



## Flowers for Algernon Audition Notes - Frankston Theatre Company 2022

*Auditions should be a positive experience. Come along and enjoy yourself! Remember to BREATHE*

*Please read notes below and at end*

- For auditions you can read directly from the script pages listed **OR** you can do a monologue of your choice, which we may ask you to adapt and read/act out differently
- Accents are listed for roles; however, you can use any American accent. There is time to build on your accent during rehearsals
- You can contact one of the directors directly for any further information. Use email address [jane.courtshows@gmail.com](mailto:jane.courtshows@gmail.com) or ring Jane on 0408039773 with any queries.

*Cast, can be as small as 14 people or as large as 22 as roles will be doubled up:*

Male	Female	Roles
Charlie Professor Nemur Dr Strauss Burt Father Frank Joe Teen Charlie Child Charlie Mr Harvey Medical Orderly	Alice Mrs Donner Mrs Mooney Gina Ellen Mother Adult Norma Child Norma Doris Ellen Mrs Feldman Bernice Connie Anne Wellberg Jackie Wellberg Mrs Nemur Chair-person	<b>Roles:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The exact number of cast members will depend on the outcomes of auditions and doubling up of roles.</li><li>• Many roles are doubled up. For example, Ellen, Doris and Anne Wellberg could be the same actor. Joe, Mr Harvey and Father could be the same, Mrs Mooney and Mrs Donner could be the same person. The double-ups are flexible.</li></ul> <b>Gender:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Feel free to audition for roles that may be listed as a particular gender, many roles are flexible (EG: Mrs Donner or Mrs Mooney can easily be Mr Donner and Mr Mooney, Dr Strauss can be either male or female)</li></ul> <b>Diversity:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Cultural and racial diversity is strongly encouraged for all roles.</li></ul> <b>Auditions:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Many cameo roles do not have specific lines for auditions (see list), please chose a role with lines to use for your audition.</li><li>• Please list any and all roles in which you are interested.</li></ul> <b>Accents:</b>



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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Many accents are suitable for this play, which is set in the New York. Some characters should demonstrate this place such as the people in the Bakery who are in the Bronx or Brooklyn. Others, such as the medical people could be from any part of New York (Brooklyn, Staten Island, Queens etc) or other parts of the USA or even outside the USA.</li> </ul>
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Role	Character	Audition Reads
<p><b>Charlie</b></p> <p><b>Male approx. 35</b></p> <p><b>Lead Role</b></p>	<p>Charlie is a ‘retarded’ 35-year-old male who wants to better himself. <i>Because the play is written in the 1960’s some language is triggering.</i></p> <p>Through an operation his intelligence increases until he becomes a genius, however the effects are temporary, and tragically he reverts to his original state.</p> <p>He starts his journey as a cheerful, easy-going retarded man who is working hard to make himself smarter by attending school for retarded people where Alice Kinian is the teacher.</p> <p>After the operation he is sad to find he is not smarter straight away. As his intelligence grows, he comes to understand the world around him including how his workmates at the Bakery are not his friends but use him as the butt of their jokes.</p> <p>His intelligence grows exponentially, and he researches the question of his intelligence and that of Algernon, the mouse who originally proved that increased intelligence was possible. However, he also discovers that the effects will be temporary, and his intelligence will return to its original retarded level. He discovers the horrifying tragedy that awaits him.</p> <p>He writes progress (‘progriss’) reports for Professor Nemur and Dr Strauss the leaders of the medical team, which explore his growing understanding of the world around him and his feelings for Alice. This is his journey.</p>	<p><b>‘Progriss’ Report 1 Act 1 Page 19</b></p> <p>‘Progriss’ Report 1 is in the early days, just after the operation. He is speaking aloud while trying to write in the style and behaviour of an 8-year-old child who struggles with literacy.</p> <p><b>‘Progriss’ Report 4 Act 1 Page 44</b></p> <p>‘Progriss’ Report 4 is further along. His speech and writing language are normal now. He is having trouble sleeping and he wants to ask Alice out for a date. He is unsure why he is afraid to do this. He is struggling with his adult emotions.</p> <p><b>Callback if required: Act 2 Page 90-91</b></p> <p><i>Monologue where Charlie talks to an imaginary Teen Charlie (himself as a teenager at the time when his emotional growth was stunted by his mother). This monologue demonstrates Charlie’s frightened mental state as he now knows his intelligence is temporary.. Charlie tells Teen Charlie that he is tired of him spying on him from the dark and asks what he wants from him. He tells Teen Charlie he is not his friend; he is his enemy. From this monologue Charlie has an epiphany about the medical problem that has been plaguing him.</i></p> <p><b>Call-back if required: Act 2 Page 107-108</b></p>



