**GENERAL**

Please see the THEATER EMORY STUDENT AUDITIONS: FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS document for general information about auditions and Theater Emory productions.

Actors may audition for *I am a Moon* (*Moon*), or *The Meantime* (*Meantime*), or for both productions.

- **Moon and Meantime overlap.** Actors can be cast in one or the other production, not both. In any case, Theater Emory and Theater Studies advise involvement in only one major (multi-week) production per semester.
- Student actors are expected to keep up with course work during rehearsal periods. Participation in theater projects requires time management and careful planning with respect to assignments, exams, and papers. Rehearsal or performance is not an excuse for lack of preparation for classes.
- In the audition form actors indicate their interests and priorities, from weighing one production against the other to giving both productions equal weight. Actors may also identify particular roles of interest, if they wish. Directors carefully consider these interests and priorities in casting TE productions.

**TE productions conflicting with student theater productions:** (Check with these organizations for more information.)

- Both Theater Emory productions, *Moon* & *Meantime*, will conflict with the Dooley's Players production of *Richard III*.
- Both Theater Emory productions, *Moon* & *Meantime*, will conflict with the Ad Hoc Productions show, *Title of Show*.
- *Moon* will not conflict with the Emory Chinese Theater Club fall production, but *Meantime* will conflict with this show.
- Neither Theater Emory show this fall should conflict with the later ECTC production (to open in early 2016).
- Note also the casting opportunity open to students in the mixed media gallery event, *And She Was* (see separate handout for more information). *And She Was* conflicts with *Meantime* and with some of the fall student theater productions mentioned above.

**Hard copies of scripts may be read in Rich 229.**

Audition speeches and instructions are located in the hall near the Auditions Sign up sheet - outside Rich 207.

**Online access to scripts, descriptions, audition speeches and instructions can be found on Blackboard:**

- You may email Robert Schultz robert.schultz@emory.edu and ask to be enrolled (also giving you access for future auditions).

**OR**

You can self-enroll for the Blackboard site in this manner:

- Go to Blackboard- [https://classes.emory.edu/webapps/portal/frameset.jsp](https://classes.emory.edu/webapps/portal/frameset.jsp) and Log-in
- Select "Organizations" from menu in blue at top of page
- In Organization Search enter "Theater Emory Student Auditions" & click on resulting Organization link
- Click on link to enroll – disregard the “Access Denied” message on next page
- Click on the link "+ Enroll" in the left margin
- On next page click "Submit"
- Then click OK - Welcome to the site!

Sign up to schedule an audition appointment on the callboard outside Rich 207 on or after Aug. 26 (can't do this online).

- Audition appointments lasting 75 minutes begin at 10:00AM on Saturday, Aug. 29.
- Callbacks will be held between 12:30 and 5:30PM on Sunday, Aug. 30. Some actors will be called back for a portion of this time.
- On the audition form indicate your availability for callbacks. If you will not be able to attend or if you have other concerns about the auditions or callbacks, please contact Robert Schultz, TE Casting Coordinator: 404-727-6462 robert.schultz@emory.edu (We may be able to work something out.)
- Audition Forms and Actor Info Sheets will also be available starting on Aug. 26 from the Rich Callboard and from the Blackboard site. Forms must be completed by 15 minutes prior to your audition appointment.
- Auditions and Callbacks take place on the second floor of the Rich Memorial Building. Report to the check-in desk outside Rich 205 and turn in your audition form at the desk, 15 minutes prior to your appointment time.

**PREPARATION** (See above regarding Blackboard site, perusal scripts, audition speeches, etc.)

1) **Read the play(s).**
   - You will have an opportunity to let us know which show(s) and role(s) especially interest you.

2) **Prepare 1-2 audition speeches.** You may audition for one or both plays. Memorization is strongly encouraged but it is permissible to read from the text. See further instructions with the audition speeches.
   - Prepare one speech from each of the shows for which you plan to audition.
   - To audition for both, select a *Moon* speech & a *Meantime* speech.
PREPARATION (continued) -
3) Prepare a song (optional – see below)
   • If auditioning for Justin in Moon, we suggest you prepare 30 seconds of any song you choose and perform it without accompaniment. Non-singers may audition for this role – no singing required. (We have ways of making the role work with a non-singer.) (See role descriptions below for more information)
   • For Meantime, singing ability is a plus. We suggest you prepare 30 seconds of any song you choose and perform it without accompaniment. (Non-singers are also considered so this is not required.) (See role descriptions below for more information)

PRODUCTIONS AND ROLES
Theater Emory productions are open to all students. You need not be a Theater Studies major. For tech work or other non-acting involvement, please contact Rosalind Staib at rstaib@emory.edu. All types, all races, all ethnicities are encouraged to audition.

