

# It's Only A Play – Audition Information

PLAY WRITTEN BY TERRENCE MCNALLY

DIRECTED BY MATTHEW HENNING

## welcome

Thank you for your interest in auditioning for a Chambersburg Community Theatre production!

If you've auditioned for us before, welcome back!

If this is your first time auditioning at CCT, we are thrilled to have you! Part of community theatre is bringing in new talent.

Whether you're a veteran performer who just moved to town or you have never been on stage before but really want to try, we'd like to encourage you to audition for shows at CCT.

We're aware that auditioning can be a nerve-wracking experience, even if you've done it a hundred times before. We've put this information packet together for you to help you learn a little more about the play, the characters you will be reading for, and to give you some idea of what to expect during auditions.

Please make sure to note any specific audition requirements for this show, as well as reading over the character list and any sides provided. We've included a printable audition form at the back of this information packet that you can fill out and bring with you. You may also bring a headshot and/or resume, if you have one, but they are not required.

Break a leg!

Contents	Page
Welcome	1
The Play	2
Auditions	3
Dates	4
Characters	5
Sides	6
Credits	15

## *the play*

It's the opening night of *The Golden Egg* on Broadway, and the wealthy producer is throwing a lavish party in her lavish Manhattan townhouse. Downstairs the celebrities are pouring in, but the real action is upstairs, where a group of insiders have staked themselves out in the producer's bedroom, waiting for the reviews to come in. Included are the excitable young author; the brilliant but unstable director; the pill-popping leading lady; and the playwright's best friend, an egotistical but insecure comic actor who the play was originally written for. Also present are a fawning, hypocritical drama critic and a would be singer working as a part-time servant. The good natured *bonhomme* with which the evening begins grows steadily nastier—and funnier—as the reviews (all bad) come in, and those assembled seek desperately to pin the blame on each other.

This show, in its own absurd way, examines the nature of the relationships and surrogate families that develop during the course of producing a show while also putting a glaring spotlight on all of the varied and ridiculous insecurities, ego trips, and anxieties that come along with it.

## *the director*

Matthew Henning is thrilled to be directing another Chambersburg Community Theater show. He has previously directed *Love Letters*, *On Golden Pond*, *Don't Drink the Water* and *Frankenstein*. He is grateful and excited to bring this show to life.

## *auditions*

**CCT auditions are open** — we try our best to discourage directors from pre-casting roles.

**Know what you're auditioning for.** There are script sides in this packet for you to study ahead of time. Do a little research online about the play. We also keep copies of the script at the theatre office, so if you would like the opportunity to read it ahead of time, you can drop by during business hours and we'll let you peruse it.

**Audition requirements may vary from show to show.** Some directors like cold readings. Some might ask for monologues. For musicals, you may be asked to bring music, or wear dance clothes. Read the audition notes below to be prepared.

**Audition formats vary depending on director.** Some directors prefer closed auditions, where you will wait in another room until you are called in. Others like having everyone in one room. If an audition is closed, if you bring someone to support you they may be asked to wait in the other room (unless you are a minor).

**We know that it can be disappointing not to get a part.** We always have more people audition than we have roles for, and there are many factors that directors have to weigh when casting. We encourage you to come in and audition often, though. Just because you weren't right for one role, doesn't mean that you won't be perfect for another.

**We encourage you to get involved in other ways.** Helping paint or build sets, costumes or props, working backstage, or volunteering to usher are great ways to meet people, network, and become part of our theatre family. We look forward to seeing you on stage. Break a leg!

## *specific audition notes for this show*

Auditions will mostly be made up of cold readings from the script. The character of Frank will have a British accent.

The character of Gus should be comfortable singing on stage and have a relatively nice voice.

Please note this show does contain adult language. You must be comfortable saying and hearing profanity throughout the show.

## Dates

## JAN 2019

### Auditions

Jan 11 at 7pm &  
Jan 12 at Noon  
at CCT Office

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

### Call Backs

Jan 13 at 6 pm  
By director invitation only, if  
necessary.

