

A Raisin in the Sun

Written by Lorraine Hansberry | Directed by Thomas-Whit Ellis

WHEN AND WHERE ARE THE AUDITIONS?

PRELIMINARY AUDITIONS

Monday, May 5th | 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.
Woods Theater, Speech Arts Building

Thursday, May 8th | 4:00 to 6:00 p.m.
Woods Theater, Speech Arts Building

CALLBACK AUDITIONS

Callbacks for this show will be conducted on Friday, May 9th, if needed. Otherwise, the first audition on Monday or Thursday, will be all that is needed.

Callback auditions will consist of but are not limited to readings of scenes and monologues from the play, improv and actor exercises. Sides (examples of audition materials or pages from the play) will be available at the auditions. Or you can check the Theatre and Dance website for posted sides. Which you should download and print for your reference. (fresnostate.edu/theatrearts).

You may also contact the director for information about the play.

It is strongly recommended that those interested in being considered for “A Raisin in the Sun,” read the play or watch the Movie/play available on YouTube.

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. All those planning to audition, should fill out an audition form and be prepared to submit this form at the audition.

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.

You are encouraged to view the monologue samples shown here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bfy28AIY-TQ>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EZgxRpbFNSs>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Fpy2r61Vsh4>

HOW WILL I KNOW IF I AM CALLED BACK OR CAST?

A callback or cast list will be posted the evening of Friday, May 9th on the Theatre and Dance website.

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?

- Tentatively, rehearsals will begin Tuesday, August 19th @ 6:30 p.m., Woods Theatre.
- Rehearsal times are 6:30-10:30 p.m., MWF from 08/19 – 09/15. From 09/15 – 10/03, rehearsals will be M-F at the same times. *Not all actors are called to all rehearsals until after 2 weeks of individual scenes and targeted areas from the play. But all cast members should be free during these days and times from 08/19/25 to 10/11/25.*
- Tech Week Rehearsals: Sunday, September 28th, 1:00-9:00 p.m., 12:30 Call Dress/Techs, Mon., Sept. 29th – Thurs. Oct. 2nd, 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 2nd, 6:30 call; 7:30 curtain
- Actors agreeing to participate in this play should not have any conflicts during this period. This is a hard rule. Tech rehearsals cannot be missed for any reasons. Please adjust your calendars to accommodate these dates.
- Please be sure to be specific with conflicts on your audition form.

WHEN ARE PERFORMANCES:

October 3 - 4 and 7 – 11, 2025 at 7:30 p.m. and October 5, 2025 at 2:00 p.m. (1:00pm Call)

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

- First and foremost, all actors cast in May 2025, must be entirely off book, (lines totally memorized) by our first rehearsal, August 19th. Not having lines completely memorized for all scenes, is cause to be dismissed from this production.
- 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?

- We will be meeting one or two times during the summer of 2025. Exact dates will be discussed after casting in May.

- 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 A RAISIN IN THE SUN CONFLICT WITH ANY OTHER UNIVERSITY THEATRE PRODUCTIONS?

As it stands now, A RAISIN IN THE SUN can conflict with the GODSPELL, which opens Friday, November 14th, 2025. A RAISIN IN THE SUN will cause actors to miss one or two weeks of rehearsal for GODSPELL. Any actor planning to participate in the second show of the season, will need to consult the Theatre and Dance website for the GODSPELL rehearsal schedule. And it is necessary for those interested in participating in GODSPELL, to contact that director for their approval to miss several days of rehearsal from that show. Naturally, actors in A RAISIN IN THE SUN cannot miss any performances or rehearsals to attend rehearsals for another play. If you have questions about this, contact the director of this play for more information.

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 YouTube movie of the 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?

"A Raisin in the Sun" is an award-winning play written in the 1950's. It deals with issues of racial discrimination in housing, women's rights, religion, abortion and how the introduction of a large amount of money rips a family apart.

The family cannot decide how an insurance payout should be used. Should they purchase a new home outside their poverty- stricken neighborhood? Should they send their first-generation college student (sister-daughter) to med school? Or should Walter Lee, the new head of the house, be allowed to invest the money into a small business to give the family true independent financial security?

WHAT ARE THE ROLES?

Walter Younger

The protagonist of the play. Walter is a dreamer. He wants to be rich and devises plans to acquire wealth with his friends, particularly Willy Harris. When the play opens, he wants to invest his father's insurance money in a new liquor store venture. He spends the rest of the play endlessly preoccupied with discovering a quick solution to his family's various problems.

[Read an in-depth analysis of Walter Younger.](#)

Beneatha Younger

Mama's daughter and Walter's sister. Beneatha is an intellectual. Twenty years old, she attends college and is better educated than the rest of the Younger family. Some of her personal beliefs and views have distanced her from conservative Mama. She dreams of being a doctor and struggles to determine her identity as a well-educated Black woman.

[Read an in-depth analysis of Beneatha Younger.](#)

Mama (Lena Younger)

Walter and Beneatha's mother. The matriarch of the family, Mama is religious, moral, and maternal. She wants to use her husband's insurance money as a down payment on a house with a backyard to fulfill her dream for her family to move up in the world.

[Read an in-depth analysis of Mama.](#)

Walter Younger Sr. (Big Walter)

Mama's deceased husband and father to Walter Lee and Beneatha. Although Big Walter never appears in the play, his family often reflects on his big dreams and laments the fact that, despite working himself to the bone, he never achieved them. The insurance money that the Youngers receive in the wake of Big Walter's death serves as the catalyst for the play's central conflict.

[Read an in-depth analysis of Walter Younger Sr.](#)

Ruth Younger

Walter's wife and Travis's mother. Ruth takes care of the Youngers' small apartment. Her marriage to Walter has problems, but she hopes to rekindle their love. She is about thirty, but her weariness makes her seem older. Constantly fighting poverty and domestic troubles, she continues to be an emotionally strong woman. Her almost pessimistic pragmatism helps her to survive.

[Read an in-depth analysis of Ruth Younger.](#)

Joseph Asagai

A Nigerian student in love with Beneatha. Asagai, as he is often called, is very proud of his African heritage, and Beneatha hopes to learn about her African heritage from him. He eventually proposes marriage to Beneatha and hopes she will return to Nigeria with him.

[Read an in-depth analysis of Joseph Asagai.](#)

George Murchison

A wealthy, African-American man who courts Beneatha. The Youngers approve of George, but Beneatha dislikes his willingness to submit to white culture and forget his African heritage. He challenges the thoughts and feelings of other Black people through his arrogance and flair for intellectual competition.

[Read an in-depth analysis of George Murchison.](#)

Mr. Karl Lindner

The only white character in the play. Mr. Lindner arrives at the Youngers' apartment from the Clybourne Park Improvement Association. He offers the Youngers a deal to reconsider moving into his (all-white) neighborhood.

[Read an in-depth analysis of Mr. Karl Lindner.](#)

Travis Younger

Walter and Ruth's sheltered young son. Travis earns some money by carrying grocery bags and likes to play outside with other neighborhood children, but he has no bedroom and sleeps on the living-room sofa.

[Read an in-depth analysis of Travis Younger.](#)

Bobo

One of Walter's partners in the liquor store plan. Bobo appears to be as mentally slow as his name indicates.

Willy Harris

A friend of Walter and coordinator of the liquor store plan. Willy never appears onstage, which helps keep the focus of the story on the dynamics of the Younger family.

[Read an in-depth analysis of Willy Harris.](#)

Mrs. Johnson

The Youngers' neighbor. Mrs. Johnson takes advantage of the Youngers' hospitality and warns them about moving into a predominately white neighborhood.

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