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	<p>The Charlie character is on stage almost the entire play and moves through a range of emotions and as his intelligence increases and regresses, he is different in each scene and his emotions run riot. This role needs someone who can show deep emotions. Also, needs to be comfortable handling a live mouse.</p> <p><b>Accent:</b> American East Coast/ New York flexible</p>	<p><i>This is a pivotal scene between Alice and Charlie late in the drama. Alice knows that Charlie is reverting to his previous retarded state. She has been waiting for him to come and see her. Charlie is deeply depressed and has been avoiding her. They embrace. This is a highly emotional scene for both characters.</i></p>
Role	Character	Audition Reads
<p><b>Alice Kinian</b></p> <p><b>Female 25-35 approx.</b></p> <p><b>Lead Role</b></p>	<p>Alice is Charlie's school teacher. Pretty, serious, and can be rather tense in some situations. She likes Charlie a great deal and believes in him and admires how hard he works to better himself. It is obvious from the beginning that she is attracted to him. She has motherly feelings for him and wants to help him do well. As his intelligence increases, she also develops strong romantic feelings for him.</p> <p>She volunteers him for the medical experiment which may increase his intelligence. She is warm and caring and worries about him and fears that a bad outcome could be her fault.</p> <p>Their relationship is central to the story. She wants to love him, but he is held back by the abuse heaped on him by his mother. Eventually they become lovers, but Charlie insists she must leave before he regresses to his original state.</p> <p>This role requires someone who can demonstrate deep emotions in the relationship with Charlie.</p> <p><b>Accent:</b> American East Coast/ New York, flexible</p>	<p><b>Act 1 Page 55-57</b></p> <p><i>Charlie comes to see Alice. She is angry as she has been trying to contact him. Charlie's character has changed a great deal with his increased intelligence. Alice says she feels inadequate next to him now.</i></p> <p><i>He says he needs to talk to someone, and she retaliates with "What about when I needed to talk to someone?" She tells him she is not coming to the convention, and he will have lots of intelligent people to talk to there. She is feeling rejected, lacking and useless in his life now, whereas when he was retarded she played a maternal supportive role in his life.</i></p> <p><b>Call-back if required: Act 2 Page 107-108</b></p> <p><i>This is a pivotal scene between Alice and Charlie late in the drama. Alice knows that Charlie is reverting to his previous retarded state. She has been waiting for him to come and see her. Charlie is deeply depressed and has been avoiding her. They embrace. This is a highly emotional scene for both characters.</i></p>