### Rehearsal Period

Jan 17-Mar 14  
Dates and Times TBD

### Tech Week

Mar 17-21  
Crew integration, cue-to-cue,  
tech and dress rehearsals.  
Avoid schedule conflicts  
during this week, required  
attendance

## FEB

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28			

### Performances

Mar 22-24, Mar 29-31  
Weeknight and Saturday  
evening performances are  
7:30 pm, with a 6:00 pm call  
time  
Sunday matinee  
performances are at 2pm,  
with a 12:30 pm call time.

### Pick Up Rehearsal

Mar 28  
At director & stage manager's  
discretion. Keep dates open  
for potential rehearsals or  
benefit shows.

### Closing & Strike

Mar 31  
Cast & Crew are required to  
participate in show strike.  
Please keep this evening free  
of conflicts.

## MAR

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

*All Dates and Times subject to change. Due to weather events at this time of year, there may be last minute changes. The production crew will keep everyone informed.*

*Actors must be able to commit to all performance dates & tech/dress rehearsals.*

## *characters*

**JAMES WICKER** - *Male* - An egotistical but insecure comic actor who passed up a chance to star in the play for a television series.

**PETER AUSTIN** - *Male* - James's former best friend. The nervous and excitable playwright, desperate to reach the level and status of iconic playwrights of the past

**JULIA BUDDER** - *Female* - a first-time producer of the Broadway play *The Golden Egg* and one of the few genuinely nice people in the group.

**VIRGINIA NOYES** - *Female* - dissolute star of the play; she wears an ankle monitor and drinks and snorts cocaine throughout

**FRANK FINGER** - *Male* - the egomaniacal, "genius" British director

**IRA DREW** - *Male* - Insecure theater critic with writing aspirations of his own.

**GUS** - *Male* - Polite, somewhat naive farm boy who checks the coats and hats but has aspirations for a Broadway career

Note: There are no specific age requirements for any of the characters, though all are adults. Anyone under the age of 18 must have parental permission due to the language used in the show.

# SIDE 1

James  
Gus

**GUS.** (*Into phone.*) I've seen this one somewhere, too. (*To James.*) The guest bathroom is across the hall.

**JAMES.** I'm taking a phone call. I couldn't hear a thing in that mob down there.

**GUS.** Someone needs this, Mr. Piper, I gotta go. (*He hangs up.*)

**JAMES.** That's all right, take your time.

**GUS.** It's all yours, sir.

**JAMES.** Thank you. (*Into phone.*) Hello? Hello?

**GUS.** Push the button.

**JAMES.** The button, of course! I'd almost forgotten how these things work. I dropped my cell phone getting out of the limo and it went completely dead on me. I haven't felt this cut off since I was in rehab. That was a joke.

**GUS.** Yes, sir. Were you in the play tonight?

**JAMES.** I don't think so. That was another joke. No, I'm just a guest.

**GUS.** Yes, sir.

**JAMES.** (*Into phone.*) Hello! This is Jimmy Wicker again, Kylie ... Terrible weather, just terrible. We're having a blizzard. To think I used to put up with this! ... How long has she been on with him? Yes, I'll hold. (*To Gus.*) California. They're all dying to know how the play went tonight.

**GUS.** Everyone is. Mrs. Budder is calling this the party of the year for the play of the season.

**JAMES.** That's our Julia.

**GUS.** What did you think?

**JAMES.** Wonderful, just wonderful.

**GUS.** Too bad you're not a critic.

**JAMES.** Tonight everyone's a critic. You haven't seen the play?

**GUS.** I'm temporary help. This is a one-night-stand for me.

**JAMES.** Tonight is a one-night-stand for a lot of people. That was my last joke.

**GUS.** That's okay, sir, one of these days I'll get one. Hi, I'm Gus.

**JAMES.** James Wicker, but everyone calls me Jimmy. (*Into phone.*) Hello! Hello! (*To Gus.*) False alarm. Are you in the business, Gus?

**GUS.** No, sir, I'm an actor.

**JAMES.** I didn't mean to pry.

**GUS.** I'm an interdisciplinary theatre artist.

**JAMES.** So you're an unemployed actor.

**GUS.** I'm an actor-slash-singer-slash-dancer-slash-comedian-slashperformance-artist-slash-mime. I have a black belt in karate and can operate heavy farm equipment. Other skills, on request. Favorite role to date: Konstantin in Anton Chekhov's *The Seagull*.

