



SUNSET VILLAGE

Main-Stage Show #2 – January & February 2022

Written by Michael Presley Bobbitt

Director: Jackie O'Neil, 305-509-1773, rovingoneils@aol.com

Producer: Charla Garrison, 727-433-4397, floridagal1717@gmail.com

AUDITION PACKET FOR SUNSET VILLAGE

Open Auditions: September 18 and 19.

For the best audition experience, please try to attend on one of the dates above. If you absolutely cannot be at the set audition dates please contact production so that we can schedule an individual appointment that works best with your schedule.

Rehearsal start date: If you are cast, you may pick up your script on Monday Sept 20 (or on Monday Sept. 27 if we need late auditions). There will be character homework in your script. Please complete it on time for our character discussion and initial read-through on Tuesday, October 5 at 7:00. Recorders are welcome. After that you are on your own for a month.

Regular rehearsals begin on Monday, November 8 at 7:00. In general, we will rehearse weekly from Monday through Thursday. For the first few weeks I won't need everyone every day and will schedule accordingly. There will a day off before Thanksgiving and a day off before Christmas in case you need travel time to visit family or friends - or prep time if they are visiting you.

Show dates (**you must be able to make all of them**): Opening Night is Thursday, January 13. The show runs January 13, 14, 15, 20, 21, 22, 27, 28, 29, 30 (Sun. matinee) February 3, 4, 5, 10, 11, 12,

Setting: "Sunset Village" takes place in various locations within a large-scale central Florida retirement city that has gained a national reputation for the extravagant and sometimes lascivious lifestyles it supports. The entire focus of the sprawling town's economy and infrastructure is on the leisure and well-being of its senior residents. All the roads allow golf cart traffic, and nearly everyone owns a high-end customized golf cart. Also noteworthy is the area's recent infamy for having among the highest rates of venereal disease per capital in the nation. A thriving underground drug and sex culture has taken root, complete with its own code words, rituals and events.

Synopsis (by the author for media use): In Florida's most notorious retirement community, a recent widow is pulled into a senior-citizen Neverland where venereal disease rates are the highest in the nation, and sex, drugs, and rock 'n roll never die. Edna is starting over in a bizarre Disney version of the twilight of life. Along the way she finds her voice and purpose with the help of an eccentric cast of new friends that comprise the rowdiest old lady gang since the Golden Girls. This off-Broadway comedic odyssey from playwright Michael Presley Bobbitt is as life-affirming and heartfelt as it is outrageous.

Synopsis (by me for auditions): Come join the residents of "Sunset Village," a bodacious central Florida retirement city with a national reputation for its extravagant and occasionally lascivious lifestyles. Built to promote fun and leisure, "Sunset Village" boasts constant entertainment and multiple classes designed to tickle its residents' fancies and fantasies. It was clearly created to be heaven on earth for senior citizens. But is it? In this delightful romp, our intrepid residents take on swords and sinkholes, hip hop classes and bees, while mostly meddling in each other's lives. Gales of laughter guaranteed, but bring a tissue just in case.

Characters

Cast: 2 men, 6 women - in order of appearance:

Edna Wilson: Mid-60s. A recent widow from a 43 year marriage to the only man she ever kissed. Edna has a youthful face and the spry demeanor of a much younger woman. She is unsure how to start life over without the husband she adored and relied on. She's sweet, sincere and charmingly naive, but she's also smart and not a pushover.

Andrea Watson: A real estate agent in her 40s (or 30s). Hard-working and ambitious about her job, Andrea is also a flirt with poor taste in men. She's empathetic and has a kind heart.

Louise Albright: Late 60s. Louise looks her age and doesn't try to hide it. She is irascible (kind of hot-tempered), judgmental, and stubborn in a down-to-earth way. Deep down she's a nice and caring person, but you gotta dig deep to find those rare drops of sweetness.

Mikayla Fox: A vivacious, sexy woman who will never tell her real age and rocks a youthful persona. Her obvious plastic surgery and heavy makeup fail a little more each day at hiding the fact that she is aging. Flirty and forward, Mikayla has even changed her name to give the appearance of youth.

Norma Blaine: Early 60s. Norma is a swinger in a happy open marriage. At ease and content with her own life, she's often the voice of reason who helps hold the group of friends together.

Tommy Miller: Late 20s to 30s (or maybe somewhat older), Tommy is charming, handsome, and a smooth talker. He works a variety of service jobs in the Village, ranging from exercise and dance instructor to life-guard, art teacher, bartender and more. Tommy is serious about his many positions and plays each one to the hilt. He's popular with his customers, and wise beyond his years.

Great Grandma Carolyne: 80s - Carolyne walks with a cane but is prone to bursts of unexpected agility. She's quick to anger and harbors a thirst for vengeance if crossed. A small role with a big impact (sometimes from the cane) and not as many rehearsals as the larger roles.

Joe (Mr. Midnight): Late 60s to early 70s. Joe has a luxurious head of hair and the swagger of a man possessed of abundant self-confidence. A magnet for woman of various ages, Joe plays the field for all its worth - this is, until he meets Edna and is blown away by her unassuming attitude and sincerity.

