

Chicken & Biscuits

Written by Douglas Lyons | Directed by Thomas-Whit Ellis

WHO MAY AUDITION?

- Auditions are open to all Fresno State students and to community members. All cast members are eligible to earn up to two academic units of credit, which are highly recommended.

HOW DO I GET AN AUDITION FORM?

- Audition forms can be found at the Theatre & Dance website (fresnostate.edu/theatrearts).
- Audition forms will also be available at the Preliminary Audition, and you can fill out the form when you arrive.

WHAT SHOULD I PREPARE?

- Prepare a monologue (preferably memorized) no longer than 2 minutes long.
- Performers without a prepared monologue will be given a monologue to read at the audition.

WHEN AND WHERE ARE THE AUDITIONS?**PRELIMINARY AUDITIONS**

Wednesday, August 21st | 6:00 – 9:00 p.m.
John Wright Theatre, Speech Arts Building

CALLBACK AUDITIONS

Thursday, August 22nd, 7:00-9:00 p.m., Dennis and Cheryl Woods Theatre
Friday, August 23rd, 7:00-9:00 p.m., Dennis and Cheryl Woods Theatre

Callbacks will consist of, but are not limited to readings of scenes and monologues from the play, improv and actor exercises. Sides will also be available at the callback auditions. Or, performers can obtain callback material on the Theatre and Dance website (fresnostate.edu/theatrearts); or by emailing Professor Ellis

*It is strongly recommended that those interested in being considered for **Chicken & Biscuits**, fully participate with the Preliminary Auditions, Wednesday, August 21st. If anyone is unable to attend the preliminary audition, they should contact the director prior to August 21st.*

Performers with conflicts with the Preliminary or Callback Auditions may be able to be seen at a different time. However, it is imperative that those needing an alternative audition date contact the director as soon as possible for an appointment.

HOW WILL I KNOW IF I AM CALLED BACK?

A Callback list will be posted the evening of Wednesday, August 21st or Thursday morning on the Theatre & Dance website (fresnostate.edu/theatrearts)

HOW WILL I KNOW IF I AM CAST?

A cast list will be posted on the Theatre & Dance website by Saturday afternoon, August 24th.

WHEN ARE REHEARSALS?

- Rehearsals will begin Friday, September 13th @ 6:30 p.m., John W. Wright Theatre
- Rehearsal times are 6:30-10:00 p.m., Monday – Friday. *Not all actors are called to all rehearsals until after 3 weeks of individual scenes and targeted areas from the play. But all cast members should be free during these days and times from 9/13/24 to 11/9/24.*
- Tech Week Rehearsals: Sunday, October 27th, 1:00-9:00 p.m., 12:30 Call Dress/Techs, Mon., Oct. 28th – Thurs. Oct. 31st, Cast members are called at 6:30 for a 7:30 go. Cast member cannot miss any tech rehearsals from Sunday through Thursday.
- Preview Performance, Thursday, October 31st, 6:30 call; 7:30 curtain
- Please be sure to be specific with conflicts on your audition form.

WHEN ARE PERFORMANCES:

November 1 - 2 and November 5 - 9, 2024 at 7:30 p.m. and November 3, 2024 at 2:00 p.m.

ONCE I AM CAST, WHAT WILL BE EXPECTED OF ME?

- Performers must provide their own makeup kits and hair products. If you have questions about obtaining your make up kit please consult the director by the first rehearsal date.

ARE THERE ANY OTHER TIME COMMITMENTS?

- A photo shoot will be scheduled. This typically happens during one of the performances, no special preparations will be necessary. However, a few additional production photos may be taken after the show, lasting approximately 15 minutes. The exact date for the production shoot will be listed in the rehearsal schedule, available during the first day of rehearsal.
- Also, additional publicity photos taken prior to the show's opening. Actors may also be asked to appear on local television or radio programs to further promote the show. These activities will be held during the day and will be done on a volunteer basis.

• Performers must be available for costume fittings Mon. – Fri. between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. The costume shop staff will work to accommodate your daily schedule. Please make sure you actually stop by the costume shop for your initial measurements immediately after learning of your being cast in this show.

