



My Favorite Year Spring Musical Auditions!!!

Monday December 9th- December 13th.

Monday – Individual Audition Slots

Tuesday- Individual Audition Slots

Weds.- Individual Audition Slots

Thursday- Dance Auditions and Call Backs after
(3:10- 4:00pm Dance)

Friday- More Call Backs if needed...

Dear Auditionee,

I am so excited to be directing "My Favorite Year," for Calvary Christian High School this year! I am especially excited that you have decided to audition. Make sure you have read over the packet carefully so you understand what you will need for the audition and are prepared for the audition. I have attached a character breakdown for you to think about what character you would really like to go for, monologues and Mr. M's music selections for you to pick to audition with. You may want to learn more than one monologue and song in case you will be asked to sing another.

Brief Synopsis: Stephen Flaherty and Lynn Ahrens' nostalgic musical comedy *My Favorite Year*, is based on the beloved 1982 hit film starring Peter O'Toole. The original story line was fondly based on an encounter that Mel Brooks had with Errol Flynn while working together on Sid Caesar's *Your Show of Shows*. Benjy Stone the freshman writer on the 1954 hit TV show, "The King Kaiser Comedy Cavalcade." When his hero, movie star Alan Swann, is booked as the live show's guest, it is up to Benjy not only to assure that the star is on stage but that he is sober as well! Benjy acts as chaperone, family mediator, bouncer, alcohol treatment counselor, escort, editor and psychiatrist to the wayward actor. Will Swann turn out to be just another failed father figure to Benjy? Or will he turn out to be a real hero in the end. It is a fast paced production that establishes the excitement experienced by the pioneers of live TV – performing before an audience of 20 million people.

Casting Note: We hope to cast a strong ensemble in addition to the principal roles that will take on many unscripted roles to create a rich environment for the principal characters of the play to live. Outside of the principal roles, we hope to cast strong dancing couples, as well as several strong singers and movers in the ensemble.

(The age ranges and descriptions are general and it is simply what you can "look like". If you can convince us you can do it – then go for it.)

Thank you again for showing interest in auditioning. Please remember that if you are not chosen for a part in this show, I would love to have you assist in any way possible backstage or on the production team. I am always looking for helpful, smiling and willing folks to make Calvary Theatre a better place!

So here's to you for having the courage to audition and the love of theatre!

Thanks so much!
In Christ,

Mrs. Gaige<><
Director
gaige.annemarie@cchs.us

Links for Audition Sign ups and preparation:

Link for Audition sign up genius:

Individual Auditions will be on Monday-Weds. 10 min time slots. Dance Auditions for EVERYONE and call backs for a few will follow on Thursday.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/2oFo444A9AA29A3F94-myfavorite>

Link for Audition form:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1r1XmAcYp11G5bwyEQgYFHeYjCWtpvlo67j7yLBT8Mt0/edit>

Link for musical selections for auditions:

For the singing portion of the audition, all ladies will perform an excerpt of "Funny/The Joke," and all men will perform an excerpt of "Larger Than Life." Sheet music, accompaniment tracks, and links to YouTube videos of professional cast recordings can be found at the Google Drive link below:

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1pWhlLTEpQRWXn41i7Nn754ARDNvXcEY4?usp=sharing>

Principal Character Descriptions...

BENJY STONE

Male, early to mid 20's.

The show is narrated by the young Freshman writer who will serve as a chaperone of sorts for the show's replacement guest star for the week – matinee idol Alan Swann. Eager, alert. Lead role, charismatic, lovable, must move very well and must be able to carry the show. Vocal range high baritone/tenor to G.

ALAN SWANN

Male, 40ish.

A handsome, albeit well-traveled Hollywood leading man. Lead role, physical comedy (must do head or hand stand, not afraid of heights, fencing, may fall down because he is often drunk). A "has been" movie star, Errol Flynn -type. Loves women, booze, and the night life. You know he comes from "another place" – larger than life. Must walk fine line between comic and tragic. Charismatic but with a sad, dark side. (Should be willing to put in extra time for fencing.) Vocal range baritone. "I'm not an actor...I'm a movie star!" Must be a confident singing actor and talent

KING

A big bear of a man in his 30's-40's.