**JAMES.** I'm still with the heavy farm equipment.

**GUS.** Tractors, threshers, reapers, sowers...!

**JAMES.** That must come in handy.

**GUS.** Not so far.



## SIDE 2

James  
Virginia

**VIRGINIA.** Who are you?

**JAMES.** I'm James Wicker.

**VIRGINIA.** James Wicker.

**JAMES.** We did a film together.

**VIRGINIA.** When?

**JAMES.** *Elegy for Myself*

**VIRGINIA.** Were you in that?

**JAMES.** I was your psychotherapist.

**VIRGINIA.** They had one on the set for me?

**JAMES.** I was in the movie.

**VIRGINIA.** James Wicker! Of course! We had to do all those re-takes because I was coming off Percocet.

**JAMES.** You kept falling asleep on my couch.

**VIRGINIA.** Hello, hello, how the hell are you? I love your work. I love it, I love it, I love it.

**JAMES.** Back at you.

**VIRGINIA.** You son of a bitch! When they sent me Peter's play, they told me you were doing Jack's part. You were one of the reasons I signed.

**JAMES.** There was some talk about it, they wanted me desperately, actually, but with my series ...

**VIRGINIA.** You've got a series?

**JAMES.** Nine years now. Out on a Limb.

**VIRGINIA.** I do a lot of self-destructive things but I draw the line at television.

**JAMES.** I just take the money and run.

**VIRGINIA.** But are you happy?

**JAMES.** I was going to ask you the same question.

**VIRGINIA.** I am fan-freaking-tastic. Living in L.A. so long, you forget what being on a real stage is like.

There's nothing like it. No place to run, no place to hide, no retakes. Just you in a pool of light and Him.

**JAMES.** Him?

**VIRGINIA.** God.

**JAMES.** Oh, that him.

**VIRGINIA.** The thing about theatre is this: It's actually happening at the very moment it is.

**JAMES.** You just figured that out?

**VIRGINIA.** It blew my mind. I was in a play tonight. My performance didn't walk out the door with the dailies. It was there, not for all time, but just for the moment. You had to be there to see it. Talk about existential. Bite me, Jean-Paul Sartre, bite me. I bet you miss all this.

**JAMES.** Not really. I'm too old, too rich, and too famous. Eight shows a week is a lot of work.

**VIRGINIA.** I'm only doing six. I don't even get the concept of a matinee. My agents said I was crazy to do a play.

**JAMES.** A lot of people would agree. Wild horses couldn't get me up there again.

**VIRGINIA.** Well, my loins are girded. Come on, I'll buy you a drink.

## SIDE 3

Peter

**PETER.** The lights flicked on and off. Everyone went in for the second act. That's when I began to take it all in. I was on Broadway. I was part of something bigger than myself, I was where I'd dreamed of being all my life. I started walking around the theatre district. So many memories of shows, actors, great productions. As of tonight, I was now a part of them. I saw that plaque to Eugene O'Neill, October 16, 1888 - November 27, 1953. "America's greatest playwright was born on this site then called Barrett House. Presented by Circle in the Square" - and I knew there would never be such a plaque for any American playwright again, no matter how great a writer he was, unless we did something about it. We've let Broadway stop mattering and handed it over to the Brits and the movie-to-musical franchises lock, stock, and barrel. It's our fault, not theirs. Nature abhors a vacuum and they rushed right in. We all got so greedy. The theatre became a business to make a million when it should be a place to talk to one another in a mutual dialogue between stage and audience about what it means to be alive in this country in the first decades of the New Century. I walked to Shubert Alley, what's left of it, and stood looking at the three-sheets. When a British revival of *Grease* and the Kardashians in *Three Sisters* are the best we can offer, it's time to weep. With tears in my eyes I looked at the Marriott. They tore down three theatres to put up a hotel. Who let this happen? There's no more where they came from. Tear down a theatre and it's forever. You don't get a *Salesman* or an *Oklahoma!* when you tear down a theatre, you get a Marriott. When I finally turned back up 47th Street, our play was over and everyone was gone, but our marquee was still lit. *The Golden Egg*, a new play by Peter Austin. I looked at it and thought of Williams and O'Neill and Miller and Albee and I thought, we can turn back the tide. We can make a change. But this time it's entirely up to us. And then someone turned the lights off and we went dark. End of speech. Sorry, I somehow got back up on it again.

