

MARATHON COMMUNITY THEATER
PRESENTS



JANUARY 16, 2025 - FEBRUARY 8, 2025

ALWAYS A BRIDESMAID

By Jones, Hope, Wooten

Director - Jackie O'Neil

Assistant Director/Stage Manager - Maresa Casey

AUDITION PACKET

Open Auditions: September 28 and 29. For the best audition experience, please try to attend on one of those dates. If you are unable to attend open auditions, please contact me at rovingoneils@aol.com and I'll make an appointment with you for an earlier audition.

Rehearsal Start Date: There will be a character discussion and initial read-through on October 7 and a 2nd speedier read-through on Tuesday, October 22. Rehearsals begin on Monday, November 4 and run Monday through Thursday weekly with adequate time off for Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Years (you'll have a day to get to and from wherever you are going).

Show Dates (you must be able to make all of them): Opening Night is Thursday, January 16, 2025. The show continues on January 17, 18, 23, 24, 25, 26 (matinee) 30, 31, February 1, 6, 7, 8 for a total of 13 shows.

Synopsis

In this hilarious comedic romp, 4 friends have sworn to keep the vow they made over a bottle of Chianti on the night that would have been their Senior Prom - if only they had dates. They promised to be bridesmaids in each other's weddings...no matter what. Now, a few decades later, these Southern friends-for-life are still making "the long walk" for each other, determined to honor that vow. Libby Ruth, the hopeful romantic with the perfect marriage, believes - in spite of all evidence to the contrary - that her friends can find the very same happiness that she found. Headstrong Deedra's "rock-solid" marriage hangs by a thread when she discovers her husband of many years not only has a wandering eye, but the hands to match. Monette, flashy, high-spirited and self-involved, continues to test her friends' love and patience with all-too-frequent trips down the aisle. And salt-of-the-earth, tree-hugging Charlie discovers - the hard way - that marital bliss is not the end of her rainbow and panics in outrageous style when the opportunity presents itself.

"Always a Bridesmaid," is the rollicking tale of four loyal and determined women who definitely answer the question, "just how far are you willing to go to keep a promise to a friend?" Committed to the notion that careers, waistlines, and even marriages may disappear, but real friendships last a lifetime, these 4 BFFs repeatedly struggle to stage the perfect wedding in spite of fistfights at the altar, runaway brides, and the ill-timed release of a flock of white doves on the first day of hunting season.

Setting

An upstairs sitting room at historic Laurelton Oaks, Laurelton, Virginia, twenty miles northwest of Richmond. The stately Virginia home, owned and run by the formidable Sedalia Ellicott, has been converted into an upscale events venue.

Time

Beginning and ending in the present, the play takes place over a period of seven years.

Characters

(in order of appearance)

Kari Ames-Bissette, late 20s to 30s. A kind-hearted, spirited and self-confident Southern charmer. Most of her lines are monologues, spoken directly to her wedding reception guests (the audience). Kari will only be needed at one rehearsal a week until we start doing run-throughs.

Libby Ruth Ames, late 40s or more. Kari's mother. A happy homemaker and hopelessly romantic sweet country woman, Libby Ruth is quick witted, but plain-spoken and guileless. She and her husband own a diner.

Sedalia Ellicott, 60s or more. Gregarious, quick-thinking, self-assured, energetic Virginia hostess and life-force. Owner and Manager of Laurelton Oaks.

Monette Gentry, late 40s or more. Kinda flashy, kinda trashy, excitable and self-absorbed, Southern-to-the-bone flirt. Owns the biggest country music club in Virginia.

Charlie Collins, late 40s or more. Tree-hugging, Birkenstock-wearing, outdoorsy Southern free spirit. Works in landscaping. Tells-it-like-it-is.

Deedra Wingate, late 40s or more. An attorney after college, she is currently a judge in Washington D.C. Lacks patience and doesn't tolerate fools, liars or wasting time. Headstrong with a dry wit, Deedra is a no-nonsense Northern transplant.

