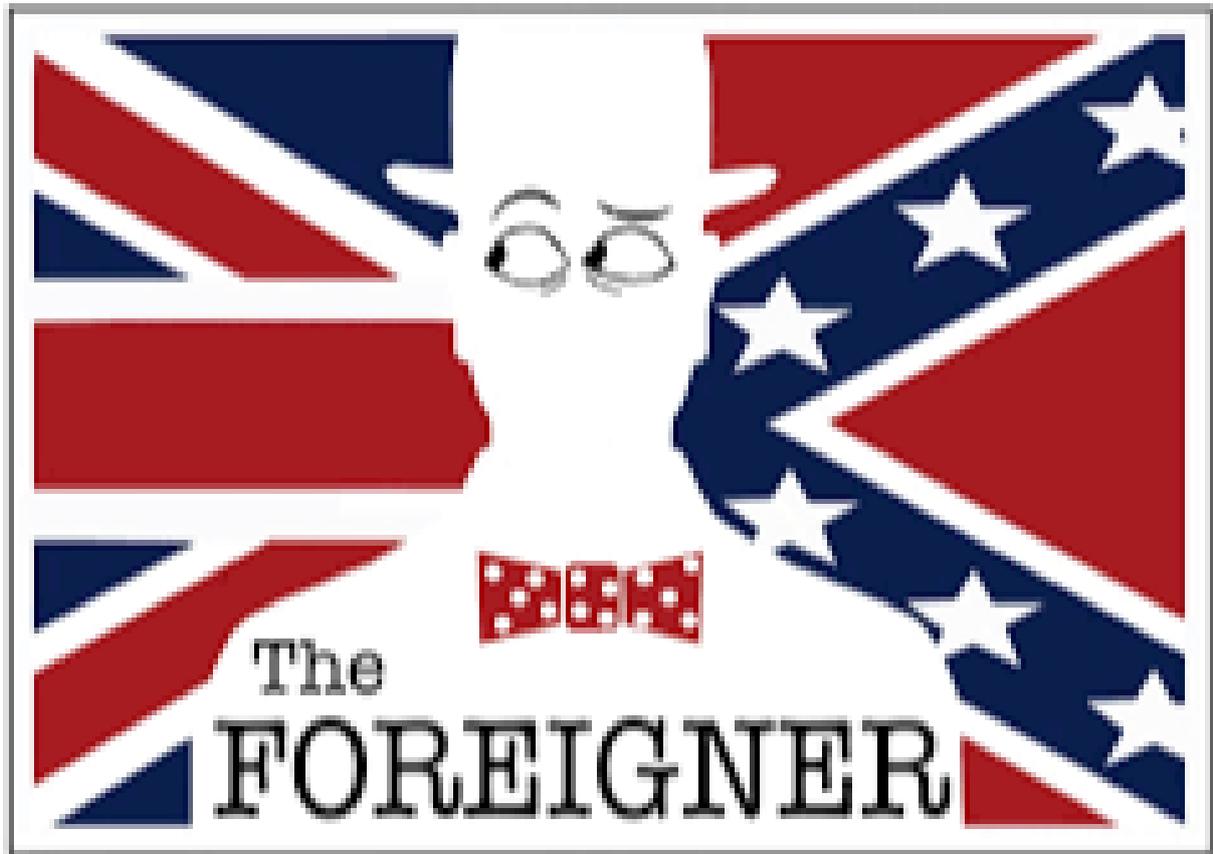




Audition

The Foreigner



by Larry Shue

Saturday 24th August 10 am

Place: Play Shed, The Play Shed is the Home of Nash Theatre located behind the Merthyr Road Uniting Church, 52 Merthyr Road New Farm or the Play Shed can be accessed via Amity Street.

Register your interest or have questions, contact Gary Kliger on 0417 012 418 (after 5pm daily) or email garykliger@yahoo.com.au stating your name and contact details including a mobile phone number.

Casting details are on next page

The Foreigner

The Foreigner by Larry Shue is a very fine piece of writing, a darkly funny mix of comedy and drama with very current messages about racism that are still really alive in society, particularly since the elevation of the current President in the USA.

We meet Charlie and his friend Froggy, two Englishmen who are best friends through army service. Charlie has been brought by Froggy to the backwoods of Georgia, USA, to rest a few days away from his worries back home. Charlie is at the end of his tether and simply doesn't want to have to bother with dealing with anyone. Froggy, through a chance conversation with Betty Meeks, owner of the guesthouse where Charlie is to stay, comes up with a plan. They'll set Charlie up as a Foreigner who doesn't speak English, and that way Charlie won't have to deal with anyone and can simply rest.

Of course, the idea of a Foreigner in this remote location is too exotic for the others to leave Charlie in peace and in his presence, safe in the knowledge that he can't understand what's going on, all sorts of secrets emerge into the light of day.

CHARACTERS

Charlie Baker, English, speaks educated standard English, has reached a time when he's depressed and worried about his life and his wife. Ideally 40s in age (though there is flexibility in that and a range is possible depending upon matching him with Froggy). There is a wonderful challenge here, because Charlie does have a lot of listening to do and that's a skill that we'll have to ensure that he has, without giving away the fact that he does understand what people are saying to him.

Froggy le Sueur, 40s ideally also, but flexible also, speaks in a regional English accent. Open to any sort of accent as long as it can be done well and believably; people can try Cockney, Scots, Irish, any other that you feel comfortable with. Cheery, hail fellow well met, sort of chap, would do anything to get Charlie out of his state of mind.

The other characters ALL must speak with a Southern USA accent, as they're all locals in Georgia.

Betty Meeks, owner of the guesthouse, is said by the author to be 77 years of age. That is definitely NOT mandatory, but Betty certainly has lived locally in Tilghman County all her life and has to have a certain look about her that suggests a longlived local identity in the County.

Catherine Simms, younger lady, probably should be no more than mid 20s, has had her life thrown upside down in a short space of time. She's the daughter of a well-to-do local family so has inherited the 'good life', she's gone from being a debutante coming out in local society to becoming engaged, pregnant and potentially running Betty's business, and the changes in her life have left her very confused and unable to share that with anyone around her; UNTIL she can unburden herself to Charlie, safe in the 'knowledge' that he can't understand her. A feisty character as well, as we come to learn.

David Lee, the man in Catherine's life, a preacher who seems to be a good young man to have on your side, but who reveals himself to be a two-faced betrayer. More will be explained at the auditions, of course. Ideally, late 20s to early 30s.

Ellard Simms, a lumpy, overgrown, backward youth (the author's description), Catherine's brother, who, when the chips are down, reveals a strength of purpose and character no-one knew he could possess. Ideally slightly younger than Catherine.

Owen Musser, a creature of evil intent. Has plans to 'inherit' Betty's property by fair means or foul (mostly foul) and is in league with certain dark forces that hold sway in the County. Age can actually be open, but heading towards late 30s at the least and older.

Additional Audition Details

NO prepared piece is needed. The audition will be conducted by reading sections of the script on the day.

For those people who are new to Nash or who don't know Gary, please can you bring a photo with you to the audition so we can attach it to the audition sheet that you'll be asked to complete.

This is a fun, challenging play to finish 2019 for the Nash Theatre and we look forward to welcoming you all, whether you've auditioned before or are first timers at Nash, to the audition.

Season commences November 16 and runs for four weekends, times and dates will be confirmed after the auditions are concluded.