****Age ranges are suggestions only. Our make-up artist, Claudia, can add or subtract at least a decade.***

Director's Notes

About auditions: Casting a play is more than just deciding who read each role the best. It entails putting together a believable team. Variations in voices, heights, ages, movements and attitudes will all be considerations when creating the Sunset Village cast. No matter what room we use for auditions, please project as you would for a full house in the theatre.

"Sunset Village" is a character-driven comedy, so thoroughly understanding your character is essential. Please show us a character who is sincere and wholly committed to his or her beliefs. Do not try to be funny. Instead, play your role with slightly-over-the-top sincerity and determination. If the audience believes in the characters they will be invested in the story and its outcome.

Good comedy moves along crisply and hesitation is its enemy. Actors will be required to speak conversationally. When people converse, they usually jump in just as (or even a nanosecond before) the previous person finishes their sentence. Knowing your cues is every bit as important as knowing your lines.

Every role in this show is attainable -- no one has been pre-cast. If you'd like to read a script before auditions, please let me know at rovingoneils@aol.com and I'll send you one by email.

About Rehearsals and Performances: We will not tolerate divas. All cast and crew are equally important residents of Sunset Village. No actor is to criticize or coach another; not even with the best of intentions. If something bothers you, please tell the director - in private or by email.

Sunset Village is serious about the 4th wall. Please don't play to the audience, or even acknowledge that you have an audience; not even if they are howling with laughter.

To the best of my ability, I will set up a rehearsal schedule that does not waste any actor's time. To the best of your ability, please arrive at rehearsal quietly and a couple minutes before your designated time.

Production Team (so far):

- Director - Jackie O'Neil
- Producer - Charla Garrison
- Stage Manager - Maresa Casey
- Technical Director - Jimmy Zimmerman
- Lighting Design – Alex Rickert
- Lighting Tech - Jerry Nussenblatt
- Sound Design - Jackie O'Neil and John Schaefer
- Sound Tech -
- Props - Jimmy Zimmerman
- Costumes - Riet Steinmetz
- Make-up - Claudia McEwen
- Hair and Wigs - Maresa Casey
- Dresser(s) -
- Poster, Program Design and Ads - Jeanette Gierula

SUNSET VILLAGE REHEARSAL SCHEDULE (Subject to changes as needed)

Show Dates: You must be able to make all of them: Opening Night is Thursday, January 13. The show runs January 13, 14, 15, 20, 21, 22, 27, 28, 29, 30 (Sun. matinee) February 3, 4, 5, 10, 11, 12,

All rehearsals begin at 7:00 p.m. Rehearsal space to be announced later.

Cast members may pick up their scripts on the Monday following auditions. The script will include homework for you to do on your character. Please read the script ASAP and thoughtfully complete your homework. You will use it to create your own character and help the other characters - your teammates - understand who you are.

Tuesday, October 5:

First read through - FULL CAST. We will begin with character analysis (as per your homework), then read the play with or without expression (your choice). Tape recorders welcome. After the read-through you are on your own until November.

Regular rehearsals begin on November 8. Please check this schedule the first couple weeks to see when you are needed. When/if we finish blocking a scene early, we will run the scene. When you are sure your character has nothing more to do that evening, please leave quietly.

Monday, November 8:

Second read through - FULL CAST - with projection and pizzazz. Conversational. Tape recorders welcome.

Tuesday, November 9:

7:00 - Block Act 1, Scene 1 - pages 3 - 6: Andrea and Edna

7:30 - Block Act 1, Scene 5 - pages 24 - 29: Louise and Edna

8:15 - Block Act 1, Scene 3 - pages 13 - 14: Joe (Mr. Midnight)

Wednesday, November 10:

7:00 - Block Act 1, Scene 2 - pages 7 to Tommy's entrance on page 10: Mikayla, Louise, Norma, Edna

7:30 - Block Act 1, Scene 2 - pages 10 to 12: the 4 women above plus Tommy and Carolyne

8:15 - Block Act 1, Scene 6 - pages 30 to 39: Edna and Joe

Thursday, November 11:

7:00 - Block Act 1, Scene 4 - pages 15 to middle of 21: Mikayla, Tommy, Louise, Edna, Norma

8:00 - Block Act 1, Scene 4 - middle of 21 to 23: Joe plus all of above.

Act 1 is all blocked. On to Act 2!

Monday, November 15:

7:00 - Block Act 2, Interlude - pages 40 - 42: Mikayla and Tommy

7:15 - Block Act 2, Scene 6 - pages 79 to 81 (the end): Edna, Louise, Joe

7:45 - Block Act 2, Scene 1 - pages 43 to top of 49: Edna and Joe

Tuesday, November 16:

7:00 - Block Act 2, Scene 2 - pages 49 - top of 57: Mikayla, Tommy, Norma, Louise, Carolyn

Wednesday, November 17:

7:00 - Block Act 2, Scene 3 - pages 57 to near bottom of 61: Andrea, Joe, Tommy and Carolyn

7:30 - Block Act 2, Scene 3 - pages 61 to top of 66: the cast members above plus Edna, Louise, Mikayla, Norma

Thursday, November 18:

7:00 - Block Act 2, Scene 4 - pages 66 to top of 77: Mikayla, Edna, Andrea, Norma, Louise, Joe

8:15 - Block Act 2, Scene 5 - pages 77 to top of 79: same cast as above

Woohoo, the play is blocked! Please work hard on memorizing your lines and cues.

