



## Audition Instructions

2022-23 Spring Auditions for *The 39 Steps*, *Dance Nation*, and *Very Berry Dead*:

Thursday Sept 1	Friday Sept 2	Saturday Sept 3	Sunday Sept 4
Open Auditions*	Open Auditions*	Dance Nation Callbacks	The 39 Steps Callbacks
Henry Heymann Theatre	Henry Heymann Theatre	Henry Heymann Theatre	Henry Heymann Theatre
6-10pm	6-10pm	12-5pm	12-4pm

\* *Very Berry Dead* will only be audition on Friday September 2, 2022.

### What to prepare:

- 1-2 minute contemporary monologue. Contemporary period roughly spans from 2000 to today.
- Cold readings will also be available on audition days
- Scripts are on Reserve at the Hillman Library, ask for auditions material

### How to Sign Up:

1. Visit <https://tinyurl.com/5f4bdhpk>
  2. Register to use the Sign-Up Genius Application
  3. Select your audition time slot
- \*\*\*You are able to swap slots and/or cancel with your login\*\*\*

### Audition Forms:

- Audition forms: <https://tinyurl.com/2x8zjk4z>
- Complete and submit the google form
- Completed applications are due August 31 by 12pm noon
- One resume & headshot may be brought to your audition

### Day of Auditions:

- Arrive at least 15 minutes prior to your scheduled time to check in with the registration desk
- You may bring a copy of your monologue and cold readings will be available
- A greeter will brief you on the process and protocol

### Questions? Email [Audition@pitt.edu](mailto:Audition@pitt.edu)

#### Department of Theatre Arts and U.P. Stages Casting & Production Policy

We are committed to producing stories from multiple cultural perspectives, of diverse styles and structures, from many different time periods and global locales.

In order to tell every story upon our stage, student, faculty and guest artists of all abilities, races, genders, sexualities, nationalities, and religions are needed and welcome for our casts, our crews, and our production teams. As a department and producing organization, we consider our audience to be the Department of Theatre Arts, the University campus and the larger Pittsburgh and regional community.

We are committed to analyzing and understanding a playwright's intentions for location, time and character. We are equally committed to challenging ourselves and our audiences to think beyond the strictures of given circumstances and historical expectations in production. We are committing to cultivating spaces, theatres and classrooms in which students, faculty, and guest artist can take risks, stretch themselves, and approach each class, audition and production venture as a fresh opportunity for greatness.



*The 39 Steps*, by Patrick Barlow, From the novel by John Buchan  
Directed by Mikki Monfalcone

Rehearsal Dates: September 12, 2022 – October 20, 2022  
Performance Dates: October 21 – October 30, 2022

**About the Play:**

Mix a Hitchcock masterpiece with a juicy spy novel, add a dash of Monty Python and you have *The 39 Steps*, a fast-paced whodunit for anyone who loves the magic of theatre! This two-time Tony and Drama Desk Award-winning treat is packed with nonstop laughs, over 139 zany characters an onstage plane crash, handcuffs, missing fingers, and some good old-fashioned romance!

**Character Breakdown:**

\*All roles can be played by actors of any ethnicity\*

Richard Hannay:	A Canadian man in his 30s living in London. Male identifying actor.
Annabella/Margaret/Pamela:	A German spy, a Scottish housewife, and an English woman in her 30s. All three roles played by the same female identifying actress.
Clown 1:	Playing a variety of small roles in rapid succession (examples listed below). Played by any race or gender.
Clown 2:	Playing a variety of small roles in rapid succession (examples listed below). Played by any race or gender.
Clown 3:	Playing a variety of small roles in rapid succession (examples listed below). Played by any race or gender.
Clown 4:	Playing a variety of small roles in rapid succession (examples listed below). Played by any race or gender.
Clown character examples:	Mr. Memory and Compere, Milkman, Policemen, Paperboy, Mr. and Mrs. McGarrigle, Professor and Mrs. Jordan, Underwear Salesmen, Sheep, and many, many more.

**Director's Notes for Auditions:**

*The 39 Steps* by Patrick Barlow is a ridiculous parody of the 1935 Alfred Hitchcock film of the same name. The story follows Richard Hannay, an average man who is thrown into the seedy underbelly of 1930s Britain after a German spy is murdered in his apartment. 6 actors play a combined total of 139 roles as four "Clowns" shift rapidly from character to character, meeting Hannay along his journey across the country. This show is a fast-paced marathon and is perfect for lovers of Monty Python style comedy.



*Dance Nation* by Clare Barron  
Directed by Kelly Trumbull

Rehearsal Dates: September 26, 2022 – November 3, 2022  
Performance Dates: November 4 – November 13, 2022

**Director's Notes for Auditions:**

Looking for actors who can move, but formal dance experience is not necessary. Please note, there is no nudity in this production of Dance Nation.