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Role	Character	Audition Reads
<p><b>Professor Nemur</b></p> <p><b>Mature aged male</b></p> <p><b>Lead role</b></p>	<p>Professor Nemur is the leader of the medical team. He is bombastic, testy and tends to steamroll to get his way.</p> <p>Prof. Nemur is more interested in how Charlie and the medical experiment can improve his reputation in the medical world and how this is the culmination of his career.</p> <p>There is some flexibility in how Nemur is played. He must have a strong collegiate relationship with Doctor Strauss but is always determined to get his way.</p> <p><b>Accent:</b> <i>Nemur's accent is flexible. The play takes place in New York, but he might be British or something else. His surname is Russian.</i></p>	<p><b>Act 1 Page 53 – 54</b></p> <p><i>Professor Nemur and Doctor Strauss argue. Professor Nemur wants to present Charlie and their work at a medical convention in Chicago, but Dr Strauss thinks is much too early and not good for Charlie's wellbeing. Nemur as Senior Researcher forces Strauss to agree and it is decided to present. This scene starts as a discussion and builds to a loud argument.</i></p> <p><b>Call-back if required: Act 1 pages 5, 6 and 7</b></p> <p><i>This scene is the initial meeting with Professor Nemur, Doctor Strauss and Alice where they discuss Charlie as a potential participant in their medical experiment.</i></p>
<p><b>Dr Strauss</b></p> <p><b>Mature male or female</b></p> <p><b>Lead Role</b></p>	<p>Dr Strauss can be any gender but must be a strong character actor.</p> <p>Doctor Strauss is the neurosurgeon of the medical team, and their role is to work with Charlie as his psychological support.</p> <p>Dr Struss and Professor Nemur sometimes clash on what is right for Charlie. Dr Strauss is more interested in Charlie's welfare and concerned about the things that may go wrong.</p> <p><b>Accent:</b> <i>Dr Strauss' accent can be flexible. The play takes place in New York, but their surname is high German</i></p>	<p><b>Act 1 Page 53 – 54</b></p> <p><i>Professor Nemur and Doctor Strauss argue. Professor Nemur wants to present Charlie and their work at a medical convention in Chicago, but Dr Strauss thinks is much too early and not good for Charlie's wellbeing. Nemur as Senior Researcher forces Strauss to agree and it is decided to present. This scene starts as a discussion and builds to a loud argument.</i></p> <p><b>Call-back if required: Act 1 pages 5, 6 and 7</b></p> <p><i>This scene is the initial meeting with Professor Nemur, Doctor Strauss and Alice where they discuss Charlie as a potential participant in their medical experiment.</i></p>



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<b>Burt</b> <b>Flexible age</b>  <b>Major supporting role</b>	<p>Burt is the laboratory technician for the medical team. He handles Algernon, the mouse which showed that the brain operation worked to increase intelligence</p> <p>His job is to take Charlie through the Rorschach tests which is a psychological test in which someone's perceptions of inkblots are analysed to examine a person's personality, characteristics, and emotional functioning. Burt is also in charge of managing tests of Algernon the mouse who was the initial subject of the operation and showed that increased intelligence could be achieved. Algernon is tested through running through mazes at speed. He keeps notes and reports to Professor Nemur and Doctor Strauss on Charlie's progress.</p> <p>Burt and Charlie become good friends. Burt is undertaking their own PhD.</p> <p>His character is flexible but must be friendly and demonstrate scientific curiosity and medical knowledge and be comfortable handling a live mouse.</p> <p><b>Accent:</b> Flexible New York, East Coast, any USA accent</p>	<p><b>Act 1 Page 9, 10, 11, 12</b> (from 'Make yourself comfortable, Charlie)</p> <p><i>This is Burt's initial meeting with Charlie who thinks he is meeting with a doctor because Burt is wearing a white coat. Burt initially laughs at Charlie's 'retarded' behaviours and speech but is soon captivated by his simple charm and is happy to explain the proceedings.</i></p> <p><i>At first Charlie only sees 'spilled ink' in the ink blots and loses the maze race to Algernon.</i></p> <p><i>Burt initially is very professional with Charlie but quickly falls for his friendliness and is concerned about the impact of the experiment on Charlie's well-being. They become good friends.</i></p> <p><b>Call-back if required: same pages</b></p>



