

CASTING NOTICE

We've hit the motherlode in our 13th season of free professional theatre in Northeastern Pennsylvania. This season Scranton Shakes explores the theme of motherhood in several different Shakespearean texts and Broadway musicals. Scranton Shakes is seeking actors of all ages, races, backgrounds, orientations, and identities who possess a strong command of heightened text, emotional courage, and range and are dedicated to strengthening their craft whilst providing theatre to a varied audience. Productions include:

GYPSY
THE WINTER'S TALE
NEXT TO NORMAL
TITUS ANDRONICUS

Rehearsals and performances will take place in Scranton, PA on a 6 week non-equity contract between June 10th and July 29th 2024.

We're still committed to everyone's safety and wellbeing even as we edge further away from the wider effects of the pandemic. Subsequently, we are seeking to cast a tight repertory company to perform in multiple productions in a rolling rep. There may also be some performers hired for less shows, or who are contracted as inter-disciplined artists with other responsibilities to keep our company numbers at a minimum.

Stipend varies from \$200-\$1600 depending on duties. Included: Round trip transportation to and from NYC or Philadelphia, housing in Scranton with private bedroom, Wi-Fi, gym access, swimming pool access and some meals*.

Our auditions are open to everyone. There is no pre-screening process and anyone who submits will be seen and considered by our creative team.

Actors should visit <http://scrantonshakes.com/casting> to begin the process. All candidates will be required to provide an accurate headshot, an up-to-date resume and will be asked to submit a self taped audition. You will have the opportunity to highlight roles of interest to you in your application.

In regards to the breakdowns below, the character descriptions are taken from their respective scripts and should be considered as a starting point, they are not carved in stone. We seek to reflect an accurate representation of the world we live in; we fully intend to cast broadly in regards to race/ethnicity, gender and identity, body type, and ability.

While we appreciate characters may be listed and written in a binary format with he/she pronouns, we invite gender non-conforming, genderqueer, transgender, and non-binary actors to submit for any roles they most identify with.

Don't hesitate to reach out if you have any questions or to let us know how further we can support your application at casting@scrantonshakes.com.

GYPSY

A musical fable, with music by Jule Styne and lyrics by Stephen Sondheim.

Written by Arthur Laurents

Directed by Michael Bradshaw Flynn

Music Directed by Stephen Murphy

Choreographed by Matthew Lynady

This beloved musical follows the story of Mama Rose, a fiercely determined stage mother, and her two daughters, Louise and June, as they navigate the world of vaudeville and burlesque during the 1920s and 1930s. With unforgettable songs and a compelling story, this timeless classic explores themes of ambition, family, and the pursuit of fame.

Rose: Female, mid-30s to late 40s. The driving force behind the family's vaudeville act, Rose is a larger-than-life character with dreams of stardom for her daughters. She is charismatic, ambitious, and unapologetically determined. Requires a powerhouse actress with strong singing and acting abilities.

Louise: Female, late teens to early 20s. Rose's older daughter, who eventually becomes the famous burlesque performer Gypsy Rose Lee. Initially shy and reserved, Louise grows into a confident and independent woman. Requires a versatile actress with strong comedic timing and a powerful singing voice. This role simulates a burlesque striptease and should feel comfortable in a nude suit.

June: Female, late teens to early 20s. Rose's younger daughter, who is the star of the family's vaudeville act. June is talented, spirited, and eager to please her mother. Requires a skilled actress with strong dancing and singing abilities.

Herbie: Male, mid-30s to late 40s. A kind-hearted and lovable agent who becomes romantically involved with Rose. Herbie is patient, supportive, and deeply devoted to the family. Requires an actor with strong comedic timing and a warm stage presence.

Tessie Tura, Mazeppa, and Electra: Female, 30s to 50s. Three strippers who befriend Louise and help her find success in burlesque. Each character requires a talented actress with strong comedic timing and singing ability.

Tulsa: Male, late teens to early 20s. A talented dancer who becomes romantically involved with Louise. Tulsa is ambitious, charming, and deeply passionate about his craft. Requires a strong dancer with acting and singing abilities.

Baby June: Female, reads 6-9 years old- polished with stage pizzazz but sometimes overwhelming in smiles and cuteness. Dance ability is a plus.

Additional Ensemble Roles: Various roles are available for actors of all ages and genders, including vaudeville performers, strippers, stagehands, and other characters.

Note: GYPSY contains mature themes and may not be suitable for all audiences. Actors should be comfortable with the subject matter and prepared to tackle complex emotional material.

Titus Andronicus

Written by William Shakespeare

Directed by Michael Bradshaw Flynn

"Titus Andronicus" is a tragedy/horror by William Shakespeare. The play is set during the latter days of the Roman Empire and tells the story of the Roman general Titus Andronicus, who returns from war only to find himself caught in a cycle of revenge, betrayal, and tragedy.

Titus Andronicus: Male presenting, late 40s to early 60s. A Roman general consumed by grief and rage after the death of his sons in battle. Must have strong dramatic range and stage presence.

Tamora: Female presenting, mid-30s to early 50s. The Queen of the Goths who becomes Empress of Rome. A complex and manipulative character driven by a thirst for vengeance.

