

# AUDITION CALL



JANUARY 11&12

# Harvey

by Mary Chase

Attend Either Day  
Registration 6:30pm • Auditions 7:00pm

GARY HALL • DIRECTOR  
RUTH GRIFFIN • AD / STAGE MANAGER

all about  
FLOWERS  
& GIFTS

MURPHY•PITARD  
JEWELERS  
SINCE 1939

Production Dates  
March 1-3, 7-9

You've never met anyone like Elwood P. Dowd. He's a very likeable guy from a forgotten era who's never met a stranger, and his best friend is a 6'3" white rabbit named Harvey. This is not good news for his sister, Veta, who is struggling to reach the top of her local social ladder. What follows is a comedy of errors resulting in mistaken identities, misdiagnoses and a search for the elusive rabbit that reminds us to embrace the quirks that make us special.

Director Gary Hall grew up with SAAC in his blood; he performed in his first show on the SAAC stage in 1975 and hasn't showed signs of slowing down since. He holds a BA in Radio, TV, and Film from UALR and an MA in Theatre from Louisiana Tech. With well over 100 shows to his credit, he has filled roles onstage, backstage, and everywhere in between, ranging from design to directing. He has directed extensively at SAAC, including *Damn Yankees*, *Picnic*, *White Christmas*, *Sunset Boulevard*, and most recently, *Deathtrap*. The Director of Entertainment and Media Arts at South Arkansas College, Gary is excited to return to *Harvey*, a show he originally appeared in as a teenager. He played Dr. Chumley in the EHS production, and he is thrilled to be going "full circle" with this charming play.

Assistant director Ruth Griffin is a technical and creative powerhouse, having served in roles from costumer to director to stage manager, while also appearing onstage. She spends her days teaching costume design, musical theatre and technical theatre at EHS, and most of her evenings at rehearsal somewhere!



# AUDITION CALL

South Arkansas Arts Center  
110 East 5th St  
El Dorado, AR  
870-862-5474  
www.saac-arts.org

MURPHY•PITARD  
JEWELERS  
SINCE 1939

all about  
FLOWERS  
& GIFTS

# Harvey

Auditions 7:00pm  
Thursday, Jan. 11  
Friday, Jan. 12

Registration 6:30pm • Auditions 7:00pm  
Attend Either Day

Rehearsals Begin Jan 22  
Production Dates March 1-3, 7-9

## PARTS AVAILABLE

### Roles for 6 Men & 6 Women

Ages range from about 20 to 80s. Anyone 17 and up who can look or act the part is welcome to audition. No restrictions on ethnic or racial background.

## AUDITION PREPARATION

Lobby opens a half hour before auditions. Arrive in time to fill out an audition form and get a head shot. Please bring your calendar and provide a complete list of rehearsal conflicts.

**Monologues:** All auditionees will be asked to read a monologue from the show. The director has selected 5 options to choose from, which are available on the SAAC website or in the office. Memorizing the monologue is not required but welcomed. Expect to be given some direction and then perform it again.

**Scene Readings:** The director will provide scene readings for Auditions and Callbacks. If needed, Callbacks will be scheduled directly with individual actors. No advance preparation is necessary. Auditionees are encouraged to read the script before auditions. Script copies are available at the SAAC Office and may be checked out for a period of 48 hours for reading.

Further information is available by calling the SAAC Office at 870-862-5474.



Thur, Dec 14, 5:30-7pm  
Meet & Greet with  
Director Gary Hall  
and AD Ruth Griffin

Hosted with the Artist Receptions for  
SAAC Membership & Student Showcase

**Elwood P. Dowd (Lead, Age 35-55)** a charming eccentric whose best friend is Harvey, an invisible six-foot-tall rabbit. Elwood is well mannered, very friendly, and has "old-school gentleman charm". Soft-spoken and perhaps a bit naïve.

**Dr. William B. Chumley (Age 50-80)** an esteemed psychiatrist and the head of Chumley's Rest with years of experience. He is a difficult, exacting, but somewhat comedic man who will go to any length to protect the reputation of his sanitarium.

**Dr. Lyman Sanderson (Age 25-35)** a young and highly qualified psychiatrist. Very stiff and self-impressed, but somewhat shy around Nurse Kelly.

**Duane Wilson (Age 20-35)** the muscle of Chumley's Rest, a devoted orderly responsible for handling the patients who will not cooperate voluntarily. Big muscles with brains that are less so. Needs some comedic timing.

**Judge Omar Gaffney (Age 40-80)** an old family friend of the Dowds and the family's lawyer. Devoted to the family and torn between Elwood and Veta.

**E. J. Lofgren (Open Age)** a cab driver whose monologue about sanitarium passengers is crucial to the climax of the play. This role has a single scene near the end and would have a limited rehearsal schedule.