I AM A MOON, by Zhu Yi, Directed by Janice Akers

First Rehearsal- Sept. 8  Performances- Oct. 1-10
Zhu Yi is a playwright and screenwriter, currently in residence as a Youngblood Writer with the Ensemble Studio Theatre in New York. She received her MFA in Playwriting at Columbia University and is adjunct faculty at Nanjing University. Zhu Yi was a guest artist in Theater Emory’s Global Voices staged reading festival in the spring of 2015.

I AM A MOON is a story about love, all manner of love: Love that is beautiful as well as painful, obsessive and possessive, innocent and voyeuristic, misguided and meant to be. Love appears and then disappears as quickly as it arrived. The wounds of love – craters, bruises, hickeyes – are a recurring motif. How we leave marks on one another is the journey of Zhu Yi’s play. Time suspends, the moon appears, strangers meet and memories come in a rush. Everyone feels the mythical pull of the moon at times and the presence of something enigmatic and pervasive. The play is naturalistic for the most part but has moments when the characters seem to lose their sense of gravity; they seem to succumb to slow-motion even in the midst of the most ordinary actions. Thematically, I AM A MOON explores the East/West perceptions of intimacy, self-image and the body with humor, lyricism and mystery.

MOON Characters

THE HOST (female – any ethnicity)
She is the professional in the command center of a private space flight company such as Virgin Galactic. She knows her science regarding the moon. She is inquisitive and can deliver quips with the best of them. She is appealing and confident and flirts with the Astronaut from her station on earth. He should be able to feel her smiles all the way up in space. The Host and the Astronaut develop a kind of long-distance relationship throughout the play. She worries for his safety; she tries to understand what it is the Astronaut is truly seeking. She asks him questions and in a way, guides the Astronaut through his own experience and feelings. While he searches for the Moon Lady in a silent world, the Host’s voice is his only contact. In a way, she IS the lady waiting on the moon.

ANGELA (female – any ethnicity)
Cheerful, sunny personality on the outside. Curious about everything and everybody. Smart and funny. 23 years old. Wears glasses and a bit nerdy. A mathematics major/graduate student at an Ivy League University. Very self-conscious about her weight. She was wounded by her family’s comments growing up. Deep inside she is sensitive and feels she has such potential! She is fascinated by The Man and spies on him through his window. She has a crush on Justin. When she feels upset, she goes to the supermarket. She feels empathy for the bruised apple nobody will pick. She intuitively understands loneliness. Her emotions run so deeply that her laughter becomes sobs that originate from some subterranean place inside of her. She yearns for real connection. To understand Angela, you have to understand she could say this about Justin: “When I stood amongst those girls, suddenly I realized one thing. We could stand there for 300 years. And none of us would get a chance to be really close to you. We were wasting time and passion! I felt so desperate!” Angela makes The Man finally laugh.

THE MAN (male – Asian)
He is suspended in time in his own memory. He is in love with the elusive – yet absolutely available – pornographic film actress Ai Iijima. She had an unforgettable impact as he was coming of age. Sometimes his memories about her float in quietly, sometimes they come in a rush because he is energized by what he remembers. The Man has been successful in his career and achieved a certain status. He has the capacity to be very focused and very still in certain moments. When the actress died, he became unmoored like an astronaut cut loose from his spaceship. What he knows about himself is that he is still looking for “her.” His painful wound is that no one will ever be - can never be - “her”. What he doesn’t know is that Angela has been watching him.
MOON Characters (continued) -

JUSTIN (male – any ethnicity)
A gay, young rock star. In his 20’s. Enrolled in an MFA music program at the same university as Angela. He is appealing to young women and he knows that. The Justin character is both a comic and poignant role. From an acting standpoint, how he reacts to things, how he becomes distracted by trivial stuff, is funny. But, there is a part of Justin that deeply understands the wounds of love and that is why he is fascinated by the girl dancing on the piano. A heartthrob to young women, he can incite frenzied crowds, but he is conflicted about all the paparazzi attention he gets because it makes him feel pressured about his public image. He’s in love with the man on the other end of the phone: Tony. It is an obsessive, jealous love. Justin may be destined to repeat his mistakes in love over and over again. He tries to pull himself together at the end of the play and head back out into the night but the wounds – the craters and the bruises – have already had their impact.
Justin knows he is never going to be like his publicity poster.
(It’s not mandatory that the actor playing Justin be able to sing and/or accompany himself on guitar or other instrument (because this action can be dubbed or otherwise “theatricalized”) but if you HAVE any of these skills please show them. Actors are asked to (optionally) sing a song without accompaniment at the audition. If you are an instrumentalist we encourage you to note this on the audition form and be prepared to demonstrate that skill at callbacks. If you neither sing nor play an instrument you will still be considered for this role.)

