



CASTING NOTICE for **AS BEES IN HONEY DROWN**

The Farmington Players presents **As Bees in Honey Drown**, a snappily written social satire by Douglas Carter Beane. It skewers the very concept of fame and our endless fascination with image over substance — and offers six challenging roles that will stretch any actor's talents to the limit.

Director: Michael A. Smith
Assistant Director: Phil Hadley
Producer: Marilyn Zerlak

Audition location: The Farmington Players Barn Theater, 32332 West 12 Mile Road, Farmington Hills, MI 48334

When: Sunday, November 4, 2018 at 1:00 p.m. (Registration begins at 12:30 p.m.)

Contact: *For further information — or to obtain a PDF of the script — please contact the director, Mike Smith, at mike@creativesmith.com or via his cell at (248) 763-6019.*

Show dates: The show runs the following dates: February 8, 9, 10 (matinee), 15, 16, 17 (matinee), 21, 22, 23. All shows are 8:00 p.m. except Sunday matinees, which are at 2:00 p.m.

Rehearsals: The rehearsal schedule will be finalized at the first read through on Thursday, November 8. **Mandatory rehearsal dates: January 27, 28, 29, 31, February 1, 4, 5, 6.**

Cuttings of the script for audition purposes are available at www.farmingtonplayers.org. Please familiarize yourself with your part before you arrive.

SYNOPSIS

Evan Wyler has just finished a photo session with his shirt off. No, he's not a supermodel; he's a twenty-something New York writer savoring the success of his debut novel. Defined by the media as the "hot, young thing-of-the-moment," Evan captures the attention of Alexa Vere de Vere, a black-clad woman of mystery who's made the world of celebrity her home. In fact, it's her religion. Maybe she's a record producer, maybe she's a film agent; what is clear is that she wants Evan to write the screenplay of her life story. "Just spend time with me," she says, "and you'll learn all you need to know." To Evan — who is gay — it's like an invitation into the world of Auntie Mame, Sally Bowles and Holly Golightly all rolled into one. But once Evan fools himself into believing he loves Alexa, she vanishes — leaving him to foot the bill for all the dinners and Armani suits they've gone through. Trying to find Alexa, Evan discovers a chain of people who have fallen under her spell and acted as her meal ticket. For Alexa has no money, no job, no life of her own — only the one she's created for herself. As Alexa puts it: "You're not the person you were born — who wonderful is?"

LEAD CHARACTERS:

Alexa Vere de Vere — Actress is slender, elegant, and can play a mid-thirties femme fatale. Alexa is a tour de force of grace, guile and seduction. She must command the stage and hold the audience captive for the entire show to make this part work and, as such, it will be a wonderful dramatic challenge for any actress. 340 speeches, many soliloquies and one page-and-a-half confession (of sorts).

Evan Wyler — Actor is dashing, athletic, and can play mid- to late-twenties. Must be willing to appear on stage in just his underwear, so now is the time to begin your workout routine and diet for the part. For the audition, please wear clothing that will give us some idea of your physique. Evan is the dupe of the play, a gay man who is seduced and ultimately conned by Alexa. Witty repartee, good comic timing and a range of emotions are the keys to making this role shine. 351 speeches; several soliloquies.

FOUR ACTORS will play the denizens of New York City:

Actor #1 (plays the photographer; Swen; the Royalton clerk; and Kaden) — Actor is mid-30s to mid-50s and must create four distinct characters including one with a passable Swedish accent:

- The lawyer Morris Kaden is the plum role here — an acerbic man who lays out the con to the horrified Evan;

- The photographer opens the play with Wyler and introduces the themes of fame and image. He will be a flamboyant, larger than life artiste;
- Swen is a Swedish model with only a couple of lines — an accent will be required;
- The Royalton clerk mans the front desk of the Royalton Hotel and must confront Wyler with a large bill. He is all business.

All require crisp dialogue exchanges and timing as well as multiple costume changes. 129 speeches.

Actor #2 (plays Ronald, Skunk and Mike) — Actor is late-twenties to mid-thirties and must create three distinct roles as follows:

- Ronald is the effeminate sales clerk at Lord & Taylor. He acts as a comedic foil for both Alexa and Wyler. This is an active role in a busy scene that will require spot-on timing;
- The cockney Skunk is a rock singer and is one of Alexa's dupes. He starts a fistfight with Evan, so this will be a more physical role. His Cockney accent is required for 25 speeches;
- Mike was Alexa's former roommate and is Evan's gay love interest. He has a long flashback scene with Alexa as she develops her fabulous persona.

This actor has a total of 220 speeches and 3 soliloquies (most are Mike's).

Actress #1 (plays Amber, backup singer, secretary, Bethany, Ginny, a second muse) — Actress is young, slender, can play mid-twenties and must create six distinct characters.

- Amber opens the show as the bored, wine-drinking assistant to the flamboyant photographer;
- She appears in the limo / restaurant as one of Skunk's Cockney back-up singers;
- The plum role for this actress is as Kaden's droll secretary. She acts as the dry foil to her acerbic boss and the beat down Evan Wyler;
- The biting Bethany Vance is one of Alexa's bitterest victims;
- Ginny is a young, naïve violinist who is about to become Alexa's latest victim. The scene is written with Ginny topless, covering her breasts with her arms — the director is NOT requiring that for this role, but is open to the possibility if the actress is game;
- She plays one of Wyler's two muses at the end of the play, replaying the pivotal lines that Alexa used to lure Wyler.

Quick costume changes and the variety of New York characters make this a lively part. 55 speeches.

Actress #2 (plays waiter, backup singer, Carla, newsstand woman, Denise, Illya, a muse) — Actress is mid-20's to mid-50s; no specific body type; must create seven distinct characters:

- The key role for this actress is Illya Mannon — one of Alexa's victims. She requires quick timing and rapid-fire dialogue with Kaden;
- Carla has a quick, scene-stealing cameo in the nightclub. She will require a risqué outfit and a sassy attitude.
- The newsstand woman witnesses the fight between Skunk and Wyler and needs to hold her own in the chaos of the scene.
- She plays one of Wyler's two muses at the end of the play, replaying the pivotal lines that Alexa used to lure Wyler.
- Waiter, back-up singer and Denise are all integral and active non-speaking characters.

This actress has 70 speeches and three non-speaking roles.

Additional roles:

This show requires quick scene changes and, as such, we will need a 3–4 person stage crew that will dress in costume for several scenes. Stage crew will be given specific roles during the run and will be required for every show and the final two weeks of rehearsal.

ALSO . . . the director is looking for an athletic male/female to pose as a statue for the nightclub scene. Must be comfortable in limited clothing (not nude, but definitely showing some skin) and able to hold a pose for up to two minutes. You will be required for every show and the final two weeks of rehearsal.