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Role	Character	Audition Reads
<p><b>Mother and Father</b></p> <p><b>Flexible age as both age during play</b></p> <p><b>Supporting roles</b></p>	<p>Charlie's Mother and Father appear in Charlie's Flashbacks, initially as shadowy figures, later as more real and whole as Charlie remembers more about them. Charlie eventually remembers he was not wanted in his home by his mother and his emotional growth stopped at the time when he is sent away by his mother to the Warren State Home.</p> <p>Mother initially defends Charlie, saying he is 'normal' but later shows signs of animosity towards him after Norma her normal child is born. She is emotionally unstable and tends to be verbally violent with everyone around her, including her husband, She is even physically violent at times. You can feel her frustration to be perfect and have the perfect family that society will admire. Everything and everyone are a disappointment to her.</p> <p>Later when Charlie goes to visit her, she has dementia and slips in and out of time periods</p> <p>The Father is a more passive man who wants a quiet life and wants to keep Charlie and finds his wife's behaviours difficult to manage. He is a beaten man in many ways but is willing to fight back to defend Charlie. He offers to take Charlie to live with his brother Herman and does not want Charlie put in the Warren State Home.</p> <p>Father and Mother should be able to demonstrate a verbally violet home through arguing. As it is the 60's both are trapped in their unhappy marriage with no way out.</p> <p><b>Accent:</b> Flexible American East Coast</p>	<p><b>Act 2 Page 69</b></p> <p><i>This is a nasty argument between Charlie's parents and Charlie remembers it during his visit to his Father's Barber shop as an intelligent adult.</i></p> <p><i>As Charlie's Father is stropping his razor to shave Charlie, Charlie remembers his Mother slicing bread and shouting that Norma is teased at school because her brother is retarded. She wants Charlie to be taken away to the Warren State Home.</i></p> <p><i>Father says he will take Teen Charlie to his brother Uncle Herman's, but Mother says he should go to the Warren State Home.</i></p> <p><i>They argue and Mother says she wants him gone now, tonight! Father says it's too late, and he will take him to Uncle Herman's tomorrow, but she says she can't stand looking at him anymore.</i></p> <p><i>The fight loudly and violently. Mother says she has sacrificed her life for Charlie, and she won't have her daughter's life sacrificed too. As Father leads Teen Charlie away, he looks back at his Mother. They share a look.</i></p> <p><b>Call-backs if required: same pages</b></p>



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<b>Junior Roles:</b>	<i>Minors auditioning for these roles can either:</i>
<b>Teenage Charlie</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Audition acting out any lines or part from a book/play or show for 1 minute that they know or like.</li><li>- They should concentrate on acting out the 'feelings' from the story using facial expressions and body language.</li><li>- We may ask them to show simple feelings such as fear, anger, or happiness</li></ul>
<b>Child Charlie</b>	OR
<b>Child Charlie</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- They can use the pieces from the play as listed below, acting out or speaking the dialogue as they wish.</li></ul>
<b>Child Norma</b>	<i>Just relax and enjoy!</i>
<b>Supporting Roles</b>	<p>Child Charlie and Child Norma will be played by 2 actors who will split the role between them The actor playing Teen Charlie may also play another role in the show if appropriate.</p> <p><b>Child Norma</b> has some dialogue. Age around 7-12 years of age</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• She is a <u>slightly spoiled child</u> who likes Charlie but also resents him for the impact he has on her life. She is teased by her schoolmates for having him as a brother<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ <b>Audition Page 45-46</b> – Norma has been promised a dog if she does well in school. She comes home and shows she has an A on a test and announces she deserves a dog. Charlie wants to help her look after it which her parents say is a good idea. But Norma says Teen Charlie is not allowed to touch the dog. She is slapped by her Father for being nasty. She cries and runs to her Mother for comfort.</li></ul></li></ul> <p><b>Child Charlie, just a few words of dialogue, Age around 7 years of age</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Needs to cry and act sick when his mother is angry at him.</li><li>• He is showing how Charlie was traumatised by his mother when he was young.</li><li>• He is an important part of the family conversations and arguments.</li><li>• He reacts to the emotions swirling around him.</li></ul> <p><b>Audition dialogue Page 41</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Mother is defending Child Charlie initially but then becomes angry that he is playing with a spinning top like a baby and she throws it away.</li><li>○ Mother and Father argue loudly, and Child Charlie's stomach begins to hurt and he grabs his stomach. "Go to the bathroom", she screams.</li><li>○ "Sick! Sick!" he cries out.</li><li>○ Child Charlie becomes even more frightened and throws up</li></ul> <p><b>Teen Charlie</b> is on stage frequently as part of the Flashbacks and later as part of Adult Charlie's hallucinations.</p>



