

## Hot List for Pentacle Theatre 2023 Season

### Holiday

**Charles Dickens Writes "A Christmas Carol."** Written by Scott Palmer (Multiple Casting options.)

Interested director: Chris Davidson

This is a fresh twist on this Holiday Classic. You are taken on the writing journey of Charles Dickens as he writes his classic story "A Christmas Carol." All the familiar characters are here guiding and offer their suggestions as to how this tale should be told.

**Christmas Belles:** Jessie Jones, Nicholas Hope and Jamie Wooten. (4 Men/7 Women)

Interested director: Franca Hernandez

A church Christmas program spins hilariously out of control in this Southern farce about squabbling sisters and family secrets. It's Christmas time in the small town of Fayro, Texas, and the Futrelle Sisters are not exactly in a festive mood. A cranky Frankie is weeks overdue with her second set of twins. Twink, recently jilted and bitter about it, is in jail for inadvertently burning down half the town. And hot flash suffering Honey Raye is desperately trying to keep the Tabernacle if the Lamb's Christmas program from spiraling into chaos.

### Drama/Thriller/Dramedy

**The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Nighttime:** Simon Stephens (5 Men/5 Women/1 teen with doubling options)

Interested director: Debbie Neel

15-year-old Christopher has an extraordinary brain. He is exceptional at math but ill equipped to interpret everyday life. He has never ventured alone beyond the end of his road, detests being touched and distrust strangers. Now, 7 minutes after midnight, Christopher stands beside his neighbor's dead dog. Finding himself under suspicion he is determined to solve this mystery, carefully recording each fact. His detective work, forbidden by his father, takes him on a thrilling journey that upturns his world.

**Boy Gets Girl:** Rebecca Gilman (4 Men/3 Women)

Interested director: Emily Loberg

Theresa Bedell is a successful reporter in New York who loves her work and the life she has made for herself. A relationship with a man would complete the picture and so she agrees to go on a blind date with a friend of a friend. Tony is attractive and funny, but Theresa isn't sure, and after a second date she's convinced they have nothing in common and sees no point in continuing the relationship. Tony, though, thinks otherwise. What at first seems like persistence on his part grows into obsession, and Theresa's annoyance with Tony turns to terror as he

begins to threaten her and those around her. Ultimately, Theresa must fight to save herself from being erased by Tony's actions—actions which call into question the assumptions at the very heart of romantic pursuit.

***Sweat***: Lynn Nottage (6 Men/3 Women)

Interested director: Ed Schoaps

Filled with warm humor and tremendous heart, *Sweat* tells the story of a group of friends who have spent their lives sharing drinks, secrets and laughs while working together on the factory floor. But when layoffs and picket lines begin to chip away at their trust the friends find themselves pitted against each other at a heart wrenching fight to stay afloat.

***The Crucible***: Arthur Miller (10 Men/10 Women) Flexible casting, youth.

Interested director: Geri Greeno or Seth Allen

The story focuses on a young farmer, his wife, and a young servant girl who maliciously causes the wife's arrest for witchcraft. The farmer brings the girl to court to admit the lie and it is here that the monstrous course of bigotry and deceit is terrifyingly depicted. The farmer, instead of saving his wife finds himself also accused of witchcraft and ultimately condemned with a host of others.

***The Last Days of Judas Iscariot***: Stephen Adly Guirgis (10 Men/5 Women) Doubling

Interested director: Seth Allen

Set in a time bending darkly Comic world between Heaven and Hell we examine the plight and fate of the New Testament's more infamous and unexplained sinner.

***An Inspector Calls***: J.B. Priestly (4 Men/3 Women)

Interested director: Isaac Joyce-Shaw

In an English industrial city, a young girl commits suicide. An Eminently respectable British family is subject to a routine inquiry in connection with the death. An inspector is called to interrogate the family with all family members are implicated.

***Eurydice***: Sarah Ruhl (5 Men/2 Women) Casting options

Interested director: Ed Schoaps

This is the classic myth of Orpheus through the eyes of its heroine. Dying too young on her wedding day, Eurydice must journey to the underworld, where she reunites with her father and struggles to remember her lost love. This play is a fresh look at a timeless love story.

***How to Survive an Apocalypse***: Jordan Hall (2 Men/2 Women)

Interested director: Jeff Brownson

A young and successful urban couple becomes convinced that their lifestyle is coming to an end. They become "preppers," hoarding supplies and learning to hunt. But their obsession takes its toll, and they are both forced to imagine the apocalypse without the love of their life. A romantic comedy about the end of days.

