

AUDITION INFO

SYNOPSIS OF PLAY. The play is a farcical black comedy revolving around the Brewster family, descended from the Mayflower, but now composed of insane homicidal maniacs. The hero, Mortimer Brewster, is a drama critic who must deal with his crazy, homicidal family and local police in Brooklyn, NY, as he debates whether to go through with his recent promise to marry the woman he loves. His family includes two spinster aunts who have taken to murdering lonely old men by poisoning them with a glass of home-made elderberry wine laced with arsenic, strychnine, and “just a pinch” of cyanide, a brother who believes he is Theodore Roosevelt and digs locks for the Panama Canal in the cellar of the Brewster home (which then serves as graves for the aunts’ victims; he thinks that they died of Yellow Fever), and a murderous brother who has received plastic surgery performed by an alcoholic accomplice, Dr. Einstein, to conceal his identity, and now looks like horror film actor Boris Karloff.

HOW TO PREPARE

1. Email cbarwineck@gmail.com requesting an audition. Once your email has been received you will get a reply with the **time slot assigned & scene list for auditioning**
2. Read the play (get it from the library or try to find it online)
3. Read the below character descriptions and do your own research about the characters on this list.
4. Print off scenes (from email) and read through for familiarity, then read many times to become familiar with lines, character, meaning. You do NOT need to memorize, but you must become familiar with the dialogue so that you can look at the person speaking and react
5. Work on accents needed for characters listed - if no accent is listed no accent is needed
Teddy Roosevelt recording: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uhlzdjPGxrs>
Brooklyn accent: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T9yLRJA6zU8>

CHARACTER DESCRIPTIONS

- Abby Brewster – (F) (60’s) – A darling lady who poisons elderly men. Abby is the sister of Martha and an aunt to Teddy, Jonathan and Mortimer.
- Martha Brewster – (F) (60’s) – A sweet elderly woman with Victorian charm who poisons elderly men. Martha is the sister of Abby and an aunt to Teddy, Jonathan, and Mortimer.
- Elaine Harper – (F) (20’s-30’s) – An attractive girl and Mortimer’s fiancé. Elaine is the daughter of Rev. Dr. Harper. She is surprisingly wise in the ways of the world for a minister’s daughter.
- Mortimer Brewster – (M) (30’s-40’s) – Nephew of Abby and Martha, brother of Teddy and Jonathan, Mortimer is a drama critic who is engaged to Elaine. He is a nice man who cares for his aunts.
- Teddy Brewster – (M) (30’s-50’s) – Nephew of Abby and Martha, brother to Jonathan and Mortimer, Teddy thinks that he is Theodore Roosevelt.
- Jonathan Brewster – (M) (30’s-50’s) – Nephew of Abby and Martha, brother of Teddy and Mortimer, Jonathan is a psychopath who has had plastic surgery and now looks like Boris Karloff
- Dr. Einstein – (M) (40’s-50’s) – A plastic surgeon and an alcoholic, Dr. Einstein has changed Jonathan’s face three times
- Officer Brophy – (M) (30’s-50’s) – A police officer
- Officer Klein – (M or F) (30’s-50’s) – A police officer