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>He</b> needs to show deep feelings without dialogue responding to adult Charlie’s emotional journey, although the role does have a few words of dialogue.</li> <li>• Teen Charlie appears as an hallucination of Adult Charlie, representing his early life and the trauma that holds him back.</li> <li>• They even have imaginary conversations.</li> <li>• Teen Charlie acts as a mirror to adult Charlie’s emotions. For example when Adult Charlie wants to romance Alice he sees Teen Charlie representing his stunted emotional growth</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Audition Page 26</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Teen Charlie acts as a mirror to the family emotions in this scene/flashback</li> <li>○ Teen Charlie wants to be a painter like his Uncle Herman.</li> <li>○ Norma nastily says, “Charlie is going to be the artist in the family” and she is slapped for being mean.</li> <li>○ Charlie thinks artist must be a bad word</li> <li>○ Teen Charlie reaches out to Norna to comfort her but is pushed away</li> </ul> <p><b>Audition alternative Page 90</b> – Adult Charlie has an imaginary conversation with Teen Charlie who reacts to Adult Charlie’s emotions</p>
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Role	Character	Audition Reads
<b>Bakery Shop Staff</b>  <b>Joe, Frank</b> <b>Males, flexible age</b>  <b>Gina</b> <b>Female, flexible age</b>  <b>Supporting Roles, Act 1</b>	<p>Joe and Frank work with Charlie at the bakery owned by Mrs Donner. They are real ‘wise guys’ Frank is not very bright and jealous of Charlie. They both use him as the butt of their jokes, and Charlie comes to understand they are not really his friends as his intelligence increases.</p> <p>Mrs Donner is the owner of the Bakery. Frank is a stupid bully worker, giving Charlie a bad time but making it appear as if it is just good-natured teasing. Joe is his friend and a fair bit smarter than Frank and less of a bully but still teases Charlie.</p> <p>Gina works in the Bakery with Joe and Frank and is a tarted up Brox a la ‘The Nanny’.</p> <p>There are several scenes in the bakery or at a party with Joe, Frank, and Gina showing how poorly they treat Charlie.</p>	<p><b>Act 1 Pages 20, 21, 22</b></p> <p><i>This scene takes place in the Bakery. Joe accuses Frank of filling the eclairs incorrectly, Mrs Donner sorts out the problem as usual. Frank is an aggressive guy, not very bright and always happy to take out his frustrations on Charlie after altercations with Joe.</i></p> <p><i>Both Joe and Frank make fun of Charlie frequently. Mrs Donner says Charlie is one of God’s children.</i></p> <p><i>Gina notices Charlie returning from his operation.</i></p> <p><i>Charlie is upset to find Mrs Donner has employed someone to do his job while he was gone.</i></p> <p><b>Call-back if required: same pages</b></p>



## Flowers for Algernon Audition Notes - Frankston Theatre Company 2022

<b>Accent:</b> <i>Bronx preferred</i>	
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Role	Character	Audition Reads
<p><b>Mrs Donner</b></p> <p><b>Mature female</b></p> <p><b>Supporting Role Act 1</b></p>	<p>Mrs Donner owns the Bronx Bakery where Charlie works with Joe and Frank. She is an archetypical Jewish Bronx widow, wearing black skirts and aprons.</p> <p>Mrs Donner’s late husband Sam helped Charlie get out of the Warren State Home at the request of Charlie’s Uncle Herman. He has worked at the bakery since. She feels maternal about him. She manages the bakery staff with a firm hand.</p> <p>Frank and Joe become frightened of the newly intelligent Charlie and she reluctantly fires him, although it feels wrong to her.</p> <p><b>Accent:</b> <i>Bronx or Jewish NY preferred, think “The Nanny “or her relatives/friends</i></p>	<p><b>Act 1 Page 52</b></p> <p><i>Mrs Donner has had another delegation from the staff and must tell Charlie that he has to leave the Bakery where he has worked for 17 years after her husband Sam gave him a job after Uncle Herman saved him from the Warren State Home.</i></p> <p><i>She says he is not the same Charlie as 3 months ago and he no longer needs the job.</i></p> <p><i>The others are scared to death of him “maybe scared, maybe jealous, but they won’t work with you, Charlie. All I got is my business.”</i></p> <p><b>Call-back if required: 20, 21, 22 with Joe, Frank and Gina</b></p>