## SIDE 4

Peter  
Julia  
James

**JULIA.** Next play I promise you that turntable.

**PETER.** Next play I'm going to want two turntables.

**JULIA.** Now can I tell you something and you'll promise not to laugh? One of the reasons I produced your play - other than it's brilliant and it gave me goosebumps - is that it doesn't have any four-letter words in it.

**PETER.** I think I got all my four-letter words out of my system in my first play.

**JAMES.** The things he had me saying, Julia!

**JULIA.** I'm sorry, but I think the theatre should be a place of elegance. Elegant people in elegant clothes in elegant settings speaking elegant language.

**JAMES.** So much for David Mamet.

**JULIA.** The last play I saw every other word was the "f" word or the "k" word. I was appalled.

**JAMES.** The "k" word? What's the "k" word?

**JULIA.** You know: the "k" word.

**PETER.** Any word on the reviews?

**JULIA.** Just New York One and their "good solid theatre."

**JAMES.** Kangaroo? Kumquat?

**JULIA.** Buzz says he'll have the Times a good half-hour before they post it online. *(They are both in very good spirits.)*

**JAMES.** Ketchup? Kaleidoscope?

**PETER.** What about the chat rooms?

**JULIA.** FiddlerFanatic liked the first act.

**JAMES.** Kennebunkport? Knick-knack? This is driving me crazy, Julia. Is there a dictionary in here? *(She whispers in his ear.)* What? The "k" word is what? Say it again! I still can't - Oh, that's spelled with "C", dear.

**JULIA.** I'm going to powder my nose before we all go down there.

**JAMES.** You look gorgeous.

**JULIA.** I won't be a moment. Talk amongst yourselves. *(She goes into the bathroom.)*

## SIDE 5

Ira  
Virginia  
Peter  
Julia  
James (1 line)

**JAMES.** What happened to you down there?

**IRA.** The plate of lasagna was Patti LuPone, the split lip was the president of the Dramatists Guild.

**VIRGINIA.** He took a swing at you?

**IRA.** She took several swings at me. The next thing I knew I was on the floor and Alec Baldwin was kicking me. *(Julia comes out of the bathroom.)*

**JULIA.** I don't understand. He's never turned on anyone before tonight.

**VIRGINIA.** He smells blood like everyone else.

**JULIA.** I hope this won't affect your review of Peter's play.

**IRA.** Critics can't afford to hold petty grudges. Besides, waiting for Ben Brantley and the New York Times is what tonight is all about. Who cares what a non-entity like me thinks?

**JULIA.** You're not a non-entity and you're very well thought of.

**VIRGINIA.** You're also the most vicious critic in New York.

**IRA.** Throw that in my face.

**VIRGINIA.** "She reminds me of nothing so much as a female impersonator in search of a female to impersonate."

**JULIA.** What a dreadful thing to say about anyone, even a female impersonator.

**IRA.** I said that about the Baby June in the Cape May Playhouse production of *Gypsy* years ago. It's curious you should remember it.

**VIRGINIA.** I was the Baby June in the Cape May Playhouse production of *Gypsy*.

**IRA.** You changed your name?

**VIRGINIA.** After your review, I changed my face. Cosmetic surgery for a fourteen-year-old.

**PETER.** The stakes are so high for a new American play on Broadway, I think we're all a little over the top tonight. Hi, I'm Peter Austin.