**Veta Louise Simmons (Age 35-55)** Elwood's younger sister. She is very concerned about fitting into society and all the social proprieties that involves. She also loves her older brother Elwood very much - a dynamic that drives the action of the play. Needs some broad comedic skills.

**Ruth Kelly (Age 20-35)** a sympathetic character, a pretty young woman who has a love/hate relationship with Dr. Sanderson. She is sweet and kind and looks for the best in people.

**Myrtle Mae Simmons (Age 18-30)** Veta's Daughter (Elwood's Niece) is somewhat self-centered and socially awkward. A good chance to play to comedic talent.

**Ethel Chauvenet (Age 50-80)** Mrs. Chauvenet is an old friend of the family. She is an elite member of the town's social circle.

**Betty Chumley (Age 50-80)** Dr. Chumley's kind and talkative wife. Can be older and very cultured or young and socially unaware.

# AUDITION FORM



Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_ Employment \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: Cell \_\_\_\_\_ Work \_\_\_\_\_ Home \_\_\_\_\_

Age \_\_\_\_\_ Height \_\_\_\_\_ Build \_\_\_\_\_ Hair Color \_\_\_\_\_

Shirt Size \_\_\_\_\_ Pants \_\_\_\_\_ Dress \_\_\_\_\_ Shoes \_\_\_\_\_

If you are not cast, would you be interested in working on a show crew? \_\_\_\_\_

Please check to confirm you have completed the calendar on back, listing in detail your schedule from Jan 22 - March 9.

Roles auditioning for \_\_\_\_\_

Will you take any role offered? \_\_\_\_\_

Please list any acting experience

Please list any stage combat, dance or movement experience or any physical limitations.

Please list any additional talents or physical comedy experience.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

## CHARACTERS

### **Elwood**

*Lead, 35-55*  
an eccentric whose  
best friend is  
Harvey

### **Dr. Chumley**

*Male, 50-80*  
Psychiatrist

### **Dr. Sanderson**

*Male, 25-35*  
Psychiatrist.

### **Duane Wilson**

*Male, 20-35*  
Orderly

### **Judge Gaffney**

*Male, 40-80*  
Family's Lawyer.

### **E. J. Lofgren**

*Male, Open Age*  
Cab Driver

### **Veta Louise**

*Female, 35-55*  
Elwood's Sister

### **Ruth Kelly**

*Female, 20-35*  
Nurse

### **Myrtle Mae**

*Female, 18-30*  
Veta's Daughter  
Elwood's Niece

### **Ethel**

**Chauvenet**  
*Female, 50-80*  
Family Friend

### **Betty Chumley**

*Female, 50-80*  
Dr. Chumley's Wife

### **Miss Johnson**

*Female, Open Age*

# Open Audition Call • Thursday & Friday, Jan 11-12

Registration Opens at 6:30pm • Fill out an audition form and have your picture taken.

Auditions at 7:00pm • Attend either day. These will be closed auditions. Everyone will wait in the lobby until called into the theater.

## Preparing for Auditions:

- Be prepared to read a monologue. Select one of the monologues provided. You will be given some direction and then perform it again.
- Monologues do not need to be memorized, but is preferred.
- Expect cold readings from the script.

Please list in detail your schedule from Jan 22 - March 9. Include any regular or special activities that occur on any of the dates below. The schedule can be made to accommodate a limited number of cast rehearsal conflicts.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
7 JAN	8	9	10	11 12 <b>AUDITION CALL</b> Attend Either Day 6:30 Registration • 7:00 Auditions	13	
14	15 MLK Day No School EIDo SAAC Class Begin	16	17			20
21	22 <b>REHEARSAL BEGINS &gt;&gt;&gt;</b>	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31	1 FEB	2 Penguin Project	3 Penguin Project
4 <b>SET WORK DAY</b>	5	6	7	8	9 EIDo Film Festival	10 EIDo Film Festival
11 EIDo Film Festival	12	13	14 Valentine's Day	15	16 No School EIDo	17
18	19 Presidents' Day No School EIDo	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29 Rehearsal Full Dress	1 <b>Production</b> Champagne Opening MARCH	2 <b>Production</b>
3 <b>Production</b>	4 TBD Dark	5 TBD Dark	6 Rehearsal Full Dress	7 <b>Production</b>	8 <b>Production</b>	9 <b>Production</b> (Closing)



## HARVEY by Mary Chase

**ELWOOD:** One night, several years ago, I was walking early in the evening, alone. Fairfax Street—between 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>. I had just helped Ed Hickey into a taxi. Ed had been mixing his rye with his gin, and I felt he needed some help getting home. I started to walk down the street when I heard a voice saying, “Good evening, Mr. Dowd.” I turned and there was this great white rabbit leaning against a lamp post. Well, I thought nothing of that because when you live in a town as long as I have lived in this one, you get used to the fact that everybody knows your name. Naturally I went over to chat with him. He said to me, “Ed Hickey was a little spiffed this evening, or could I be mistaken?” Well, of course he was not mistaken. I think the world and all of Ed, but he *was* spiffed. So we stood there and talked and finally I said, “You have the advantage of me. You know my name, but I don’t know yours.” Right back at me he said, “What name do you like?” Well, I didn’t even have to think a minute. Harvey has always been my favorite name. So I said, “Harvey”—and this is the interesting part of the whole thing. He said, “What a coincidence. My name happens to be Harvey!”