Role	Character	Audition Reads
<p><b>Mrs Mooney</b></p> <p><b>Mature aged female</b></p> <p><b>Supporting Role Act 2</b></p>	<p>Mrs Mooney is a kindly, garrulous Irish Landlady. She rents a room to Charlie in Act 2, although she is not sure about Charlie having Algernon, a caged mouse in the apartment.</p> <p>She keeps an eye on Charlie as he devolves and calls Alice when things go badly. She is a bit of a character, but generous, helpful, and rather superstitious.</p> <p><b>Accent:</b> <i>Irish</i></p>	<p><b>Act 2, Pages 63, 64, 65</b></p> <p><i>Mrs Mooney is showing Charlie around an apartment after he runs away after the Convention with Algernon.</i></p> <p><i>She tells him about the apartment and its great view and the sunlight that can be seen from 2 to 2.30 each day. She is a great salesperson with a wonderful Irish personality.</i></p> <p><i>She is somewhat suspicious of Charlie, thinking he might be one of those ‘actor’ people. She is glad to hear he likes reading and not partying. She doesn’t take to mice but decides Algernon is quite cute.</i></p> <p><b>Call-backs if required: same pages</b></p>



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Role	Character	Audition Reads
<p><b>Adult Norma</b></p> <p><b>Age approx. 30</b></p> <p><b>Major Cameo</b> <b>Act 2</b></p>	<p>Norma is Charlie's sister who had been told he died at the Warren State Home many years prior. She has seen the newspaper articles about Charlie so she knows he is alive.</p> <p>She is a tired woman who cares for their mother who has dementia. She does not have a great deal in her life. She works, then comes home to care for her mother.</p> <p>She remembers Charlie fondly and wishes she had treated him better. She would like a new adult relationship with him and that the two of them become a family after all these years and that he might help her with their mother. She does not know Charlie is devolving to retardation again.</p> <p><b>Accent:</b> American flexible, East coast preferred</p>	<p><b>Act 2, Pages 96 – 98</b></p> <p><i>Norma returns home to find Charlie with Mother. Initially she does not recognise him.</i></p> <p><i>She tells Charlie about their mother's decline and that their doctor wants Mother to go into a nursing home which is ironic since that is where Charlie was sent. Norma had been told that Charlie died in the Warren State Home, but she had seen the newspaper reports about him and that he was now a genius.</i></p> <p><i>Charlie remembers Norma and Charlie jumping up and down on a mattress and their mother beating him when Norma hit her head. Norma thought it was a dream. She tells Charlie how she was teased at school for having a retarded brother.</i></p> <p><i>Mother becomes aware of Charlie and Norma talking and becomes enraged and runs at him with a knife.</i></p> <p><i>Charlie and Norma part lovingly.</i></p> <p><b>Call-backs if required: Same pages</b></p>

***These roles are cameos. Please audition for any other speaking role above to show your skills. Cast may be asked to fill more than one role***

