



Audition Packet

Laughter on the 23rd Floor

by Neil Simon

DIRECTOR: NATE CARLBLOM

Nathan Carlbom is a Duluth-based director and actor. He has previously directed for various companies around Duluth. His directing credits include *The Beauty Queen of Leenane*, *God of Carnage*, *Turn of the Screw*, *Private Eyes*, and *The Taming of the Shrew*. He is returning to directing after a three year hiatus.

AUDITION INFORMATION

AUDITIONS: 2 p.m. – 4 p.m., February 23, 2019

CALLBACKS: 4:30 p.m., February 23, 2019

- **Audition sign-up will open on February 16:** Once open, sign up for a 5-minute audition slot by going online to www.duluthplayhouse.org/auditions or calling the Box Office: 218-733-7555.
- Auditions will be held at the NorShor Theatre Rehearsal Studios, 211 East Superior St, 3rd floor (skywalk level); ***If you cannot make these auditions, please contact Nathan Carlbom to arrange another time. (nathancarlbom@gmail.com, 218-310-6143)***
- Read the Script. Available for checkout at Playhouse office (\$5 deposit, 3 days)
- Bring a picture and resume.

The Duluth Playhouse and Underground auditions are open to all actors and actresses, including those who may be auditioning for the first time and professional or Equity actors and actresses.

WHAT TO PREPARE

- Women should prepare sides 1 and 3 (Carol).
- Men should prepare sides 1 and 2 (Milt).
- Callbacks will include cold readings handed out at that time. Please read the script beforehand.

REHEARSALS AND PERFORMANCES

Rehearsals begin June 17th and will run Mon–Fri 7:00pm-10:00pm. Times during tech week may vary.

Performance Dates: Aug 1-3 & 8-10 @ 7:30pm ... Performances will be in The Underground.

Laughter on the 23rd Floor: Synopsis and Character Breakdown

SYNOPSIS

Written in 1993 and based on Neil Simon's early experience writing for Sid Caesar's *Your Show of Shows*, *Laughter on the 23rd Floor* follows the writers of The Max Prince Show as they vie for the attention and approval of Max Prince.

CHARACTER BREAKDOWN (7m, 2f)

Max Prince: Jody Kujawa will be playing the part of Max Prince.

Lucas Brickman: A young, new writer for The Max Prince Show, and the play's narrator.

Milt Fields: An eccentric, joke-a-minute gag man.

Val Slotsky: A Russian immigrant at age 12, Val still carries an accent. A senior writer, Val is the most politically knowledgeable writer on the staff.

Brian Doyle: A heavy smoker, cougher and drinker with a caustic sense of humor.

Kenny Franks: Referred to as a boy genius, Kenny is smart, sophisticated writer.

Ira Stone: Constantly running late, Ira is the staff hypochondriac.

Carol Wyman: The lone female writer on the staff, Carol's quick wit highlights her sense of humor.

Helen: Max's secretary

Audition Side 1

IRA. (Holds his chest.) I can't breathe. I can't catch my breath. I think it's a heart attack. It could be a stroke. Don't panic, just do what I tell you. (HE sits with his coat on. HE talks breathlessly.) Call Columbia Presbyterian Hospital. Ask for Dr. Milton Bruckman. Tell him I got a sharp stabbing pain down my left arm, across my chest, down my back into my left leg. If he's in surgery, call Dr. Frank Banzerini at St. John's Hospital, sixth floor, Cardiology. Tell him I suddenly got this burning sensation in my stomach. At first I thought it was breakfast. I had smoked salmon. It was still smoking. It didn't feel right going down. If his line is busy, call the Clayton and Marcus Pharmacy on 72nd and Madison. Ask for Al. Tell him I need a refill on my prescription from Dr. Schneider. I can't remember the drug. Zodioprotozoc. No. Vasco something. Vasco da Dama, what the hell was it? I can't get air to my brain ... This scarf is choking me, get it off my neck. (HE pulls it off, throws it away. NO ONE has moved. THEY've all been through this before.) Don't call my wife ... No, maybe you should call her. But don't tell her it's a stroke. If she thinks it's a stroke, she'll call my mother. I have no time to talk to my mother, she drives me crazy.

AUDITION SIDE 2

MILT. What do I know about berets?
And I look like a putz in this. So why would I wear it?

LUCAS. Why?

MILT. Because people notice it Look at me without a beret.
(HE takes it off.) Invisible, right? A nothing. Who is he? But watch. (HE puts beret back on.) Now I'm someone. A diplomat. A traveler. Maybe I know Ernest Hemingway. I go to French movies, laugh at the jokes, (HE laughs.) don't understand a fucking word they're saying, but people come over on the way out. "You like the picture?" "Eh, comme ci, comme ca." I don't even understand that but I get attention. I'm unique, right?

LUCAS. Well ...

MILT. What am I, good looking? No. Am I smart? Eh. Am I funny? Yes.. But compared to the comic minds in this room, I'm Herbert Hoover's kitchen help ... So I wear yellow suede shoes on Christmas and a cowboy hat on Yom Kippur. And when I walk in here, Max Prince laughs. And if Max Prince laughs, my kids eat this week.

Audition Side 3

CAROL. (Excited.) Have you guys heard the news?

(THEY just stare at her.)

CAROL. ...Of course not No one else here cares about what's going on in this country. Am I the only one here who takes an interest in something besides jokes and cars and money and baseball?

VAL. What's the news?

CAROL. I just heard it in the taxi. Joe McCarthy called General George Marshall a Communist.

VAL. Un-believable.

CAROL. He calls a five-star General of the Army a card carrying Communist.

BRIAN. Even if he was a Communist, why would he have cards printed up?

CAROL. Hey, children. Wake up. Time for school ... You think this is a joke? America's on the brink of becoming a fascist state and this doesn't worry you?

BRIAN. McCarthy's a nut case. A drunken fanatic.

CAROL. I feel so badly for General Marshall. Such a nice man. Such a sweet face. Of all names to pick, why him?

Playhouse Audition Form

Please bring this **completed form** with you to the audition along with a **resume & current photo or headshot**. Please print clearly!

Name:	
Home Address:	City, State, Zip:
Primary Phone #:	Other Phone #:
Email:	

Is there a particular role in the show you are most interested in? Yes _____ No _____

If yes, which one(s)? _____

Will you accept another part if not offered any listed above? Yes _____ No _____

If you do not get a part, would you be interested in working on tech crew or backstage?
Yes _____ No _____

Do you have **ANY** conflicts with the rehearsal/ performance schedule? Yes _____ No _____

Please list ALL conflicts below (be as specific as possible to dates, times). Additional conflicts after being cast may not be accepted.