Purdue University Department of Theatre

Audition Announcement

MISS BENNET: CHRISTMAS AT PEMBERLEY

by Lauren Gunderson and Margot Melcon  
Directed by Kristine Holtvedt  
Performances: November 8-17, 2019

Audition Information:

Generals: Friday, August 23 5:30* p.m. – 10:30 p.m. in PAO 2164  
*Please sign up for a 4 minute slot on the sign up sheet below. Note that slots in the first minutes are reserved for actors cast in These Shining Lives.

Callbacks**: Saturday, August 24 1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. in PAO 2164.  
** Actors who are called back will be notified by email after general auditions.

Audition Requirements:

Purdue Theatre Acting Majors and Acting Certificate Students: Please prepare one audition piece, comic preferred, 1-2 minutes in length

Purdue Theatre Majors, Theatre Minors, Theatre Design and Production Majors and Non-Theatre Majors: Please prepare one audition piece, comic preferred, 1-2 minutes in length. If you do not have a piece prepared, audition material is available on the callboard. Please familiarize yourself with the piece as much as possible before general auditions; it need not be memorized.

A Note on Dialects: The cast of this production will be taught and coached in a British RP (Received Pronunciation) dialect by a trained dialect coach. Use of this dialect is not required in the general audition. If you are prepared to use a British RP dialect at callbacks, please do.

A Note on Staged Intimacy: There are three scripted instances of intimate physical contact in the play, which will be led by a consultant trained in staging intimacy. Roles with scripted physical intimacy required are indicated below. If you do not want to be considered for a role requiring staged intimacy, please note that on your audition form.

Please note: There will be no intimate contact involved in the either general or callback audition.

Enrollment Requirement: Student actors cast in this production must register for 2-3 credits of THTR 536 Rehearsal and Performance.
A Note from the Director, Kristine Holtvedt:

The play takes place over three days during Christmas in 1815, two years after Elizabeth Bennet and Fitzwilliam Darcy marry, at the end of Pride and Prejudice. The play takes place at Darcy’s Pemberley Estate in England.

The actors cast in this production must be able to move effortlessly from comic to more serious moments, and play “in the style” of the period. Miss Bennet is a romantic comedy with a feminist protagonist and message. The play will end with a period dance.

Roles open for audition:

MARY BENNET 20. Finally coming in to her own, she is no longer the plain, boring girl she once was. She has a fire in her now. She is intelligent, curious, and lively, but her family only sees her as a future spinster. She does not suffer fools. She wants to live. (Role requires a kiss with Arthur de Bourgh)

ARTHUR DE BOURGH 25. A studious, unsociable only child who has never been around women or large families. He is a loner who prefers books to people. He has recently inherited a large estate and has no idea what to do next. (Role requires a kiss with Mary Bennet)

ELIZABETH DARCY 22. Married to Mr. Darcy. Confident, charming, and witty. She makes a fun and surprising lady of the house. She is best friends with her sister Jane. (Role requires a kiss with husband Fitzwilliam Darcy)

FITZWILLIAM DARCY 30. A loving, generous, and smart (if slightly stiff) husband. He is quiet and vigilant and thus sees what others often miss. He knows what being lovelorn is like. (Role requires a kiss with Elizabeth Darcy)

JANE BINGLEY 24. Married to Mr. Bingley. She is seven months pregnant with her first child and is sweet and optimistic as ever. The kindest heart in the house. (Role requires some intimate contact with husband Charles Bingley)

CHARLES BINGLEY 25. Gracious, happy, and ever focused on the love of his life, Jane. A good friend and always ready with a smile. (Role requires some intimate contact with Jane Bingley)

LYDIA WICKHAM 17. Flirtatious, youthful, self-centered. Her marriage to Mr. Wickham is a sham but she will not admit this. She is the person you want to have at your party: energetic, engaging, unstoppable.

ANNE de BOURGH 20’s. Only daughter of the late Lady Catherine de Bourgh. Lived in her mother’s very large shadow, never having to ask for anything or speak for herself her entire life. Judgmental and impatient, just like her mother.

SERVANTS One Butler, one Maid, who will understudy the male and female roles, and will also take part in the action during the Transitions and scenes.

For questions, contact:
Production Director Kristine Holtvedt holtvedt@purdue.edu
Associate Production Manager Fritz Bennett fbennett@purdue.edu