THE JURY: A New Musical

Casting Breakdowns, Audition Instructions and Protocol/ECU Production

PLEASE READ THIS ENTIRE DOCUMENT

Cast Total: 8 Female: 5 Male: 3
Characters can be any ethnicity
All ages indicated are flexible within reason
Vocal range - C4 = Middle C
Ensemble bass bottoms out at Ab2 in the song “18th of April”

DIGITAL AUDITION UPLOADS ARE DUE BY AUG, 07, 2020!! Virtual callbacks will be Monday, Aug 10. Rehearsals begin Aug 11. Filming begins Sep 13. “Fast” is our buzz word for this production.

Here are some promo links to help you familiarize yourselves with the show and writers:

Soundcloud link to Kendall and Bauerfeld demo cuts for 6 songs from The Jury (the songs from the show are the ones with the "pie slices" face image):
https://soundcloud.com/jon-bauerfeld

Here’s a promo reel for the Theatre Now in NYC premier that got canceled due to Covid:
https://kendallandbauerfeld.weebly.com/the-jury.html

Promo print link:
https://www.tnny.org/the-jury

Composer’s resume:
https://www.jonathanbauerfeld.com/resume.html

*It is important to note that this is an ensemble musical and it is also very text heavy. It is 90 minutes with no intermission. Strong actors with a skill for fast, accurate memorization are required. It is challenging. Characters without featured solos or duets have large monologues and sing substantially as ensemble in scenes throughout. It is also important to note the piece contains strong language/profanity and dark subject matter involving drug abuse and addition. I will consider the concerns of any student who prefers not to participate in the project on the grounds of content. I will also consider the concerns of those students who do not feel safe for their health due to Covid-19 as those in the cast will be called to the McGinnis stage for filming or audio recording. F2F filming and recording will be handled under strict CDC safety precautions. We will be rehearsing mostly by Zoom/WebEx, but the goal is to film or audio record 1 actor at a time on the McGinnis stage and/or in a sound studio. The recorded media will then be edited by a senior film major as her thesis project to create the illusion of all characters on stage together by syncing and overlaying the clips. It will be a novel and complex attempt. Those involved will gain a unique learning experience and will have the opportunity to connect with an up and coming musical writing team in NYC. All performance area BFA’s and Advanced Acting 1 students in F2F courses must audition for The Jury and for all SOTD productions and must accept roles according to SOTD policy. This stated, I’m seeking a cast committed to the project despite the unprecedented and challenging circumstances of Covid-19 beyond our control. I prefer to cast actors who are 100% enthusiastic about the project rather than cast anyone fearful of it in any way.
I fully respect the fear. It’s real and present, so I will do my best to avoid casting those who indicate their preference to pass on being cast in this project.

This is coming up on you fast, but give it your best shot! You must sing from the show. The songs cuts with vocal guides in the DropBox link below were prepared by Kendall and Bauerfeld for you to help you learn the songs. Live piano underscore for these cuts have also been prepared for you by Jonny to sing to for your self-recorded audition submission. Jonny’s accompaniment cuts are m4a files attached to this announcement.

*Currently there are no spoken sides for the first round of auditions. Those called back for roles will be given script sides.

To self-record your audition song cut, you need to play back the piano music underscore through your computer and record you singing with it to your smartphone, or playback piano music from your phone and record yourself on a computer/laptop. You must begin your recorded audition with a brief slate:
   1. Say your name
   2. Say “A” if you are very interested in being cast, or “B” if you prefer to not be cast
   3. State the character’s name for which you are singing
   4. Begin music playback and sing your song cut

For example: my slate would be:

“I’m Michael Tahaney, A, I’ll be singing for the role of Officer Cousins.”

Then I’d hit -play- and belt it out.

Once you have a digital audition file you’re pleased with upload it directly, and only, to this link: https://studentsecuedu66932-my.sharepoint.com/:f:/g/personal/rasorc19_ecu_edu/EpbqTRExcgNAgLuRjvR_u2YBThIayM7-9AI_FCM5HGshkA?e=0ZiiJHK

Title your audition clip using your name: Last Name, First Name. Clips that do not have a title risk not being viewed or getting lost in a digital pile as there will be approximately 60-80 clips being evaluated. Please follow all audition instructions carefully.

This link below is the DropBox with the audition cuts/files. (You may need to download the DropBox app for these to open). These files have vocal guides and sheet music/lyrics included.
https://www.dropbox.com/sh/62rs6ufep651d4q/AAAwWsoxglF3uGPBqMjqss27a?dl=0

Again, the audio m4a files are in this posting as attachments. These m4a files are the preferred playback option for your digital audition.

