

Audition Packet: *Present Laughter*

In-Person Auditions

(August 2 & 3- 6:30 PM-9:30 PM at Bay City Players)

Performance Dates: Sept. 24-26 & Oct 1-3, 2021

DIRECTOR: Connor Klee

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR: Sandy Doll

PRODUCER: Kathy Pawloski

*** Rehearsals begin Monday, August 9th

Note from the Director:

Hello actors, and welcome! Whether this is for first time auditioning, or you are a returning artist, I promise to make the whole process as fun and rewarding as possible.

A little something on *Present Laughter*. Above all else, this is a high energy, witty character comedy. Meaning, with this production we want to crank it to eleven! Also, because this play has some age and history on it, we should strive to make things as fresh as possible for the sake of the audience and our own development. Yes, we could stage a stiff, language comedy pulling at the legs of the aristocracy of the early 20th century – but we've seen that before. And, frankly, I'm bored of it.

Aren't you?

So. Let's approach this play with fresh eyes and ideas!

For this production we are looking for energetic, playful, charismatic artists who are willing to play and discover. For me, rehearsals are much like the rest of life: you get as much out as you are willing to put in. I will ask you to put in as much sweat and elbow grease as you can muster. We all have other jobs,

families, lives outside of the production and I promise to be as respectful of your schedule as possible. But I also have high expectations that when we are working, we respect everyone's time and focus our energies fully on the task at hand.

Where does that leave fun? Everywhere! Hard work in the theatre should be full of joy and wonder. This is a comedy after all so working hard will produce the most fun and be most rewarding. Have as much fun as possible, I dare you!

Best Wishes
Connor Klee, Director

When and Where?

MONDAY, August 2nd and TUESDAY, August 3rd 6:30 – 9:30PM
Bay City Players – 1214 Columbus Ave, Bay City, MI 48708

What to Prepare?

One, 1 – 2 minute contemporary monologue AND a short joke that makes you laugh.

Fill out the standard digital audition from before arriving at auditions.

Present Laughter Synopsis

In a world where silly people demand to be taken *very* seriously, Garry Essendine is in the center.

Swirling around him are his court of admirers and friends, all demanding a chunk of him before he embarks on a trip, he believes to be his doom. Business partners, lovers, employees alike wish to mold Garry into what they believe him to be and ignore his own desires as an act or flights of fancy.

This matinee idol spins round and round attending to his orbiting relationships, all while trying to indulge and understand the most perplexing of them all... himself.

Brief Character Descriptions

GARRY ESSENDINE *Male, 30s – 40s.* An egomaniacal actor/super-star, pouts, and peacocks around like a Peter Pan who never grew up.

LIZ ESSENDINE *Female, 30s – 40s.* Garry's poised and intelligent ex-wife who manages to keep her former husband's life in order. Her immense love for Gary shows in her calm ferociousness in protecting him, often from himself.

MONICA REED *Female, 30s – 50s.* Garry's incomparable secretary attempts, daily, to keep the ship from crashing into innumerable distractions. Immensely intelligent, will spar with anyone who can keep up.

MORRIS DIXON *Male, 30s – 50s.* Manager/Director, a business partner and member of Garry's entourage. Morris finds himself between his friends and a lie about an affair, now consuming his life.

JOANNA LYPPIATT *Female, 20s – 30s.* Socialite and passion seeker, Joanna devotes herself entirely to attaining what she wants, and now she wants Garry's attention. Sly, and patient, she rarely goes without.

HUGO LYPPIATT *Male, 30s – 50s.* Producer/ Financial baker to Morris and Garry, also part of entourage. Hugo is a cool, distant husband to his wife, often pawning activities with her onto his friends.

DAPHNIE STILLINGTON *Female, 20s.* Young admirer of Garry's and lover of the arts. She believes she has fallen head-over-heels in love with Garry. A classic young lover.

ROLAND MAULE *Male, 20s.* Young admirer of Garry's and aspiring playwright. Roland has become obsessed with Garry and being in his presence, trying to capture his authenticity.

FRED *Male, 20s – 30s.* Garry's valet whose blithe nature gets under Garry's skin. Fred was once a foreman on an old ship, making this new job full of little delights.

MISS ERIKSON *Female, 20s – 50s.* Garry's Swedish maid. Miss Erikson often attends séances and small gatherings of the occult. Perplexingly, she manages to always put paprika in the coffee.

LADY SALTBUN *Female, 50s – 70s.* Daphne's aristocratic aunt. She looks after Daphne in place of the young woman's parents. She is of old money and a staple of society. She is an investor of the arts one would not want to cross.

PRODUCTION CALENDAR

August

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	2 Auditions	3 Auditions	4 Casting Due	5	6	7
8	9 Company Meeting / First Read. 6 - 10pm	10 Table Work 6:30 – 10pm	11 Table Work 6:30 – 10pm	12 Table Work 6:30 – 10pm	13 OFF	14 OFF
15 OFF	16 Staging 1.1 – 1.7 6:30 – 10pm	17 Staging 1.8 – 1.13 6:30 – 10pm	18 Staging 2.1 – 2.5 6:30 – 10pm	19 Staging 2.6 – 2.11 6:30 – 10pm	20 Staging 2.12 – 2.16 6:30 – 10pm	21 OFF
22 OFF	23 Staging 3.1 – 3.11 6:30 – 10pm	24 Work 1.1 – 1.7 6:30 – 10pm	25 Work 1.8 – 1.13 6:30 – 10pm	26 Work 2.1 – 2.5 6:30 – 10pm	27 OFF	28 OFF
29 OFF	30 Work 2.6 - 2.11 6:30 – 10pm	31 Work 2.11 – 2.16 6:30 – 10pm				

September

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1 Work 3.1 – 3.7 6:30 – 10pm	2 Work 3.8 – 3.11 6:30 – 10pm	3 OFF	4 OFF
5 OFF	6 Work Act 1 6:30 – 10pm	7 Work 2.1 -2.5 6:30 – 10pm	8 Work 2.6 – 2.16 6:30 – 10pm	9 Work Act 3 6:30 – 10pm	10 OFF	11 OFF
12 OFF	13 Walk Act 1 – Act 2sc.1 6:30 – 10pm	14 Walk Act 2sc.2 – Act 3 6:30 – 10pm	15 Run 6:30 – 10pm Designer/crew view	16 Run 6:30 – 10pm Designer/Crew view	17 Paper Tech (Actors <u>not</u> called) 6:30 – 10pm	18 TECH 12pm-10:30pm
19 OFF	20 Dress 1 6:30 – 10pm	21 Dress 2 6:30 – 10pm	22 Dress 3/ Previews 6:30 – 10pm	23 Final 4/ Previews 6:30 – 10pm	24 Show #1	25 Show #2
26 Show #3 Board Appreciation	27 OFF	28 OFF	29 OFF	30 Brush up 6:30 – 9pm Actors/SM only		

October

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					Show #4 1	Show #5 2
Show #6 Strike / debrief 3	4	5	6	7	8	9

Deadlines

<u>Due</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Notes</u>
<u>JULY</u>		
Design Team	7/26	
<u>AUGUST</u>		
Ground Plan	8/02	Sent to all designers.
Casting Due	8/04	Due to office.
Set Construction	8/30	
<u>SEPTEMBER</u>		
Final Props List	9/03	
Full Furniture Compliment	9/13	
Full Props Compliment	9/13	
Crew	9/13	Wardrobe, board ops, stagehands, etc.
TECH/DRESS schedule	9/15	Sent to whole Company