**IRA.** I haven't written my review yet. *(Peter puts his hand out and shakes hands with Ira.)*

**PETER.** Just as I'm entitled to writing my plays, you're entitled to your opinion of them.

**IRA.** *(As they shake hands.)* Fair enough.

**PETER.** Fortunately for me, my parents didn't take your advice and smother me in my crib.

**IRA.** I'm very glad they didn't. I love the theatre; it's what people are doing to it I can't stand.

**PETER.** It's not on purpose, Mr. Drew.

**IRA.** It's Ira, please.

**JULIA.** I'm so glad to see you two getting along.

**IRA.** It's the funniest thing, I like you personally.

**JAMES.** We all do.

**IRA.** It's just your work I can't stand.

## SIDE 6

Frank  
Julia  
James  
Peter (1 line)

**FRANK.** If one more person calls me I'm a genius, I'll punch them, Julia!

**JULIA.** But you are a genius, darling, that's why we hired you.

**FRANK.** You hired me because I always get good reviews.

**JAMES.** That's a pretty good reason.

**FRANK.** I don't know what I'm doing but you wait and see: I'll win a Tony for this.

**JULIA.** I certainly hope so.

**FRANK.** I've had fourteen hits in a row in London, I've won twelve Olivier and four Evening Standard awards. I want a flop. I need a flop. Somebody, tell me: When is it my turn to fail? I can't go on like this - the critics' darling.

**JULIA.** Try to hold on just one more night.

**FRANK.** I am in despair, people. The emperor isn't wearing any clothes! I'm a fake. My work is a fake. I make this shit up as I go along. I don't know what I'm doing half the time and when I do, it terrifies me it's so bad. I'm no good. You've got to believe me, I'm no good.

**JAMES.** I believe you. Can we go down now, Julia?

**JULIA.** We can't leave him like this.

**FRANK.** The only flops I've ever had were at drama school. Nobody liked my production of anything. My space-age *Oedipus Rex*. My spoken *La Boheme*. My gay *Waiting for Godot*. But what got me expelled was my *Titus Andronicus*. I did the whole thing in mime. No dialogue. No poetry. No Shakespeare.

**VIRGINIA.** What did it have?

**FRANK.** Blood bags. Every time somebody walked on stage: splat! They got hit with a big blood bag. God, it was gross.

**VIRGINIA.** It sounds fantastic.

**FRANK.** It was terrible. But at least everyone said it was terrible. I'm pulling the same stunts in New York and everybody says it's brilliant.

**VIRGINIA.** It is brilliant.

**FRANK.** I hate it! God I miss RADA.

**JULIA.** *(Always helpful.)* The Royal Academy of Dramatic Arts.

**JAMES.** I'm sure RADA misses you. Does anybody remember what food tastes like? Julia, I'll die if I don't eat something.

**FRANK.** *(Emptying his pockets.)* I don't want these things. Please don't leave them around.

**JULIA.** Sir Frank, that's my sterling silver pepper shaker. My priceless bud vase. Little Elliot's bronzed baby shoes! *(Everyone is amazed at the size and diversity of Frank's haul)*

**JAMES.** You don't happen to have a sandwich in there, do you?

**JULIA.** *(Reading an engraving.)* "To Mildred Sturgeon from Mandy Patinkin." Who's Mildred Sturgeon?

**FRANK.** My therapist. She's supposed to be helping me! You know what she tells me? "Put it back, Frank."

**JULIA.** She's right! Put it back, Frank.

**FRANK.** Three hundred dollars an hour and that's all I get? "Put it back, Frank!" I want to know why I pick it up in the first place.

**VIRGINIA.** You shouldn't be alone tonight, baby.

**PETER.** None of us should. We'll order up, James. Here we go, people! Everybody, shush! *(Peter quickly turns up the sound on the muted television.)*



*credits*

Written by Terrence McNally

Produced by special arrangement with Dramatists Play Service

*production  
team*

Director: Matthew Henning  
Stage Manager: Jessica Doubel  
Set Designer: Cyd Tokar  
Lighting: Alex McCurn  
Sound: Megan DeLancy

*the theatre*

Chambersburg Community Theatre  
PO Box 92  
Chambersburg, PA 17201

Managing Director: Kelly Kozlowski

Capitol Theater Box Office: 717-263-0202  
Admin: 717-263-3900

**cctonline.org**  
**Facebook.com/ChbgComTheatre/**