DOES CHICKEN & BISCUITAS CONFLICT WITH ANY OTHER UNIVERSITY THEATRE PRODUCTIONS?

CHICKEN AND BISCUITS conflicts with the first show of our season, **DRACULA** which opens Friday, September 27th, 2024. **CHICKEN AND BISCUITS** also appears to conflict with **RED VELVET**, which opens Friday, December, 13th. For further information about rehearsals and performance of **RED VELVET**, performers should contact, Professor Myers.

CAN I OBTAIN A PERUSAL COPY OF THE SCRIPT?

It is highly advisable to familiarize yourself with the play before auditions. A PDF of the script is available, by request, on the Theatre & Dance website (fresnostate.edu/theatrearts). It is also recommended that interested actors see the Netflix movie of the play, which is based on this play. You may also email Professor Ellis directly for a digital copy. thomee@mail.fresnostate.edu or 559-278-2646

WHAT IS THE PLAY ABOUT?

Rivaling sisters, Baneatta and Beverly, are burying their father—but it's the non-stop family drama that might be the death of them. Beverly just wants to show the congregation what she's been "blessed with." Baneatta's youngest son brings his very white, Jewish boyfriend who is maybe . . . sort of—okay definitely—afraid of Baneatta. Meanwhile, Beverly's daughter couldn't mind her own business if it was on a leash. But when a mysterious guest reveals a family secret at the church altar, things really go crazy . . . and even Baneatta can't deny the truth. For more information about the play please [click here](#).

"...a brilliant script that's fresh, relatable and laugh-out-loud funny...CHICKEN & BISCUITS is more than just a church service...it is a much-needed therapy session, a portrait of Black joy, love and laughter...This play is both a Hallelujah and an A-men." –Variety.

"CHICKEN & BISCUITS serves up roaring comedy...The play provides audiences with the blessed release of almost continual laughter..." –Broadway News.

WHAT ARE THE ROLES?

5 Black Females, 2 Black Males, 1 White Man

BANEATTA MABRY-An upstanding and stern Christian woman. Mother of Kenny and Simone, and wife to Reginald. She's overbearingly full of love, but quite uptight and stubborn in her religious ways. Late 40s-mid 50s, African American.

REGINALD MABRY-Baneatta's faithful husband and the new pastor of their home church. He's the peacemaker of the family. Reginald is a ball of love with a side of corny dad jokes. 50s, African American.

KENNY MABRY-Baneatta and Reginald's youngest child. He's proudly queer, but cowers in the presence of his mother. Kenny bites when he needs to, but at the end of the day he just wants to be loved. Mid-late 20s, African American.

LOGAN LEIBOWITZ-Kenny's neurotic and dramatic Jewish boyfriend of four years. He often spins himself into a tizzy, but always wants to be there for Kenny. Logan's wedded to his crutch for tough times. Mid-late 20s, white.

BEVERLY JENKINS-Baneatta's younger sister. The "fun aunt" who's always in a push-up bra. But don't mistake her vibrance for incompetence. She's a savage, "classy," not so boujee, but definitely ratchet when necessary. Early 40s-50s, African American.

LAT' RICE FRANKLIN-Beverly's daughter. She's nosy, loud, and in everyone's business but her own. When not on her phone, she shows love—but in her own Gen Z way. Sarcasm is her love language. 15, African American.

SIMONE MABRY-Kenny's older sister and Baneatta's favorite. She followed the "right path." Though pulled, she can be shady. While fierce on the exterior, Simone is internally wounded from a recent failed engagement. 30s, African American.

BRIANNA JENKINS-Baneatta and Beverly's half sister through an affair. She didn't know her father, but has come to his funeral to gather more details on him. She's sweet, vulnerable, and collected. Early 40s-50s, African American.

ANY CAST MEMBER MAY RECEIVE 2 UNITS OF CREDIT

WHAT IF I HAVE ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS?

Contact Thomas-Whit Ellis (Director) | Email: thomee@mail.fresnostate.edu | 559.278.2646