

Seminar

Written by Theresa Rebeck | Directed by Brad Myers

WHO MAY AUDITION?

- Auditions are open to all Fresno State students and to community members.
FULL COVID VACCINATION IS STRONGLY SUGGESTED.

HOW DO I GET AN AUDITION FORM?

- Audition forms can be found at the Theatre & Dance website (fresnostate.edu/theatrearts).
- Audition forms will 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. (A Shakespeare monologue is not required)
- Performers without a prepared monologue will be given a monologue to read at the audition.

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

Tuesday, August 22nd | 6:00 – 9:00 p.m.
John Wright Theatre, Speech Arts Building

CALLBACK AUDITIONS for *SEMINAR*

Wednesday, August 23rd, 4:00-7:00 p.m., John Wright Theatre
Thursday, August 24th, 7:00-10:00 p.m., John Wright Theatre

Callbacks will consist of readings of scenes and monologues from the play.

Performers can obtain callback material on the Theatre and Dance website (fresnostate.edu/theatrearts); or by emailing the director, Brad Myers, bradley@csufresno.edu. Sides will also be available at the Preliminary Auditions.

Performers with conflicts with the Preliminary or Callback Auditions may be able to be seen at a different time.

Contact the director:

Brad Myers | bradley@csufresno.edu or 559-285-5686.

HOW WILL I KNOW IF I AM CALLED BACK?

A Callback list will be posted the evening of Tuesday, August 22nd on the Theatre & Dance website (fresnostate.edu/theatrearts)

HOW WILL I KNOW IF I AM CAST?

A cast list will be posted on the above Theatre & Dance website by Friday, afternoon, August 25th.

WHEN ARE REHEARSALS?

- Rehearsals will begin Sunday, October 15th @ 6:00 p.m., John Wright Theatre
- Rehearsal times are 6:00-10:00 p.m., Sundays; 7:00-10:00 p.m., Mondays-Thursdays;
- Tech Week Rehearsals: Sunday, November 26th, 1:00-10:00 p.m.
Dress/Techs, Mon., Nov. 27th-Wed., Nov. 29th, 6:00-10:30 p.m.
Preview Performance, Thursday, Nov. 30th, 6:30 call; 7:30 curtain
- Some conflicts with rehearsals may be accommodated – Contact Brad Myers
- Please be sure to be specific with conflicts on your audition form.

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

- Performers must provide their own makeup kits and hair products

WHEN ARE PERFORMANCES:

Dec. 1st, 2nd, 5th-9th, 6:30 call, 7:30 curtain; Sunday, Dec. 3rd, 1:00 call, 2:00 curtain.

ARE THERE ANY OTHER TIME COMMITMENTS?

- A photo shoot will be scheduled. This typically happens after the Sunday matinee and lasts approximately two hours.
- 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.

DOES *SEMINAR* CONFLICT WITH ANY OTHER UNIVERSITY THEATRE PRODUCTIONS?

SEMINAR conflicts with *AT THE WEDDING*. It is unlikely that a student cast in *SEMINAR* can act in or crew *AT THE WEDDING*. *SEMINAR* does not conflict with *AMERICAN SON* nor with the *ETC Show*. However, it may be inadvisable for actors with major roles in *SEMINAR* to take on any other show commitments during our rehearsal/performance period.

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). You may also email Brad Myers at bradleym@csufresno.edu

WHAT IS THE PLAY ABOUT?

In “Seminar,” a provocative comedy from Pulitzer Prize nominee Theresa Rebeck, four aspiring young novelists sign up for private writing classes with Leonard, an international literary figure. Under his recklessly brilliant and unorthodox instruction, some thrive, and others flounder, alliances are made and broken, sex is used as a weapon, and hearts are unmoored. The wordplay is not the only thing that turns vicious as innocence collides with experience in this biting Broadway comedy.

-A Fresno Premiere

WHAT THE CRITICS WROTE:

"SEXY, SAVVY, AND UPROARIOUS!" (David Cote, *Time Out New York*)

"BIG LAUGHS! AN AUTHENTIC RUSH OF PLEASURE." (Ben Brantley, *The New York Times*)

"ONE OF REBECK'S BEST WORKS." (Mark Kennedy, *Associated Press*)

"THERESA REBECK HITS PLENTY OF BULL'S-EYES, SO SIT BACK AND ENJOY THE RIDE."

(Elisabeth Vincentelli, *New York Post*)

"THE FUNNIEST SHOW ON BROADWAY!" (Joan Hamburg, WOR RADIO)

WHAT ARE THE ROLES?

5 roles (3 men/2 women)

The 4 young novelists may be double-cast

The role of Leonard has been pre-cast

- **KATE** – (F, 20s) The child of affluent New Yorkers, Kate is a defensive, prickly feminist; she's been working on the same short story for years, ever since she received praise for it at college. She has survivor skills born of her intelligence, not her privilege.
- **MARTIN** – (M, 20s) Middle-class, definitely not privileged and has a chip on his shoulder because of that; reluctant to have his writing critiqued in the seminar; uses his acerbic wit as his defense and, not surprisingly, is very sensitive. Martin is tortured by the accomplishments of his colleagues, failing both professionally and financially but convinced he's a writer that deserves to make it in the world.
- **LEONARD (pre-cast)** – (M, 40s-50s) Charismatic, fierce, brilliant, complicated, celebrity writing teacher; he takes no prisoners. Leonard deftly shreds the egos of his students; he's contemptuous of much around him yet he appreciates beauty and honest writing. Past caring what people think of him, he is haunted by self-loathing.
- **DOUGLAS** – (M, 20s) The most successful of the four students and, not coincidentally, best connected; he can actually write, but is constantly accused of "name dropping." He ranges from insufferable to surprising dimensional over the course of the play.
- **IZZY** – (F, 20s) The requisite sexpot, opportunistic, and confident; deemed a good writer from the beginning, she is at the center of the group's romantic conflicts. Even though she is beautiful *she doesn't suffer from "pretty girl syndrome" – she knows what she wants and she'll get it.*

ANY CAST MEMBER MAY RECEIVE 2 UNITS OF CREDIT

WHAT IF I HAVE ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS?

Contact Brad Myers (Director) | Email: bradley@mcsufresno.edu; Cell Phone: 559-285-5686