



Auditions: The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time

Hawthorne Players will be holding auditions for *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time* by Simon Stephens. The production will be directed by Ken Clark. All roles are open to non-union actors of all races, sexes, creeds, orientations and abilities. Hawthorne Players encourages performers of diverse backgrounds and abilities to audition for our productions. Hawthorne Players is a community theatre and, as such, all roles are volunteer, unpaid positions.

IMPORTANT DATES

Auditions: Monday, April 25 at the Florissant Civic Center Theater. Slots available starting at 5:30pm. Sign up for an audition slot at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0E4BAEA622A1FD0-curious>.

Callbacks: Tuesday, April 26 at 7pm.

First cast meeting: A meet/greet and table read will be scheduled this summer.

Rehearsals: Tentatively planned for Sunday (afternoon or evening), and Tuesday and Thursday evenings starting in September.

Performances: November 4 – 13; performances are Friday and Saturday at 7:30 pm and Sunday at 2 pm.

ABOUT THE SHOW

The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time is based on the award-winning novel by Mark Haddon. The script contains strong language and adult content.

Fifteen-year-old Christopher has an extraordinary brain. He is exceptional at mathematics but ill equipped to interpret everyday life. He has never ventured alone beyond the end of his road, he detests being touched, and he distrusts strangers. Now it is seven minutes after midnight, and Christopher stands beside his neighbor's dead dog, Wellington, who has been speared with a garden fork. Finding himself under suspicion, Christopher is determined to solve the mystery of who murdered Wellington, and he carefully records each fact of the crime. But his detective work, forbidden by his father, takes him on a thrilling journey that upturns his world.

AUDITION INFORMATION

Hawthorne Players and the *Curious Incident* production team are committed to diversity and inclusion and encourage all interested to audition. Please note that this production requires most actors to be present on stage throughout the entire show. Most cast members will be speaking a contemporary middle class British dialect appropriate to the class of their character – a dialect coach will be brought in to assist as needed.

What to Prepare: Complete the Audition Form (link) including your resume of onstage experience and a list of all potential conflicts for all days during the rehearsal window (Sept-Oct). The audition will consist of monologues and reading from the script. Sides will be emailed to you within 48-hours of reserving your audition (based on characters you are auditioning for).

If you want to audition but your schedule conflicts with the audition schedule, you need specific accommodations to audition, or you have a show-specific question, please contact the director Ken Clark (HP.CuriousIncident@gmail.com), using the subject line "Audition Request." Include the reason for your request, and your contact information.

ABOUT THE ROLES

Ages listed are not hard and fast.

Christopher Boone (Seeking a male identifying actor age 15 – 20 to play 15). Christopher is an English teenager who is an outsider due to his unique perception of the world, which he sees in surprising and revealing ways. He notices things in fine detail yet has difficulty understanding social and emotional cues and difficulty empathizing with others. He is probably on the autism spectrum and exhibits some behavior that might typically be characterized as having Asperger's Syndrome, though what is most important is that he is different - extremely intelligent and sensitive. Must be able to execute specific choreography including being touched (hugged, touched on shoulders) and lifted into the air (the ensemble will lift the actor in the air as part of the narrative, etc). Technical elements in this show will include projections, quick changes in lighting, and loud sound cues.

Siobhan (Female identifying, 30-40). Christopher's teacher and mentor, the only person in Christopher's life with an understanding of his situation. She strives to teach Christopher how society works and how to behave within its guidelines. Constantly negotiating around Christopher's anger, she is professional, warm, caring, and calm. She is also sensitive to his strained relationship with his father. She often serves as the narrator of Christopher's story and of his feelings; English, Irish, Welsh, or Scottish accent.

Ed Boone (Male identifying, 35-50). Christopher's father; estranged from his wife (Judy) and struggling as a single parent trying to raise his son the best he can. A working class man. Proud, gruff, and rough, he is unable to convey his emotions and feelings but loves his son deeply. English accent appropriate to working middle class. He has trouble communicating with Christopher, who often frustrates him. And though he's naturally practical and much more patient in dealing with Christopher, a difficult situation can make him lose it, sometimes violently. A plumber and heating engineer by trade.

Judy Boone (Female identifying, 35-45). Christopher's mother; she works as a secretary and is estranged from her husband. She is a working class woman with a tough exterior who has no support system to raise her son. She blames herself for her inability to cope with Christopher effectively. She has had a hard life and had to fight for things, which she is ready to do, as she is feisty and doesn't take anything lying down. Loving, yet impatient, she has felt very alone in her situation and it frustrates her to a point of absolute desperation. English accent appropriate to working middle class.

ENSEMBLE

Seeking six versatile and talented ensemble members. Each of the ensemble members will play multiple roles, including at least one featured speaking role. They will also assist in creating the many locations and elements of the story, remaining on stage for the majority of the production. Ensemble actors will be required to lift Christopher as a group as they are able and must be comfortable with physical contact and choreographed movement.

- #1 (Female identifying, 35-55): Mrs. Shears, Mrs. Gascoyne, Woman on Train, and Shopkeeper
- #2 (Female identifying, 20 – 35): No. 40, Lady in Street, Information, and Punk Girl.
- #3 (Female identifying, 45 – 65): Mrs. Alexander, Posh Woman.
- #4 (Male identifying, 35-55): Roger Shears, Mr. Wise, Duty Sergeant, Man behind Counter, and Drunk One.
- #5 (Male identifying, 20 – 50): A Policeman, Mr. Thompson, London Policeman, Man with Socks, and Drunk Two.
- #6 (Male identifying, 35 – 60): Reverend Peters, Uncle Terry, Station Policeman, and Station Guard.

COVID / HEALTH & SAFETY

Anyone auditioning will be required to show proof of full COVID vaccination. All production team members and crew will also be vaccinated. Temperature checks and wearing of masks will be reviewed and adjusted as guidance from the CDC, St. Louis County and City of Florissant is updated. Requirements affecting audience members will be determined 30-days prior to the show opening.

HAWTHORNE MEMBERSHIP / DUES

Individuals cast are expected to become a paid member of Hawthorne Players to cover insurance, photos of show and eligibility for Hawthorne's Best Performance Awards. The cost to join Hawthorne Players is \$20 for an individual and \$30 for a family, per calendar year (prorated to \$10/\$15 for the final show of the season).