Physical, loud. He used to be a Catskill Comic, now he's the host of America's number one TV show (very "Sid Caesar", "Milton Berle"-like). Perpetually exasperated. Came from nothing now a larger than life figure on a weekly live hour and a half comedy show. He has a lot of pressure due the stress of the show. Has trouble communicating with people when not in a sketch. Flirts with all the ladies. Vocal range baritone.

SY BENSON

Male, 40's+.

Tough, ruthless. Comic role. Head writer, bully to all but King Kaiser. A chicken and pushover at heart. Vocal range baritone.

ALICE MILLER

Female, 35+.

Dry, quick witted, fast talking, tough-gal gag writer, physical role. Writer on Comedy Cavalcade. Very rare to have a woman writer at this time. (in the manner of Rose Marie's Sally Rogers on the old "Dick Van Dyke Show".) show. She has no problem going toe-to-toe with King ...or anyone else. (Based on Lucille Kallen TV writer on Sid Caser shows.) Vocal range low alto to D/belt.

HERB LEE*

Male, 35+.

Rumpled, silent but very expressive. Comic, physical role. Writer on Comedy Cavalcade. Communicates through Alice. Has little dialog, but must be expressive and possess good comic timing. A great physical actor role.

KC DOWNING

Female, early to mid 20's.

A bright, attractive career girl. Assistant to the producer. The only "straight man" in a world of funny people. Pretty enough to be the "Breck Girl", Benjy's love interest. Must move well. Vocal range high alto light belt.

LEO SILVER*

Male, 50's+.

Gray-haired, well dressed, antacid chewing Producer of the Comedy Cavalcade. Comic role. The only one who comes close to controlling King and usually at his side. Vocal range baritone.

BELLE MAY STEINBERG CARROCA

Female, 40's+.

Benjy's mother. A large presence of a woman, generous of nature and proportion (think tall, big hair, big bust). A substantial beacon of Brooklyn society. Loud and a bit overbearing, always looks her best, if not a bit too much. Lainie Kazan-type. Comic role but with a touching quality. Vocal range high alto belt.

“ROOKIE” CARROCA*

Male, 40's+.

Belle's husband, Benjy's step-father. Physically smaller than Belle. Must be able to pass as Filipino. Ex-wrestler. Comic role. Vocal range baritone.

TESS*

Female must look about 16.

Swann's estranged daughter. A very pretty, very Grace Kelly sort of sixteen-year-old. Quite a young lady. (doubles in some ensemble scenes).

UNCLE MORTY*

Male, 45'+.

Benjy's uncle (Belle's brother). Loud, comic role (doubles in some ensemble scenes). The sort of uncle you run into when family gatherings get too dull. Vocal range baritone.

AUNT SADIE*

Female, 40's+.

Morty's wife. You should have no problem picking them out as a couple. Comic role (doubles in some ensemble scenes). Vocal range alto.

ENSEMBLE ROLES -

Chorus Girls, Male Dancers, Sketch Actors, Stage Hands, Floor Manager, Grips, Cameramen, Wardrobe People, Secretaries, Assorted Denizens of Manhattan, Brooklyn Neighbors and more.

Audition Monologues-

Choose one or more that best shows your talents. Not all characters in My Favorite Year are represented with a monologue. Unless noted on your audition form, we will be considering you for all appropriate roles. Please see character descriptions for more information.

Benjy

Hello. My name is Benjy Stone and I want to tell you about 1954 which was my favorite year. Not my best year, not the year I had the most success, but my favorite year. In 1954 you could tell the difference between a Ford and a Chevy just by looking at them. "Little Things Mean a Lot" by Kitty Kallen was the number one song, Fifth Avenue was a two-way street, and everything had chlorophyll in it. It was also the year when things changed for me. It's the year that separated my life into before and after. In 1954 I made the jump from smart aleck kid from the deli, pushing a joke with every cruller, to freshman writer on T.V.'s hottest show: The King Kaiser Comedy Cavalcade. And every Saturday night at 8 p.m. we went on the air..live!

Belle

Belle #1This is a photo of Benjamin on his High School Graduation. Thirty-eight in the entire class. (Swann: You have a very talented son). Thank you. Of course, not everybody always thought so. I got tremendous grief from people when he was little. They thought he was peculiar because he like to sit inside a box and pretend to be a radio. He'd be all the shows, especially the funny ones. I always knew when he got older he'd be a writer. Everybody else thought he'd get older and just need a bigger box.