Note: We have leeway on age, as long as the 4 bridesmaids appear believable as about the same age as each other. Kari can be in her 30s and Sedalia should appear older than the bridesmaids.

Director's Notes

Every role in this play is attainable. No one has been pre-cast. If I asked you to audition, there was no hidden meaning. I'd simply like to see if I can fit you into this play. Now I'd like to ask everyone to audition - please. Remember that we are casting two individual roles and a "team" of 4 bridesmaids who have to be believable as best friends since high school (which was many years ago). Auditions aren't simply an acting contest. They help us create a cast that brings out the best in each other.

This is a character-led play and teamwork is its key to success. You'll have to know your cues every bit as well as you know your lines as responses must be immediate. Hesitation is the enemy. Every character is equally important to the story and has enough stage time to make an impact.

If you are auditioning for a "bridesmaid" role, please check your calendars and make sure you'll have enough time and a big enough commitment to practice almost daily at home. There's lots of blocking to learn as well as lines. There will be quick costume and hair changes between each of the 4 scenes and sometimes even while you are on stage (nothing nude or lewd). These roles will be difficult at first, but rewarding and great fun once you know your lines.

We will not tolerate divas. All actors and crew are equally important members of this bridal party. No actor is to criticize or coach another, not even with the best of intentions. If an actor or crew member does something that bothers you, please let one of the directors know and trust us to handle it.

AAB is serious about the 4th wall. Please don't play to the audience - unless you are auditioning for the role of Kari.

Auditions will be casual and fun. Please come and give it a try.

ALWAYS A BRIDESMAID by Jones Hope Wooten

Directed by JACKIE O'NEIL

Contact: 305-619-1296 , rovingoneils@aol.com

Note: Please contact the director to schedule your audition time or to schedule an alternate appointment date/time if needed.

MCT CASTING PREFERENCE FORM – We need Cast & Backstage Crew too!

FIRST NAME _____

LAST NAME _____

Address _____

EMAIL _____

CELL PHONE _____

DO YOU TEXT? Yes___ No___

PREFERRED COMMUNICATION METHOD:

TEXT___ EMAIL___ CELL___

I will accept the role of:

___ KARI AMES-BISSETTE

___ LIBBY RUTH AMES

___ SEDALIA ELLICOTT

___ MONETTE GENTRY

___ CHARLIE COLLINS

___ DEEDRA WINGATE

Open Auditions:

Saturday & Sunday, SEPTEMBER 28 & 29 from 10am to 12 pm and 1pm to 4pm.

Note: Please contact the director or producer if you cannot make the scheduled auditions. They will schedule an alternate appointment if you are unable to attend these dates.

Rehearsal Schedule

Rehearsal times will be 6:30pm to 8:30pm Monday-Thursday

Show Dates, call times & curtains:

January 16, 17, 18 - SHOWTIME @ 8pm, cast/crew call @ 7pm

January 23, 24, 25 - SHOWTIME @ 8pm, cast/crew @ 7pm

January 26 - SUNDAY MATINEE - SHOWTIME @ 3pm, cast/crew @ 2pm

January 30, 31 February 1 - SHOWTIME @ 8pm, cast/crew @ 7pm

February 6, 7, 8 - SHOWTIME @ 8pm, cast/crew @ 7pm

Conflicts, if any:

CAST LIST INFO (age, characteristics, range if a musical)

Kari Ames-Bissette - female, late 20's, a kind-hearted spirited Southern charmer

Libby Ruth Ames- female, late 40's, hopeless romantic, sweet country woman, plain-spoken and guileless

Sedalia Ellicott- female, 60's, a gregarious, energetic Virginia hostess and life-force

Monette Gentry- female, late 40's, kinda flashy, kinda trashy, Southern-to-the-bone flirt

Charlie Collins-female, late 40's, tree-hugging, Birkenstock-wearing, acerbic Southern free spirit

Deedra Wingate- female, late 40's, headstrong with a dry wit, no-nonsense Northern transplant

Audition Spoken Pieces – Will be available onsite for use during Audition Process