Betty Chumley- 40-50

Dr. Chumley's kind and somewhat neglected wife. More concerned with her social calendar than her husband's practice, but at heart is a warm and caring person.

E.J. Lofgren- 30s or older

A street-smart cab driver who regularly takes patients to and from Chumley's Rest and is none too impressed with the results of Dr. Chumley's treatments.

Miss Johnson- 30s or older

Veta Louise Simmons' maid. A small walk on role with one line.

Questions?

Email questions to Mrs. Myatt at myattchristina@pleasval.org

Harvey Production Staff

Christina Myatt- Director/Director of Theatre

Kylie Brees and Arissa Khan- AD/SM

Erin Klage- Props

Brigham Shamrell- Technical Director

Rishi Wagle- Lighting and Sound Designer

Falling

What is the show about?

Falling explores the dynamic and complicated reality of a family with an autistic young man. When a relative comes to visit, the entire family and their dynamics for which they have worked so hard are thrown out of equilibrium, with everyone trying to balance what is best for the family and what is best for them. The play bravely speaks a truth about love and family and about hopes and dreams. It asks, "How do you love someone who is difficult to love?"

When is the show?

The show runs May 13 and 14 and will be in the BlackBox Theatre.

How can a person be involved?

You can audition for the show or sign up to work on one of our technical crews.

When are auditions and what must I do?

Auditions will be held in the theatre on Tuesday March 1 from 3:45-5:30pm in the Black Box Theatre with Wednesday March 2 designated towards possible callbacks. Auditions will be done individually and each student will sign up for a 5 minute slot at

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0C4AA4AF2CA6FAC16-falling>

During your audition you will choose one of the scenes that have been chosen by our director, Bella Vondracek. Someone in the audition room will read with you.

Scenes are posted on our website- www.pleasval.org/theatre

If you are unable to attend the auditions, you may submit a video audition. Video should include your name and which scene you are doing (have someone else read off camera with you.)

Videos must be received by 5:30pm on Tuesday, March 1.

What if I want to be on a technical crew?

Please see the form linked on the website to sign up for crews. The form will be due by 6:00pm on Wednesday, March 2.

What is the rehearsal/tech schedule like?

We will have one rehearsal prior to spring break on Thursday March 10. This rehearsal will only be a read through of the script and a rundown of company expectations. After spring break, beginning on March 22, we will have rehearsals scheduled every Tuesday and Thursdays. Rehearsals will be scheduled from 3:45 to 5:30. After the show *Harvey* is complete, beginning April 25, we will hold rehearsals Monday, Wednesday and Thursday held at the same time as listed above. Tech week will be May 9 through May 12.

Cast Breakdown

Joshua - Age 18, with severe autism. Most of the time he is happy, and does what will be referred to as his “happy dance” - big movements of his shoulders, back and forth, accompanied by guttural sounds and smiles and head tilts. He is fascinated by visual stimuli and scared by loud and unexpected noises. He has limited verbal/communication skills.

Tami - His mother, in her 40’s. She and her husband have been trained in behavioral intervention and teaching skills, which is evidenced in how they interact with Josh, and sometimes bleeds over into their interaction with others. She sells real estate part-time. Fantasy and alcohol are her stress relievers.

Lisa - Age 16, Josh’s sister. Wants to be a typical girl in a typical home. Isn’t and is frustrated by that. She and her father take yearly summer vacations to visit his mother (Grammy Sue). This is their two-week escape from daily home life. She may deal with her stress by overeating.

Bill - His father. Tries to relieve stress by making jokes - would like to relieve stress by having sex. Neither are working too well for him right now. His job isn’t mentioned, but he’s a supervisor at a construction firm.

Grammy Sue - Bill’s mother. She brings with her the hope that her sincere Christian faith can intervene to help everyone in her son’s family. She is genuinely concerned and confused, but she is not a scold. She is in a “boot” because she broke two of her toes a few days prior to the visit.

Lawrence - Caseworker for the Department of Child and Family Services, played by the same actor that plays Joshua. This character should be quite different in bearing and speech from Joshua, but there shouldn’t be a huge effort to “disguise” the fact that it’s the same actor.

Questions?

Email questions to Bella Vondracek at vondracekbella@pleasval.org

Falling Production Staff

Bella Vondracek - Director

Erin Klage - Mentor

Caleb Swinney - Assistant Director

Braeden Jackson - Stage Manager