**Please read the play in entirety before choosing to audition. If you have any questions at the time of auditions about the approach to the content or staging, the director welcomes them. Dance Nation contains blood, mature language, depictions of self-harm, simulated masturbation, descriptions of masturbation, sexuality, and descriptions of sex.**

**Character Breakdown:**

THE MOMS:	One actor, all the dance moms. Also plays Vanessa. Female-identifying.
DANCE TEACHER PAT:	The head of the dance studio. THIS ROLE HAS BEEN CAST. Male-identifying.
AMINA:	The star dancer. Besties with Zuzu. Female-identifying.
ZUZU:	Always second best. Besties with Amina. Female-identifying.
CONNIE:	Still plays with toy ponies. Thinks she should play the role of Ghandi. Female-identifying.
LUKE:	The only boy on the competition team. Loves Zuzu. Likes dance. Male-identifying.
MAEVE:	The oldest and least talented dancer on the team, but not bothered by it at all. Female-identifying.
SOFIA:	Plays it cool with her peers at dance, but this adolescence thing is tough. Female-identifying.
ASHLEE:	Probably the future president of the United States. And she knows it. Female-identifying.

**About the Play:**

Dance Nation follows the competition team from Liverpool Dance Works as they prepare for Nationals and navigate the rough and beautiful landscape of the adolescent experience.



*Very Berry Dead* by José Pérez IV  
Directed by Alison Mahoney

**Staged Reading date:** October 1, 2022

**About the Play:**

The tragic loss of multiple family members brings those remaining back to the farm to bury the dead in the ancestral cemetery. However, Vermont state burial laws turn out to be a bit more strict than imagined, and space is getting tight in the old family graveyard. Who gets in, and who gets ditched? That's left up to the head of the family, the two feuding grown children, a rancher, a pagan, a visitor, and the town health officer who was not prepared for this kind of circus.

**POP or MA** A cisgender man or woman, 60s, any race. (If the actor isn't white, we can assume that the character was adopted by their parents, who were of Irish descent.) The patriarch/matriarch of the family and owner of Berry Farm. A simple, quieter person who believes in hard work, good food, and the importance of family. They've spent nearly their entire life on the farm and knows the land like the back of their hand. While they'll give a hearty laugh when a joke tickles them just right, they tend to be more on the serious side.

**POP:** William K. Berry; friends call him "Bill", family calls him "Pop".

**MA:** Barbara H. Berry; friends call her "Barb", family calls her "Ma".

**CASEY** A cisgender man or woman, 30s, POP/MA actor's race or mixed race. POP/MA's kid. They are stylish, sharp, and aren't afraid to piss someone off. They have a huge chip on their shoulder from confusing and painful teenage years on the farm. They left the farm for college and never looked back, completely removing themselves from their old life and their entire family. They embraced the outside world and city living, and now have some disdain for their country past.

**J.J.** A cisgender man or woman, 30s, any race. POP/MA's "adopted" kid, CASEY's "sibling". A modern farmer, hardy, yet aware of the world. Deeply devoted to POP/MA and the whole Berry family, as the Berrys saved them from abusive parents. They're aware of how lucky they are to have a happy, peaceful life, and they're eternally grateful for it. They don't back down from a fight, especially not one with CASEY, who they see as spitting in the face of POP/MA and their newly deceased mother/father. A young parent, pretty worn out, but used to making decisions now.

**MARIGOLD** A cisgender man or woman, 30s-40s, any race. A practicing pagan, continuously seeking a deeper connection with nature, and a devotee of many eclectic spiritual practices. It's important to them that their family sees them as a wise sage of some sort, though they break that veneer from time to time when their temper gets the better of them. Generally, they're quick to forgive and let go, preferring to enjoy the moment and the people around them.

**SCAT** A cisgender man or woman, 40s-50s, any race. The owner of a very successful cattle ranch in Texas, and every little thing about them makes total sense when you know that. Big, hearty laugh. Big, rough hugs. Even though they're a CEO, they still believe in rolling up your sleeves and chorin'. They've been away from the Berry farm for some time, but they have such fond feelings for their family, and great enthusiasm for all the farm traditions.



- RILEY A cisgender man or woman, 30s, any race; the same gender as CASEY, their partner. RILEY has only ever known city living, but is very enthused about getting into more nature and learning about the farm that CASEY was raised on. Incredibly kind and patient, a people-person if there ever was one. While they lead with softness, they have no problem standing their ground and biting back, if need be.
- SIMS Any gender, does not need to be cisgender, late 20s-60s, any race. The Town Health Officer. Has only been in this position for about a year and a half, but has been in the profession for some time. Can be very by-the-book, no-nonsense, but can also sit back and let a crazy situation unfold on its own. Asense of humor, but it's often ill-timed. They don't seek out the approval of others, but they still have a heart (though sometimes it's hard to get to).
- \*Spoilers ahead, next character description\*
- SAM A cisgender man or woman, 30s-40s, any race. J.J.'s same-sex spouse. A very positive, strong person. You can tell that they've experienced serious hardships in their life and have made the conscious decision to be happy and supportive of others. A young parent with a good attitude about the daily chaos.
- MCGILL A cisgender man or woman, 30s or older, any race. Their land borders the Berrys', and it has since the 1800s. Sworn enemy of any Berry and their kin. A real old school farmer. Back before they invented empathy, and antibiotics, and liberals. Stoic, mean, a perpetual frown.