YOUNG MEI/GIRL 1/GIRL 2 (female – Asian)
YOUNG MEI: This role will share some of the lines spoken by the older character of Mei. Please review the Mei role in the play. As Mei recalls events of her past, YOUNG MEI will behave as if she is in the present moment: in college, chasing after the professor, interacting with her sisters, falling in love with Jimmy. YOUNG MEI lives through the events and moments in tandem with Mei. YOUNG MEI (like the older version of herself) tends to follow her passions. While she is educated, she chose a life running a fruit store. The fruit represents for her an existence that is colorful, sensual, natural and full of the juice of life. She “lives” in Mei’s memory as her younger self. She loves what Mei loves and she bears the same wound: She is haunted by the mob that hunted down the professor. She is haunted by the memory of the blood on the professor’s face and the blood on her fingers.
GIRL 1: Wears glasses. Young, innocent, awkward. Smiles to cover her embarrassment. Represents love in its most naïve and innocent phase. It is so new to her she can hardly speak.
GIRL 2: GIRL 2 is YOUNG MEI. Does not wear glasses. More poised than GIRL 2. After a few moments, she gently removes BOY 1’s glasses and initiates the kiss. Represents the first connection with love, the first gentle foray into beginning a relationship. The kiss is tender. It is the first kiss the BOY has ever had.
Mei and Jimmy’s son who is talked about in the play turns out to be the Astronaut.

YOUNG JIMMY/BOY 1 (male – Asian)
YOUNG JIMMY: This role will share some of the lines spoken by the older character of Jimmy. Please review the Jimmy role in the play. As Jimmy recalls events of his past, YOUNG JIMMY will behave as if he is in the present moment: in college, yearning to become a pilot, chasing after the professor, falling in love with Mei. YOUNG JIMMY is also the BOY 1 who receives his first successful kiss from GIRL 2/YOUNG MEI. YOUNG JIMMY lives through the events and moments in tandem with Jimmy. He is eager to see the world clearly, eager to grow up and have a plan for his life. Determined to meet the girl with long hair he encountered in the crowd. He can be a bit of a philosopher at times. He stares up at the moon a lot and questions whether the true version of the world is the one seen through the clarity of glasses or whether his skewed version of things – the “hairy yellow chunk” of a moon he saw as a nearsighted boy - is the real deal. He carries one very painful wound inside of him: the death of the actress Ai Iijima. The loss of this “love” might have made him determined to find his own version of real love, the girl with the long hair.
BOY 1: Struggles with the challenges of courting a girl when both are wearing glasses. Awkward, shy, embarrassed. Tries to get out of the situation by asking GIRL 1 about the time. After GIRL 2 removes his glasses, however, he is under the spell of her kiss.
Jimmy and Mei’s son who is talked about in the play turns out to be the Astronaut.

(Professional actors play the roles of Astronaut, Jimmy, and Mei.)
MOON Characters (continued) -

THE MOON LADY / THE ACTRESS AI IJJIMA (female – Asian)
No text. A silent role. This character appears at the end of the play. The beautiful and enigmatic MOON LADY haunts the memories of The Man and is the muse for the Astronaut. Her presence permeates the atmosphere of the play. She is fragile as a piece of glass, carrying her wounds deeply inside her. She arrives through the "moon" in her silvery blue dress and bare feet, seemingly floating across space. She silently ascends the steps up to where The Man is seated, dreaming once again of her. She creates the final stage image with The Man as the lights begin to fade. She brings magic into the play.
(This role could be played by Young Mei or will be cast separately with a different actress.)

THE MEANTIME: A TRAVELING RADIO SPECTACLE – Written & Directed by Brent Glenn
(First Rehearsal- Sept. 30. Performances- Nov. 5 - 15.)

“Welcome to The Meantime, the only time traveling vaudevillian cabaret live radio show and coffee bar playing on this campus tonight.” This chaotic evening is filled with comedy, horror, singing, dancing, romance, sound effects and hot chocolate. Join Serling, Reginald, Calliope and Gretchen as they travel with their intrepid band of performers, The Chronic Argonauts, from here to there, from when to where, performing great radio shows of the past and present while searching for…something. The audience watches from the safety of their kitchen or living room, traveling into the past and future with the performers. “Why radio shows? Every sound we make creates a wave that is then transduced and amplified to create another wave. These waves roll out into the night like ripples in a stream until they are nothing but a memory of the sound—a breadcrumb to follow if one is trying to hear. Maybe we are leaving a trail through time.” [Check out the links posted in the Theater Emory Student Auditions Blackboard site in the folder, “THE MEANTIME Examples of the Genre”.]
These roles are played by professional actors:

- **Reginald Hertz** – The boisterous ringleader of the traveling radio spectacle.
- **Serling Fessender** – Reginald’s comrade in arms and able friend, Abbott to his Costello.
- **Calliope “Pill” Dickle** – Calliope is a ghostly presence. She may or may not be real.
- **Gretchen Blodgett** – Sassy and brash, Gretchen is a true “dame” from the 1920’s era.

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