## HARVEY by Mary Chase

**ELWOOD:** Aunt Ethel. What a pleasure to come home and find a beautiful woman waiting for me. Aunt Ethel, I want you to meet Harvey. As you can see, he's a Pooka. *(To HARVEY)* Harvey, you've often heard me speak of Mrs. Chauvenet. We always called her Aunt Ethel. She's one of my oldest and dearest friends. *(Listens.)* Yes—yes—that's right—she's the one. *(ETHEL looks around wildly.)* Harvey said he would have known you anywhere. Now come along, Harvey. We must say hello to the rest of the guest. *(Bows to Ethel.)* I beg your pardon, Aunt Ethel. *(Puts his hands on her arm.)* You are standing in his way. *(To HARVEY)* Come along, Harvey. *(He watches Harvey cross to the door.)* Huh-uh *(He straightens Harvey's tie and takes a speck of dirt off his suit coat.)* You look fine. Now go right on in. *(Elwood turns back to Ethel.)* Aunt Ethel, I can see you're disturbed about Harvey. Please don't be. He stares like that at everyone. It's his way. But he liked you. I could tell. He liked you very much.





## HARVEY by Mary Chase

**ELWOOD:** Harvey and I sit in bars and play the jukebox. Soon the faces of the other people turn toward mine and smile. They're saying, "We don't know your name, mister, but you're a lovely fellow." Harvey and I warm ourselves in all these golden moments. We have entered as strangers... and soon we have friends. They talk to us. They tell about the terrible things they have done. The big wonderful things they *will* do. Their hopes, their regrets, their loves, their hates. All large, because nobody ever brings anything small into a bar. And then I introduce them to Harvey. And he is bigger and grander than anything they can offer me. When they leave, they leave impressed. These same people seldom come back because they've told what they need to tell, and they've seen a little bit of a miracle. They no longer have a need to go back to a bar again.



## HARVEY by Mary Chase

**LOFGREN:** Listen, lady, I've been drivin' this route 15 years. I've brought 'em out here to get their injections, and then drove' em back after they got it. It changes 'em. On the way out here, they sit back and enjoy the ride. They talk to me. Sometimes we stop and watch the sunsets and look at birds flying. Sometimes we stop and watch the birds when there ain't no birds and look at the sunsets when it's rainin'. We have a swell time, and I always get a big tip. But afterwards... huh uh! They crab, crab, crab. They yell at me to watch the lights, watch the brakes, watch the intersection. They scream at me to hurry. They got no faith in me or my cab, yet it's the same cab, same driver, same road. It's no fun... and no tips. Lady, after this he'll be a perfectly normal human being... and you know what bastards they are. I'll be out in my cab.



# DAILY Actor

## HARVEY by Mary Chase

**VETA:** Yes, Doctor... he's... this isn't easy for me, Doctor. I noticed it right away when Mother died, and Myrtle Mae and I came back home to live with Elwood. I could see that he... that he... Doctor, everything I say to you is confidential, isn't it? Doctor, I want Elwood committed out here permanently because I can't stand another day of that Harvey. Myrtle and I have to set a place at the table for Harvey. We have to move over on the sofa and make a place for Harvey. We have to answer the telephone when Elwood calls and asks to speak to Harvey. Then, at the party this afternoon—*(overcome, she pauses for a moment.)* We didn't know about Harvey until we came back here. Doctor, don't you think it would have been a little kinder of Mother to have written and told me about Harvey? Harvey is a rabbit, a big white rabbit, six feet high—or is it six feet and a half? Heaven knows that I ought to know. He's been around the house long enough. My brother's closest friend is this big white rabbit. He and Elwood go every place together. Elwood buys theatre tickets, railroad tickets for both of them. As I told Myrtle Mae—if your uncle is so lonesome he had to bring something home—why couldn't he bring home something human? He has me, doesn't he? He has Myrtle Mae. *(Leans forward.)* Doctor, I'm going to tell you something I've never told anybody in the world before. *(Takes a deep breath.)* Every once in a while, I see that big white rabbit myself. Now isn't that terrible? I've never even told Myrtle Mae. And what's more, he's every bit as big as Elwood says he is. But don't tell anybody I told you so.