

Laughter On The 23rd Floor – Audition Template

Announcement Header/Staff Listing

Pinole Players' announces auditions for Neil Simon's "Laughter on the 23rd Floor", his semi-autobiographical comedy about chaos backstage at a 1950s comedy TV show. A group of eccentric gag writers try to support their star, a charismatic lunatic (modeled on Sid Caesar, star of the classic "Your Show of Shows" TV program), as the network slowly chips away at his comic vision. Both outrageously funny and genuinely touching, this is Neil Simon at his very best.

Directed by Arthur Atlas

Scenic Design by Fernando Ochoa Beltran Smith

Assistant Direction/Costumes by Janet O'Brien

Lighting & Sound Design by Michael O'Brien

Produced by Patti Clark

Audition Dates - No Appointment Required

February 4, 2018 - 2:00 PM

February 5, 2018 - 7:00 PM

Callback Date (By Invitation Only)

February 7, 2018 - 7:00 PM

Auditions, Call Backs and Performances take place at the Community Playhouse, 601 Tennent Avenue, Pinole, CA 94564

Performances

June 8-23, 2018

Fridays & Saturdays at 8:00 PM; Sunday Matinees (June 10 & 17) at 2:00 PM

Casting Needs/Audition Requirements

7 Men (20-60); 2 Women (20-35)

No monologues; cold read from text.

Please be prepared to use a New York accent which is NOT required* but would broaden the number of characters for which one can be cast.

*The character of Val requires a Russian and/or Jewish accent.

Character Descriptions

Lucas Brickman (Age: mid-20s, our narrator)

The youngest member of staff, newly-hired, a bit nervous about proving himself and kind of lost in the aggressive one-liner atmosphere; but he keeps trying.

Milt Fields (Age: 25-50)

Both his New York accent and his manner give him the quintessential 1950s “bagel & borscht” voice, he embodies urban, Jewish anxiety which he expresses with lots of “ba-dum-bums” and a dry, well-timed wit.

Val Skolsky (Age: 30-60)

The senior member of staff, a Russian émigré (with Russian/Jewish accent); he is the most politically aware of the writers and a man who, having been through some of the horrors of WW2, still manages to find the “funny” in almost everything.

Brian Doyle (Age: 25-50)

A good (Irish) guy with a cigarette usually hanging from his mouth; he’s rumpled and has had recent hair implants. He is a heavy smoker, cougher, drinker with a biting, caustic sense of humor and he constantly brags about signing a contract to write Hollywood movies. (He is always ready to trade insults with Ira Stone.)

Ira Stone (Age: 25-50, New York accent a plus)

All energy with a touch of brilliant madness and also a (big) touch of hypochondria. (He is always ready to trade insults with Brian Doyle.) Ira comes in late every day, with a new ailment, and his greatest wish is to have a virus named after him.

Kenny Franks (Age: 20-35)

The boy genius; neatly dressed with shell-framed glasses, he is the most sophisticated of the group and he displays a worldliness far beyond his years. Max Prince (Age: Sid Caesar-ish at 30-50) He exudes strength and he dominates a room with personality: quixotic, changing instantly from warm, infectious laughter to sullen anger, he storms about the place making pronouncements and messing up most historical facts.

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Carol Wyman (Age: 25-35)

A strong and quick defense system. She is the only female writer on staff and she is trying to become a new mother. She does not want to be known as a female writer, but as a comedy writer. Carol is perfectly able to handle herself (and her mouth) in a room full of smart-ass comedians.

Helen (Age: 20-30)

Although she's Max's long-suffering secretary right now, she aspires to be a comedy writer and join the team. She will eventually end up going to law school because she lacks the comedy gene - totally. It's all in the timing.