Monday, November 22:

7:00 - Full Cast - Stumble through Act 1. Stop and go. Complete any missing blocking.

Review "dance" from Act 1, Scene 2 if we finish early.

Tuesday, November 23:

7:00 - Full Cast - Stumble through Act 2. Stop and go. Complete any missing blocking.

Review "dance" from Act 1, Scene 2 if we finish early.

Happy Thanksgiving!

Rehearsals resume on Monday, November 29. The full cast is required. You may leave quietly as soon as your character is finished. We are still on book, but please use your props as best you can. Also, please get into the habit of keeping your props in the same place every night so you always know where they are. You are responsible for making sure your props make it on stage with you.

Monday, November 29:

7:00 - Full Cast - Act 1:

Stop and go with lots of repeats. Use your props if they are available.

Tuesday, November 30:

7:00 - Full Cast - Act 2:

Stop and go with lots of repeats. Use your props if they are available.

Wednesday, December 1: **ALL PROPS SHOULD BE AVAILABLE** - Please use them from now on.

7:00 - Act 1 - Twice.

Thursday, December 2:

7:00 - Act 2 - Twice.

Set building will take place either the weekend of November 20 and 21 or the weekend of December 4 and 5.

Monday, December 6:

7:00 - Act 1 - **OFF BOOK WITH PROMPTING.**

Tuesday, December 7:

7:00 - Act 1 - Twice, if possible

Wednesday, December 8:

7:00 - Act 2 - **OFF BOOK WITH PROMPTING**

Thursday, December 9:

7:00 - Act 2 - Twice, if possible

REHEARSALS ARE NOW ON STAGE

Please find a handy place in the green room to keep your own props. Make sure you put them away after every rehearsal.

WE WILL NEED OUR SCENE CHANGE CREW FROM HERE ON.

Monday, December 13:

Tech people (lights and sound) are encouraged to watch or experiment during the next 3 rehearsals.

7:00 - Act 1 - Stop and go with scene changes, props and the shoes you will wear on stage. Twice if possible.

Go back on book, if needed, to get comfortable on stage.

Tuesday, December 14:

7:00 - Act 2 - Stop and go with scene changes, props and the shoes you will wear on stage. Twice if possible.

Go back on book, if needed, to get comfortable on stage.

NO BOOKS AND NO PROMPTING UNLESS YOU ASK BY SAYING "LINE."

Wednesday, December 15:

COSTUMES - Please be in costume and ready to start at 7:00.

Thursday, December 16:

TECH NIGHT, COSTUMES AND MAKE-UP - Patience Please!

OFF BOOK, NO PROMPTING AT ALL

WE WILL HAVE TECH (LIGHTS AND SOUND) FROM HERE ON

Monday, December 20:

7:00 - Act 1 - Costumes and Tech - no make-up. Twice if possible.

Tuesday, December 21:

7:00 - Act 2 - Costumes and Tech - no make-up. Twice if possible.

Wednesday, December 22:

Full Run Through! Costumes, make-up and tech.

HOLIDAY! - Rehearsals will resume on Monday, December 27

Monday, December 27:

7:00 - Full Show - Costumes and Tech - no make-up. Emphasis on pacing and timing.

Tuesday, December 28:

7:00 - Act 1 stop and go - Fix-it-night for blocking, costumes, tech, scene changes, timing and pacing.

Wednesday, December 29:

7:00 - Act 2 stop and go - Fix-it-night for blocking, costumes, tech, scene changes, timing and pacing.

Thursday, December 30:

7:00 - Full show - Costumes, tech and make-up.

Monday, January 3:

7:00 - **BIG NIGHT** - Over-act and over-react. It's your chance to try everything you felt like doing but didn't dare. Only one rule - if what you plan to do involves another actor, share your plan with them. Surprise me, not your acting partners. Now have fun! Costumes. No make-up.

Tuesday, January 4:

7:00 - Run show with costumes, no make-up. Incorporate the best of big night.

Wednesday, January 5:

7:00 (or earlier if you can make it) - Costumes and make-up. **FILM VIDEO!** Drill trouble spots or run show - whatever we need to kill it on press night.

Thursday, January 6:

7:00 - **PRESS NIGHT!** Costumes and make-up.

Monday, January 10:

Run show. Costumes. No make-up.

Tuesday, January 11:

Run show. Costumes and make-up.

Wednesday, January 12:

No rehearsal unless absolutely necessary. Rest, Relaxation and Positive Thoughts!

Thursday, January 13:

OPENING NIGHT! Break-a-leg!

The show starts promptly at 8. Please be in the Green Room by 7:00. Energy circle is at 7:15 nightly.

*****Please keep **Friday, January 7 and Saturday, January 8** available in case we need an extra rehearsal or two. I don't think we will need them but let's save those dates just in case.