Aaron: Male presenting, late 20s to mid-40s. A BIPOC actor who is the lover of Tamora. Calculating and remorseless, with a penchant for chaos and destruction.

Lavinia: Female presenting, late teens to early 20s. Titus's daughter, who becomes a victim of rape and mutilation. Requires an actress with strong emotional depth and physicality.

Marcus Andronicus: Male presenting, late 40s to early 60s. Titus's brother and a Roman senator. A voice of reason and compassion amidst the violence of the play.

Lucius: Male, mid-20s to mid-30s. Titus's eldest son, banished from Rome by the Emperor. A loyal and determined character who seeks justice for his family.

Saturninus: late 30s to early 50s. The Emperor of Rome, easily manipulated by Tamora and Aaron. Must convey both authority and vulnerability.

Chiron and Demetrius: Male presenting, late teens to early 20s. Tamora's sons, who commit the assault on Lavinia. Requires actors with strong physical presence and intensity.

Additional Ensemble Roles: Various roles available for actors of all ages and genders, including senators, soldiers, servants, and other characters.

Note: Titus Andronicus contains mature themes and may not be suitable for all audiences. Actors should be comfortable with the subject matter and prepared to tackle complex emotional material.

The Winter's Tale

Written by William Shakespeare

Directed by Sam Morales

"It is a divine synthesis, a dream that is real, the kind of ending too impossible for real life and too real to ever be forgotten." -Drew Lichtenberg

Actor 1: Male Presenting, 30s+, any ethnicity. LEONTES

Actor 2: Male Presenting, 30s+, any ethnicity. CAMILO, CLEOMINES

Actor 3: Nonbinary, 30s+, any ethnicity. ANTIGONUS, TIME, FIRST GENTLEMAN

Actor 4: Male Presenting, 30s+, any ethnicity. DION, POLIXENES, GENTLEMAN

Actor 5: Nonbinary, 18+, any ethnicity. FLORIZEL, OFFICER, THIRD GENTLEMAN

Actor 6: Male Presenting, 30s+, any ethnicity. OLD SHEPHERD, SECOND SERVANT

Actor 7: Nonbinary, 20s+, any ethnicity. CLOWN, THIRD SERVANT

Actor 8: Nonbinary, 30s+, any ethnicity. ARCHIDAMUS, AUTOLYCUS, MARINER, JAILER

Actor 9: Nonbinary, 20s+, any ethnicity. SECOND GENTLEMAN, FIRST LORD

Actor 10: Female Presenting, 30s+, any ethnicity. DORCAS, SECOND LADY, PAULINA

Actor 11: Nonbinary, 18+, any ethnicity. PERDITA, EMILIA, FIRST LADY

Actor 12: Female Presenting, 30s+, any ethnicity. HERMIONE, MOPSA

Next to Normal

Music by: Tom Kitt

Book and Lyrics by: Brian Yorkey

Directed and Choreographed by Victoria Rae Sook

Music Directed by Stephen Murphy

"Next to Normal" is a groundbreaking rock musical that explores the impact of mental illness on a suburban family. The story revolves around Diana Goodman, a mother struggling with bipolar disorder, and the effect her illness has on her husband, daughter, and the entire family. With a powerful rock score and poignant storytelling, "Next to Normal" offers a raw and honest portrayal of mental health and the search for normalcy.

Diana Goodman: Female, mid-30s to mid-40s. A complex and conflicted character, Diana is a mother grappling with bipolar disorder and the loss of her son. She is fiercely intelligent, deeply emotional, and desperately yearning for stability. Requires a strong actress with exceptional singing ability and emotional depth.

Dan Goodman: Male, mid-30s to mid-40s. Diana's devoted husband, struggling to hold his family together amidst her mental illness. Dan is caring, patient, and deeply conflicted, torn between his love for his wife and his own feelings of helplessness. Requires a versatile actor with strong vocals and emotional range.

Natalie Goodman: Female, late teens to early 20s. Diana and Dan's daughter, a talented musician grappling with her own feelings of abandonment and insecurity. Natalie is intelligent, independent, and deeply wounded by her family's dysfunction. Requires a skilled actress with a powerful singing voice and a range of emotions.

Gabe Goodman: Male, late teens to early 20s. Diana and Dan's son, who appears to Natalie as a manifestation of her grief and longing. Gabe is charismatic, enigmatic, and deeply connected to his mother. Requires a dynamic actor with strong singing and acting ability.

Henry: Male, late teens to early 20s. Natalie's boyfriend, a stoner musician with a heart of gold. Henry is laid-back, supportive, and deeply devoted to Natalie. Requires a charismatic actor with strong comedic timing and musical talent.

Dr. Madden/Dr. Fine: Male, mid-30s to mid-50s. A psychiatrist who treats Diana, presenting himself alternately as Dr. Madden, the conservative therapist, and Dr. Fine, the rockstar psychiatrist. Requires a versatile actor with strong comedic and musical abilities.

Audition Requirements: Please prepare a contemporary rock song that showcases your vocal range and emotional depth. Actors may also be asked to read sides from the script and demonstrate movement or dance ability at call back, if applicable.

Note: "Next to Normal" contains mature themes and language, and deals with sensitive subject matter related to mental illness. Actors should be comfortable exploring these themes in a respectful and compassionate manner.