

Open Book Theatre Season 11 (24-25) Audition information

*all roles are open to actors of any race unless otherwise specified, and while roles may be gendered actors are encouraged to audition for roles of any gender they feel comfortable portraying.

Please prepare 2 contrasting monologues, no longer than 2 minutes COMBINED time.

Bring a headshot and resume and be prepared to give conflicts.

A Doll's House Part 2

By Lucas Hnath

Director Wendy Katz Hiller

Production dates: Sept 6- Sept 29, 2024

Roles:

Anne Marie: female presenting 55+

Torvald Helmer: male presenting 45+

Emmy Helmer: female presenting about 18

The role of Nora is already cast.

About the play: Fifteen years after Nora slammed the door on her stifling domestic life she has returned with a shocking request. Before she can get what she needs, however, she must reckon with the family she left in her wake. An imagined sequel to Henrik Ibsen's 1879 masterpiece A Doll's House, this "Part 2" stands on it own as a funny, probing, and complex exploration of gender roles and a clever contemporary take on the struggles inherent in all human relationships.

Breakings Laws to Gain Freedom: Liberating Stories from Detroit

Co production with Extra Mile Playwrights Theatre

Playwrights Gail Parrish, Forrest Hudson, Shawntai Brown, Maureen Paraventi, and Ann Eskridge

Director Ashley M. Lyle

Production Dates: Nov 8 – Dec 1, 2024

Roles:

8 actors to play multiple characters

About the play: *Breaking Laws to Gain Freedom: Liberating Stories of Detroit* is a devised theatrical piece penned by Extra Mile Playwrights Theatre retelling true local events that had an impact on the civil rights and liberties of Black people nationwide. Spanning 1833-1959, these stories offer glimpses into the narratives of fugitives who escaped to Canada, soldiers who took up arms, and neighbors who fought for their rightful places in the city. The Extra Mile Playwrights Theatre is a group of Detroit-area playwrights, actors, directors and producers dedicated to showcasing local theatre. The mission of EMPT is to build community by creating and developing transformative stories through the written word, storytelling and performance.

Bernhardt/Hamlet

Theresa Rebeck

Director Shelby Seeley

Production Dates: Jan 10 – Feb 2, 2025

Roles:

Edmond Rostand: M, 35-45. A playwright with currently fettered ambition, but genius in his own right (eventually writes *Cyrano de Bergerac*). A father, husband to Rosamond, and having an affair with his muse Sarah. A charming man with a talent for words and wit.

Constant Coquelin/Ghost of Hamlet's Father/Cyr: M, 50-60. Leading man in Sarah's troupe who has played every role in the cannon multiple times. He's a seasoned actor capable of commanding the stage, and Sarah's trusted confidant.

Alphonse Mucha: M, 40-50. Art nouveau painter/graphic designer catapulted to fame by Sarah's patronage. He is immersed in his work creating the poster for "Hamlet". His artistic distance allows him to be an aloof and sometimes dismissive observer, yet he is charming with a dry sense of humor.

Maurice/Francois/Guildenstern/The Bore from *Cyrano*: M, 30-35. Maurice: Sarah's educated, steady, devoted son. He can stand up to his mother's excesses. Francois: An actor in Sarah's troupe. A little scattered, a little sensitive, but well trained, serious about his craft, and funny.

Lysette/Ophelia/Rosamond: F, 20-35. Lysette: The aspiring ingenue playing Ophelia, in awe of Sarah and eager to learn from her. Rosamond is Edmond's wife, navigating the complexities of her marriage with a quiet grace.

Louis: M, 50-80. The leading theatre critic of Paris. Passionate about the theatre and his authority to “make or break” careers.

Raoul/Rosencrantz/Viscount De Valvert: M, 30-50. An actor in Sarah’s troupe. Not terribly smart, a bit self-involved, but well trained, serious about his craft, and funny.

The role of Sarah Bernhardt is already cast.

About the play: Mark Twain wrote: “There are five kinds of actresses: bad actresses, fair actresses, good actresses, great actresses – and then there is Sarah Bernhardt.” In 1899, the international stage celebrity set out to tackle her most ambitious role yet: Hamlet. Theresa Rebeck’s new play rollicks with high comedy and human drama, set against the lavish Shakespearean production that could make or break Bernhardt’s career.

Ripcord

By David Lindsay Abaire

Director Kevin Keller

Production Dates: March 14 – April 6, 2025 *(with a possible extension to April 13)*

Roles:

Abby Binder: a resident, 70s-80s

Marilyn Dunne: a resident, 70s-80s

Scotty: a resident aide, 20s-30s

Benjamin, Lewis, Clown: played by the same actor, 40s

Colleen and Woman in White: played by the same actress, 30s-40s

Derek, Zombie Butler, and Masked Man: played by the same actor, 30s-40s

About the play: When prickly Abby is forced to share her room at Bristol Place Senior Living Facility with the sunny and chipper Marilyn, she decides to get rid of the intruder by any means necessary. A seemingly harmless bet between the old women creates some hilarious battles, escalating into a game of one-upmanship that reveals the tenacity and wit of these worthy opponents, as well as some hidden secrets.

Artemisia

By Lauren Gunderson

Director Krista Schafer

Production Dates: May 16 – June 8, 2025

Roles:

Artemisia Gentileschi: 17 feisty, smart, strong, confident (*Also plays: Prudenzia Figlia - her daughter 16-20s, sweet natured and mischievous*)

Artemesia Madre : 30s-50, fierstier, smarter, stronger, more confident

Prudenzia Madre: her mother - 40s, kind and *steady* (*Also plays: Grand Duchess Christina of Lorraine, hilarious and flighty*)

Orazio: her father -40s-60s, Like Artemisia but a man. A bit brutish and hasty.

Francesco: her lover and friend and confidant, 40s. A really good guy.

About the Play: Artemisia Gentileschi was the most celebrated female painter of the 17th century, yet her name was all but lost for centuries. Attacked at just seventeen, publicly shamed and tortured to prove her truth, Gentileschi nevertheless fought for her art and the freedom to make it on her own terms. Always contending with her father, consumed with passion for her lover, and ferociously devoted to her children, Artemisia is a modern woman before her time. Artemisia is a work of humor and warmth that celebrates the courage, artistry, and humanity of a woman who attacked the glass ceiling with every brush stroke.