

***A VERY FARMINGTON CHRISTMAS* CASTING NOTICE**

WHEN: Sat, Sept 27 at the Barn: 32332 West 12 Mile Road Farmington Hills

REGISTRATION: Begins at 11am, auditions begin at noon

DIRECTOR: Cynthia Tupper **ASST. DIRECTOR:** Laurie Smalis

PRODUCERS: Maureen Mansfield & Brian Tupper

STAGE MANAGER: Dave Reinke

SHOW QUESTIONS CONTACT: farmingtonchristmas@farmingtonplayers.org

SHOW DATES: Dec 5, 6, 7(matinee), 12, 13 (matinee & evening), 14 (matinee), 18, 19, 20

MANDATORY REHEARSAL DATES: Nov 22 or 23 Tech (the day to be decided after casting. 2 weeks b4 opening to avoid Thanksgiving weekend), Nov 24, 25, 26, Dec 1, 2, 3

REHEARSAL SCHEDULE: Rehearsals will begin on a regular basis by mid-October. The final rehearsal schedule will be planned after casting with the expectation of 3 per week. Weekend rehearsals could be included if this better accommodates the cast. Actors will be expected to be off book in early November. **Since this is a four-actor ensemble cast with 2 actors playing multiple roles, people with excessive conflicts will NOT be cast.**

FIRST READ-THRU FOR THE CAST: TBD Possible dates Sept 30 or Oct 2

A Very Hawlmark Christmas was written by John Lepard (aka “Robert Hawlmark”), one of the founders of the Williamston Theater. It’s a loving spoof of the Hallmark movies. The show has played to sold out audiences in Williamston in 2022 & 2024, and at Tipping Point Theater (Northville) in 2023. We are the first community theater to have been given the rights to the show. The plot is simple- a successful and extremely stressed big-city girl comes back to her hometown and accidentally runs into her long lost crush who is a jack of all trades in the town. There is the usual local business to be saved and a big conflict to resolve. Of course, romance wins out in the end!

There are two romantic leads (Felice & George) who are supported by two more actors playing multiple roles. This is truly an ensemble cast with all parts having approximately the same number of speeches. The play is 90 minutes long with NO intermission.

This show is a valentine to the well-loved and popular Hallmark movies. It would be a mistake to play these stereotype characters with a heavy hand. Although our characters are in larger-than-life situations, it must be completely sincere. A light touch and a fresh look must be considered with each characterization to make them unique, otherwise the show will miss the mark and not be funny. This show is fast paced and requires excellent comedic timing from ALL of the actors. We will be fortunate to have one rehearsal with the author present to discuss the play and get his feedback on the characters.

FELICE: Female. 217 speeches. Played in 30's age range

A BIG CITY WOMAN: A driven career woman just in reach of bigger success with a boyfriend who really does not appreciate or understand her. There is a sadness in her past that is holding her back and colors her relationship with going home.

GEORGE: Male. 185 speeches. Played in 30's age range

A SMALL TOWN GUY: Who runs the family antique store, but is also an electrician, mechanic and a bovine veterinarian. A very congenial man who knows who he is and how he fits into his small town world. Also, a great sadness in his past as his wife died leaving him with a young son.

ACTOR 1: Female. 194 speeches. Plays age range from early 40's to 70's

MOM (94 speeches) Quietly disappointed with life in general and may have a little drinking problem. Keeps in touch with Felice by phone as she seldom comes home. She makes a soft handed attempt to manipulate Felice.

BARB (72 speeches) The ultimate best friend..think Rosie O'Donell in *Sleepless in Seattle*. She has no life of her own but to always be available to counsel Felice until romance strikes her unexpectedly.

OLD WOMAN (28 speeches) The mysterious person you meet by chance who just happens to change your life.

ACTOR 2: Male. 190 speeches. Plays age range from 8 to 70's

MR.BANKS (69 speeches) Felice's ruthless boss who is the villain in our story.

JACK (50 speeches) Felice's boyfriend and soon to be ex-fiancé. Unfortunately has a volatile and selfish side and is threatened by Felice's ambition.

DANNY (63 speeches) George's young son who is thrilled with the gift of one unsharpened pencil for Christmas. Beginning to heal from the death of his mother and feels hopeful when Felice comes into his life.

DAD (8 speeches) George's dad. A somewhat grumpy outlook and is always in a hurry.