***Jesus Hopped the A Train:*** Stephen Adly Guirgis (4 Men/1 Woman)

Interested director: Seth Allen

Angel Cruz is in jail awaiting the trial for shooting the leader of a cult leader that has his ass. He is on his knees alone and terrified trying to say a prayer he no longer remembers to a god he has all but forgotten. Public defender Mary Jane Hanrahan is still very young but very nearly disillusioned.

***Kimberly Akimbo:*** David Lindsay Abair (2 Men/3 Women) Teenage casting possible

Interested director: Mathieu Voise or Debbie Neel

Set in New Jersey, this is a heartrending play about a teenager with a rare condition causing her body to age faster than it should. When she and her family flee Secaucus Kimberly is forced to reevaluate her life while contending with a hypochondriac mother, a rarely sober father, a scam artist aunt and her own mortality.

***Lifespan of a Fact:*** Kareken, Murrell, and Farrell (2 Men/ 1 Woman)

Interested director: Emily Loberg

Jim is a fresh out of Harvard fact checker for a sinking New York magazine. John is a talented writer with an essay about a suicide, an essay that could save the magazine from collapse. Jim is assigned to fact check the essay and the two come head-to-head in a comedic yet gripping battle over facts versus truth.

***Mr. Burns, a Post-Electric Play:*** Anne Washburn (3 Men/5 Female) Possible teen casting

Interested director: Jeff Brownson

What will endure when the cataclysm arrives, when the grid fails and society crumbles, and we're faced with the task of rebuilding?

***Novecento:*** Alessandro Barrico (1 Man)

Interested director: Ed Schoaps

Told through the eyes of Novecento's (the greatest pianist who ever played on the ocean) best friend, trumpeter Tim Tooney, Baricco's virile text echoes heroic fables and great myths, whilst winking at the beautiful and terrible minutiae that makes up life.

***Red:*** John Logan (2 Men)

Interested director: Isaac Joyce-Shaw

Painter Mark Rothko landed a big commission in the history of modern art, a series of murals. In the two years that follow Rothko works with his assistant Ken. Ken gains the confidence to challenge his mentor and Rothko faces the possibility that his crowning achievement could also be his undoing.

## Comedies

***Rumors***: Neil Simon (5 Men/5 Women)

Interested director: Debbie Neel or Mathieu Voisine

At a large, tastefully appointed Sneden's Landing townhouse, the Deputy Mayor of New York has just shot himself. Though only a flesh wound, four couples are about to experience a severe attack of Farce. Gathering for their tenth wedding anniversary, the host lies bleeding in the other room, and his wife is nowhere in sight. His lawyer, Ken, and wife, Chris, must get "the story" straight before the other guests arrive. As the confusions and mis-communications mount, the evening spins off into classic farcical hilarity.

***Boeing Boeing*** : Marc Camoletti (2 Men/4 Women)

Interested director: Geri Greeno

This 1960's French farce features self-styled Parisian lothario Bernard, who has Italian, German, and American fiancées, each a beautiful airline hostess with frequent layovers. He keeps "one up, one down and one pending" until unexpected schedule changes bring all three to Paris and Bernard's apartment at the same time.

***One Man, Two Guvnors***: Richard Bean, (5 Men/3 Women)

Interested director: None

Brighton, England, 1963. Change is in the air, Francis Henshall is looking to make his mark. In search of work, he is hired by small time gangster Roscoe Crabbe, in town to collect a fee from his fiancée's gangster father. But Roscoe is really Rachel, posing as her own dead brother, herself in love with Stanley Stubbers her brother's killer, who in turn becomes our hero's other guvnor.

***The Play that Goes Wrong***: Henry Lewis, Jonathan Sayer, Henry Shields (4 Men/2 Women)

Interested director: Susan Schoaps

After benefiting from a large and sudden inheritance the inept and accident-prone Comley Polytechnic Drama Society embarks on producing an ambitious 1920's murder mystery. They are delighted that neither casting issues nor technical hitches currently stand in their way. However, disaster ensues and the cast start to crack under the pressure, but can they get the production back on track before the final curtain.

***Clue***: Jonathan Lynn (5 Men/5 Women)

Interested director: None

It's a dark and stormy night, and you've been invited to a very unusual dinner party. Each of the guests has an alias, the butler offers a variety of weapons, and the host is, well . . . dead. So whodunnit? Join the iconic oddballs known as Scarlet, Plum, White, Green, Peacock, and Mustard as they race to find the murderer in Boddy Manor before the body count stacks up.