Belle #2 (on phone) Benjamin darling, this is your mother. I'm only calling to remind you, tomorrow you're coming for dinner. Are you bringing cake? Because if you are, I'll tell Rookie he shouldn't stop at Kupperman's when he gets the paper in the morning. (Benjy: I'll bring cake! Okay) Fruit or crumb? (Benjy: Whatever you want.) I want whatever you want, Benjamin. (Benjy: Crumb) Fruit would be better.. Oh, the show's coming on. I can't talk to you know. Kisses, Benjamin.

King Kaiser:

All right, people. Listen up and listen hard (stops dead in tracks. He sniffs the air) I smell toast! Is there toast in this office? I told you people, never, never eat toast in the office. You eat toast anywhere but in the kitchen or a restaurant, you're asking for trouble. I knew a guy, had toasted English backstage one night. Dead five minutes later. Never under any circumstance, eat anything toasted in this office. That's the law. Understand! Now I want something funny on my desk by lunch. And when I say funny, I don't mean "funny", I mean funny. This sketch is not funny. If this spot right here is funny, then this sketch is over in Kansas, that is how far removed from funny it is. What's the matter with you, you show me a dog like that? Who do you think I am? who do you think you are?

Alice:(comedy act)

Ladies and gentlemen, my "silent" partner, Mr. King Kaiser, the only comedian named after a roll. (Rimshot) But I wanna tell you, as a performer he's famous for his delivery: two weeks for shirts, three weeks for sheets. Look at him. On his off days he moonlights as a novelty paperweight. (Rimshot). "A novelty paperweight." What is this? An Audience or an oil painting? I know you're there. I can hear you reloading! Oh, so you like 'em cheap, do you? Okay maestro, let's give 'em what they want (Strip Tease music begins Alice starts peeling off a glove, very sexily). I haven't stooped this low since Mickey Rooney asked me to Foxtrot!

Alan Swann (Please prepare all 4 just in case)

Swann #1 (movie voice over from "Defender of the Crown")

With the morning sun at our backs we will this day write history with our swords and with our honor. Now, let us not dally, for I have this day an engagement to mount the throne of England.

Swann #2: (incredibly drunk)

Good morrow, ladies and gentlemen! (Benjy: Alan Swann.) Actually, no. I'm Alan Swann. (checks lining of his jacket) Unless I'm Edith Head. (Sy: He's blotto). Blotto? Did you actually say Blotto? I haven't heard that phrase since 1938. I feel suddenly awash with nostalgia. But, generously proportioned person, [to secretary] if I were truly blotto, could I do this? (He grabs edge of conference table and kicks himself up

onto a hand-stand, then comes down flat on his back out cold. After a pause... he struggles to his feet). Sorry, Mr. Hitchcock. Shellfish for lunch. Ready now. (He collapses).

Swann #3 (Sober, with hangover, dressed for the Three Musketeer Sketch "as resplendent as Cyrano")

Noble Stone, is this the sort of thing you had in mind? (Benjy: Something like that. How do you feel?) Vertical. And quite contrite over any inconvenience I may have caused. Thank you. (To K.C.) And thank you, Miss Downing, for your company, the cab fare and the cost of the Alka Seltzer. I've made entire pictures with more prodigious hangovers. In fact, friend Stoneberg, I'm going to make a prediction. I predict that tonight we'll get it on the first take. (Benjy: We always get it on the first take. We have to, this is live television.) "Live." What exactly does that mean? "Live." You mean it goes into the camera, scurries along those little wires, and just spills out into people's houses? Why is it nobody had the goodness to explain that to me?

Swann #4: (On learning that his daughter Tess stopped by to see him at the Plaza hotel). Benjamin, tomorrow I'll be sober and I'll remember all the reasons I should stay away from her. Tomorrow, Tess will be in Connecticut and the world will be ordinary again. She wants me to come and this may be the last time she asks. I'm going with you or without you. So please for the last time, where is the Plaza Hotel?

If you have any questions about auditioning and/or the process, please let me know. gaige.annemarie@cchs.us. 😊

