

DURHAM SHOESTRING PERFORMERS - AUDITIONS 2018

Please read further important general information about auditions at www.durhamshoestring.org

YOUTH AUDITION

Because DSP offers 3 challenging roles for youth this season, we will hold a separate audition to focus on those characters: **Emma** and **Joe** in *The Long Road* and **Jessie** in *Tomcat*. Every attempt will be made to cast these roles on **Monday, August 27, 2018 from 7:00-8:30 pm**. Directors Joe Szekeres and John Lunman will lead the audition and candidates are expected to be present for the whole session, and to have read the play in advance. Both plays contain some strong language and mature themes. The actual age of the actors cast may vary from the script details; convincingly playing the role is the real criterion. Audition scenes will be made available by request to the producer through dsp@durhamshoestring.org on Aug. 7. Actors selected to play these 3 youth roles must also participate in the scheduled adult audition dates to facilitate casting the adult characters.

THE LONG ROAD by Shelagh Stephenson

Joe

A young man of 20, Joe has witnessed a random knife attack in which his younger brother was killed. He struggles with significant survivor guilt because he could not prevent it, and realizes that his parents' hopes and dreams for the future lie only with him now. As do all of the characters in this play, Joe must figure out how the rest of his life will unfold.

Emma

Now in prison at 18, Emma describes herself as a "junkie streetwalker" who is hated by everyone. She has spent her childhood knowing that her very survival was in only her own hands, and now that she has taken a life, Emma must figure out what hers is worth.

Tomcat by James Rushbrooke

Jessie

We are looking for a 16 year old or older actress who can convincingly play 12-13. Jesse is 'the project'. She is the child of the last psychopath; the state has bred out the genetic disorder. She has been "under state care" since her mother's apprehension when she was 3 years old. The doctors are concerned that she might carry the gene for psychopathic behavior and therefore be too dangerous to be allowed to live free. But Jessie is also a 12 year old girl who has been raised with little human warmth for her entire life. She swings from nice to violent in a heartbeat. No doubt that she could be extremely dangerous and everyone is justifiably afraid of her. But she is also extremely intelligent and eager to please.

Jessie is the central character and is onstage the whole show. The successful candidate will have stage experience, ideally in a principal dramatic role – she must be able to humanize a multi-dimensional character of whom others are wary. Also, due to the intense nature of the story, parents must read the play and support their teen's involvement.

ADULT AUDITIONS

THE LONG ROAD by Shelagh Stephenson

Audition: **Tuesday, August 28, 2018, 7:00-9:30 pm**

Director Joe Szekeres will lead the audition and candidates are expected to be present for the whole session, and to have read the play in advance.

Mary

52, mother of Joe, wife of John. Mary declares herself “haunted” by her son’s killer and is consumed by the need to deal with this growing obsession.

John

50-60, father of Joe, husband of Mary. John deals with his grief by going running, as if there can be an escape in sheer physical endurance.

Elizabeth

An experienced social worker, 40-60. Throughout a long career exposed to all manner of human strengths and frailties, Elizabeth understands there is never one simple answer to acceptance of grief.

LOVE AND ANGER by George F. Walker

Audition: **Thursday, October 11, 2018, 7:45-10:00 pm**

Director Carolyn Wilson will lead the audition and candidates are expected to be present for the whole session, and to have read the play in advance. Moderate physical agility will be required of all actors in this show.

Peter ‘Petie’ Maxwell

50+, an experienced former corporate lawyer who now works out of a dingy basement office representing needy people who are “outside the corridor, so to speak”. Sometimes needs a cane; sometimes sheer energy carries him along.

Gail Jones

20 – 40, a determined black woman whose call for help Maxwell returned. Gail wants Petie to get her innocent husband out of jail.

Eleanor Downey

40+, Maxwell’s legal secretary who has stood by him in sickness and in health for many years, even though she’d rather they had a cleaner office

John ‘Babe’ Conner

45+, owner of a powerful newspaper implicated in the arrest of Gail’s husband

Sean Harris

50+, Petie’s former law partner, now running for political office

Sarah Downey

35+, Eleanor’s slightly younger sister, whose life “outside the corridor” is a constant stress for Eleanor and an inspiration for Petie

TOMCAT by James Rushbrooke

Audition: **Tuesday November 27, 2018, 7:00-9:30 pm**

Director John Lunman will lead the audition and candidates are expected to be present for the whole session, and to have read the play in advance.

Tom

Rough. Ex-military. Can handle himself in a fight. Used to following orders and maintaining discipline. He is the caregiver for the most studied little girl in the world. Unfortunately for him, he is beginning to see her as a little girl rather than as a subject in an experiment creating a complex ethical dilemma for him.

Caroline

Government Scientist who has been the head of Genetic Testing Observation for years. She literally wrote the book. Caroline has come to care too much, but such thinking is dangerous so she's leaving the field, turning over her 'project' to others more willing to follow orders. Complex and morally ambiguous.

Charlie

The new scientist in charge of the 'project'. He presents a veneer of civilization and scientific objectivity but is willing to sacrifice anything and anyone to succeed where others have failed to reach a conclusion. Above all, Charlie wants his hypothesis to be proven.

Rachel

Charlie's wife wants to be a good citizen who supports her husband's work. Unfortunately, a shadow has descended on her. She has a secret that will force Rachel to choose between what she feels is right and what her society tells her she must do.

To borrow a script for a few days for advance reading, or for any other questions, please contact the producer, Carolyn Wilson, through dsp@durhamshoestring.org