THE CHARACTERS

Tess (Female, Age: Mid-20’s)
Abrasive, with a hardened exterior that barely covers her deep vulnerabilities and self-destructive tendencies. Hiding behind a dark sense of humor and a bleak bluntness, Tess
struggles to hold on to who she was before her opiate addition took hold. After she overdoses, when all signs of life appear gone, she realizes she must address haunting issues aching for closure before she is willing let go.
Vocal range: Belter, G3 - Eb5
Agile mover/dancer skills a plus.
Featured Vocal(s): “I’m Fine Without You” “The Voice in My Head” “Heroin Hotel”

**Helen (Female, Age: Actress must play 40-45 convincing)**
Tess’s mother. A decade of watching her oldest daughter slowly disappear has taken its toll on her. Helen is at her emotional wit’s end, and while composed, is desperate for the pain to end. Her heart has been broken by Tess so many times that she refuses to let herself open up to her again.
Vocal range: Alto with belt, A3 - D5
Featured Vocal: “Only a Matter of Time”

**Izze (Female/Non-Binary, Age: mid-20's)**
Punk, yet weirdly chill. Not afraid to state hard truths. Her love for Tess’s cavalier nature ultimately helped Izze pull out of her addiction and get clean. Her joy crashed when she realized she couldn’t do the same for Tess. Heartbroken and feeling betrayed, Izze has had to remove Tess, now her wife, from her life. Packing her bags and leaving their apartment was the hardest thing she ever had to do, knowing that without her, Tess would surely die.
Vocal range: B3 - C#5 (Belted) E5 (Head voice)
Feature Vocal: “Down at the Bottom of the Well”

**Officer Cousins (Male, Age: mid-30’s)**
Cousins sees the world in simple terms. Idealism has been squeezed out of him after a decade of working as a police officer. Every day, he sees the worst of people at their worst. He no longer can afford to take sympathy on anyone who chooses to threaten law and order. He’s taken an oath and honors his duty to serve justice above all else.
Vocal range: Flexible. (Solo, D3-D4)
Ensemble Vocals

**Mariah (Female, Age: Actress must play 40-45 convincing)**
Mariah, or Mrs. Griffin as she’s known to her 5th graders, barely keeps herself together. Perfectly nice and a wonderful teacher, inside she’s burning with seething anger. Her daughter, Fiona, died from an overdose that Mariah believes was caused by Tess.
Vocal range: Flexible (Solo, A3-E5)
Featured Vocal: “Let Sleeping Dogs Lie”

**Gabe (Male, Age: Mid-20’s)**
After graduating from the University of Washington, life stalled for Gabe. The economy took a nosedive so despite a degree in architecture, he couldn’t find full-time work. He pays the bills by working early bird shifts at the U District Hilton, fostering cats, and managing the counter a few evenings a week at his uncle’s pawn shop. Gabe hasn’t made much impact on the world. When faced with a chance to save a life... Gabe freezes. Is a body in an alleyway worth losing his job?
Vocal Range: Flexible, should complement Cousins.
(If one is Tenor, other should be Bass with Ab2)
Ensemble Vocals (Gabe is featured in a substantial dramatic monologue underscored to music)
Mason (Male, Age: 25)
Mason was the most successful dealer in high school, if only because no one would suspect the studious-looking kid in the back of the class would have prescription pills for sale tucked away in his TI-84 calculator. Mason and Tess were neighbors back in elementary school. They grew apart. But, when she found herself in need of drugs Tess turned to Mason. How could he say no? After two arrests and a stint in rehab, maybe he should have.
Vocal Range: Tenor A2 - G4
Featured Vocal: “The Voice in My Head”

Maya (Female, Age: Mid-20s)
The unassuming kid from school that you forget to wonder about years later. Maya, quiet both by nature and by a strict upbringing, broke loose after high school and fell in with rougher and rougher crowds. Teenage rebellion turned into desperation and couch surfing. Quietly miserable, the fire of her brief wild period has faded, leaving not much left. No friends, only dealers. No home, only rehab. When Maya was shooting up for the last time, she was ready for it to be all over.
Vocal Range: Mezzo with a belt: Ab3 - Db5 (Belted) E5 (Head voice)
Dancer skills a plus.
Featured Vocal: “Heroin Hotel”

Break a leg!
-Michael Tahaney (Director)