

EAT - 2020/2021 PRODUCTION #04 - HARVEY



Title: **HARVEY**
Theme: **Farce**
Author/s: **Mary Chase**
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In Performance: **APRIL 3RD - 10TH 2021**
Publisher: **Josef Weinberger Limited**
Audition Date: **To be advised**
Audition Time: **To be advised**



Description / Tagline:

Harvey, a Pulitzer Prize-winning comedy by Mary Chase, is the story of a perfect gentleman, Elwood P. Dowd, and his best friend, Harvey, who is a six-foot tall, invisible rabbit. When Elwood begins introducing Harvey around town, his embarrassed sister, Veta Louise, and her daughter, Myrtle Mae, determine to commit Elwood to a sanitarium. A mistake is made, however, and Veta is committed rather than Elwood! Eventually, the mistake is realized, and a frantic search begins for Elwood and the invisible pooka, which ends with Elwood appearing, voluntarily, at the sanitarium. In the end, however, Veta realizes that she loves her brother and his invisible his best friend just as they are, and doesn't want either of them to change.

CAST / AUDITION DETAILS

Male roles

Elwood P. Dowd (Lead) (Age 35-55)

Elwood P. Dowd is the central character of the play, a charming eccentric who's best friend is Harvey, an invisible six-foot-tall rabbit. Elwood is well mannered, very friendly, and has "old-school gentleman charm". Elwood is Veta's older brother but the age difference needn't be dramatic.

Dr. William B. Chumley (Age 50-80)

Dr. Chumley is an esteemed psychiatrist and the head of Chumley's Rest with years of experience. He is a difficult, exacting man who will go to any length to protect the reputation of his sanatorium. Usually played an older actor.

Dr. Lyman Sanderson (Age 20-35)

Dr. Sanderson is a young and highly qualified psychiatrist, handpicked by Dr. Chumley. His talent is only surpassed by his vanity. He is as infatuated with Nurse Kelly as she is with him, though he struggles not to let on. Usually played a younger actor.

Wilson (Age 20-50)

Wilson is the muscle of Chumley's Rest, a devoted orderly responsible for handling the patients who will not cooperate voluntarily. He sets his sites on Myrtle Mae Simmons soon after meeting her.

Judge Omar Gaffney (Age 40-80)

The judge is an old family friend of the Dowds and the family's lawyer. He is fiercely protective of the family and surprisingly understanding of Elwood's belief in Harvey. Usually played an older actor.

Gender neutral role

E. J. Lofgren (Open age) E.J. Lofgren is a cab driver whose monologue about sanatorium passengers is crucial to the climax of the play. This role

has a single scene near the very end and would have a limited rehearsal schedule.

Female Roles

Veta Louise Simmons (Age 35-55)

Elwood's younger sister, Veta has returned to the family home after the death of her mother and is intent on landing a suitable husband for her daughter Myrtle Mae. She is very concerned about fitting into society and all the social proprieties that that involves. She also loves her older brother Elwood very much. This is the dynamic that drives the action of the play.

Ruth Kelly (Age 18-35)

Nurse Kelly is a sympathetic character, a pretty young woman who has a love/hate relationship with Dr. Sanderson. She is sweet and kind and looks for the best in people. Usually played a younger actress.

Myrtle Mae Simmons (Age 18-30)

Myrtle is Veta's Daughter (Elwood's Niece). Both Veta and Myrtle are about the business of finding Myrtle a man to marry-a mission that is made impossible with Elwood and Harvey constantly popping in. Myrtle is extremely self-centered. Usually played a younger actress.

Ethel Chauvenet (Age 50-80)

Mrs. Chauvenet is an old friend of the family. She is an elite member of the town's social circle that Veta desperately wants Myrtle to break into. Usually played an older actress.

A smaller role (Act 1 only) - may double as Betty Chumley.

Betty Chumley (Age 50-80)

Dr. Chumley's kind and talkative wife. Usually played an older actress.

A smaller role (Act 2 only) - may double as Ms Chauvenet.

Please note: Due to the ongoing Coronavirus situation, all production and audition dates are subject to change. If you are interested in auditioning for our new season, please contact the director by email. Thank you