<p><b>Cameos:</b></p> <p><b>Doris/Nurse</b></p> <p><b>Ellen</b></p>	<p>Doris is the Assistant Laboratory Technician to Burt and also the nurse for Charlie after the operation. May need to handle Algernon the mouse</p> <p>Ellen is Gina's friend in the Bakery Party Scene. The party is held at Ellen's house where Frank encourages Charlie to dance with Ellen making them both very uncomfortable.</p>
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<b>Mrs Feldman</b>	Mrs Feldman is a loud pretentious customer in the Bakery who demands that Mrs Donner provide better service and products (“I’m not complaining!”)
<b>Bernice and Connie</b>	Berniece and Connie are simple students of Alice’s at the school for ‘retarded’ students and knew Charlie when he was in the school prior to his increased intelligence. When Charlie comes to visit Alice they are interested in his changed clothing and behaviours
<b>Chairperson</b>	The Chairperson opens the Convention where Charlie is shown off by Professor Nemur and other members of the team
<b>Orderly</b>	Leads Charlie away to the Warren State Home (no dialogue)  <b>Accents:</b> American, East Coast/New York preferred but flexible Bronx/Brooklyn accent preferred for Ellen and Mrs Feldman but flexible
<b>Nemur Party Cameos:</b>	<i>Professor and Mrs Nemur throw a party to show off Charlie. He meets people from the Wellberg Foundation who provide funding support for the medical experiment.</i>
<b>Mrs Nemur</b>	Mrs Nemur is very jealous and protective of her husband’s career. She is a heavily made-up woman with elegant clothing and jewels. She is anxious to show off in front of the Wellberg sisters and Mr Harvey and not impressed with Charlie’s behaviour in her home.
<b>Anne Wellberg and Jackie Wellberg</b>	Anne and Jackie are very wealthy sisters who provide the money for the Foundation. Charlie reacts badly to their arrogant treatment of him and their lack of understanding. Anne is the eldest and holds the purse strings. Jackie is a bit flighty and interested in bird protection and not sure of who or what Charlie is.
<b>Mr Harvey</b>	Mr Harvey is the chairman of the Foundation.  <b>Accents:</b> <i>wealthy American accents - flexible</i>



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<b>Ensemble Scenes</b>	<p>There are several group scenes where available cast will be on stage</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The Concert scene where Charlie and Alice are on a date and other cast including romantic couples are seated on the grass</li><li>• The Convention where Nemur and Strauss are presenting Charlie as their success and other cast are the convention audience</li><li>• The Nemur's Party at their apartment with other cast as wealthy guests or waitresses or bartenders.</li></ul>
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### Time:

- The play is set in the late 1960s and as such uses language which is no longer used, including 'retarded'. We maintain the language to preserve the authenticity of the time of the play, although we may change some of the language as needed. Some behaviours of the characters can be confronting also. From this comes the tragedy of the human state.

### Auditions:

- Auditioning is supposed to a positive experience. Try not to be too nervous. Try out accents but do not stress if they don't come easily.
- THE best way to relax in an audition is to breathe. Take some deep breaths before you start. Breath between lines. Auditionees often forget to breath and then tense up.
- We are here to support you and happy to provide feedback later if you would like it.

### Call-backs:

- Call-backs may or may not be required. If you are not called back, it does not mean you have not been successful in your audition. Call-backs may include new dialogue or reading with other possible cast members to see how you perform together

### Accents:

- Many accents are suitable for this play, which is set in the New York. Some characters should demonstrate this place such as the people in the Bakery who are in the Bronx or Brooklyn. Others, such as the medical people could be from any part of New York (Brooklyn, Staten Island, Queens etc) or other parts of the USA or even outside the USA.
- Do the best you can with the accents, there is time to improve. Don't feel constrained in the role you audition for based on the accent. YouTube is a great place to learn accents and as you listen to the accents you will recognise them from the many movies and TV shows.
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1hrA9-6o4tI>  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZveExbsKp5U>



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- When trying an accent look up a few key words and hang your audition on those words and how they are said. For example, Americans say Cawfee instead of coffee.

### **Gender:**

- Feel free to audition for roles that may be listed as a particular gender, many roles are flexible (EG: Mrs Donner or Mrs Mooney can easily be Mr Donner and Mr Mooney)

### **Diversity:**

- Cultural and racial diversity, like gender, is strongly encouraged for all roles.

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