



# AUDITION PACK

## VANYA AND SONIA AND MASHA AND SPIKE

Welcome to the insane world of Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike. Not normally a lover of directing comedy or farce, I fell in love with this play when I first read it.

It is hysterically funny in parts, droll in others.

The characters are all well-rounded and an actor's dream.

The recurrent references to Chekhov, Maggie Smith and TV shows of the past will delight our theatre-wise and older audiences and there is enough slapstick and farce to amuse younger audiences.

I feel this play has it all and can't wait to bring it to life with Terry Matthews as Assistant Director and Fran Armstrong as Stage Manager.

The play is set in Pennsylvania, USA but I am not concerned with American accents.

A softened Aussie accent will do just fine.

***Terry Collins, Director***

## The roles

**Vanya** is scripted as 57 but could be anything up to 70 or beyond. Quiet spoken, a closet gay, he is resigned to his lot in life but still has a lot of passion in him, which emerges towards the end of the play

**Sonia** is the adopted sister of Vanya and Masha, again scripted as early 50s but could be up to 70. She is bitter about what life is thrown at her, jealous of her more glamorous sister, but sees a whole new world of possibilities through the play

**Masha**, again scripted as early 50s could be up to 70 – the casting of all three main characters will depend upon the ages and chemistry of the actors. Masha is a glamorous and successful actress desperately trying to hold onto her youth

**Spike**, as aspiring actor aged 20s-30s is the much younger lover of Masha. He is sexy and self-absorbed.

**Nina**, 20s-30s is a lovely and sincere would-be actress visiting relatives nearby who is an admirer of Masha's work and becomes fond of the entire family. She is more spirited than one thinks at first

**Cassandra** is the occasional housekeeper – a gem of a role. She could be anything from 20s to 60s and beyond. She is acerbic, slightly psychic and more than slightly unhinged – or is she? This character switches from hard done by housekeeper to quoter of all manner of philosophers in a semi-trance-like state and even practises a bit of voodoo

Audition pieces to follow

**VANYA/SONIA**

SONIA: I brought you some coffee, dearest Vanya.

VANYA: I have some.

SONIA: Oh. But I bring you coffee every morning.

VANYA: Well yes, but you weren't available.

SONIA: Well I was briefly in the bathroom. You couldn't wait?

VANYA: I don't know. The coffee was made, you weren't there. I'm capable of pouring coffee into a cup.

SONIA: But I like bringing you coffee in the morning.

VANYA: Fine. Here, take this cup and give me that one.

SONIA: All right. Now I feel better

VANYA: I'm glad. I'm afraid the other cup tasted better.

SONIA: Well it's the same coffee.

VANYA: Well maybe I put more milk in than you did. It's just that I was drinking one coffee and liking it, and then there's a different cup of coffee and I'm liking it slightly less. It's no big deal. I'm just making pleasant conversation.

SONIA: That's not making pleasant conversation. It's first thing in the morning and you're implying I don't do anything right.

VANYA: I didn't say that.

SONIA: Yes, you did.

VANYA: I didn't.

SONIA: Well, you implied it.

BANYA: Forget it. The coffeee's delicious. I love it.

SONIA: Of for God's sake. Here, take the original cup back.

VANYA: No, no, it's not that different. I'm sorry I said anything.

SONIA: I mean, I have two pleasant moments every day in my fucking life, and one of them is bringing you coffee.

VANYA: Sonia, I'm sorry I said anything. Really, the two cups are almost identical. I should have said nothing.

SONIA: All right.

VANYA: I'm sorry. Really.

SONIA: That's all right.

## **VANYA**

It's been our cross to bear that our parents gave us names from Checkhov plays. The other children made such fun of us with our mysterious names. Such was the burden of having two professional parents; and so active in community theatre as well. Having professors for parents had its drawbacks. Father was so angry when you didn't know something. But what seven year old knows who wrote The Imaginary Invalid? Father became so enraged when I said Neil Simon. I mean, I was seven.

## **VANYA**

I have the remainder of my life to nap. I'm not done yet. We licked postage stamps!! We didn't have answering machines. You had to call people back. We ate Spam, just like the soldiers in World War II did. Have you heard of World War II? We played Scrabble and Monopoly. We didn't play video games in some virtual reality, where we would kill policemen and prostitutes as if that was some sort of entertainment. We saw the movie Davy Crockett and we wore coonskin caps. That may not sound very sane, wearing those caps, but it was very innocent. We all did it, there was a solidarity about it, unlike being lone in your room killing prostitutes in a video game. We followed the Adventures of Ozzie and Harriet which starred the real life Ozzie and Harriet Nelson. They did things like ... make popcorn in the kitchen. Or ... look for missing socks. It was a stupid show but it was calming. You didn't feel like it was stirring people up and creating serial killers. The weather is changing, the culture is very weird. I'm not a conservative, but I do miss things in the past.

## **SONIA**

I know I complain, but in some ways I love it here. It's where I've been since I was eight years old. I came from an orphanage, into a family that either loved me or pretended to – I get confused about that. And it's pretty here. And I love to look at the pond. I love the wild turkeys who wander about the property. I like learning they're so awkward that they sleep in trees but repeatedly fall out of them. I kind of identify with them. I often fall out of bed, thrashing about in my restless sleep. I am a wild turkey, I am a wild turkey. And I love the cherry orchard in the spring.

I got a phone call. Someone from the party. Asked me to dinner. His name is Joe. Of course, it's just dinner. I'm sure he won't like me, but if he does like me, oh I'd so prefer that to working at a pharmacy. I never meet anyone. I don't think I've been to a party in 20 years. It's encouraging, but of course I mustn't get my hopes up.

## **SONIA/MASHA**

SONIA: What costume did you bring for me?

MASHA: Hootie and I thought you could go as Dopey.

SONIA: What?

MASHA: You know- the dwarf Dopey. And he's clean shaven, so you wouldn't have to wear a beard.

SONIA: I don't want to be Dopey.

MASHA: But darling, I only brought two dwarf costumes. That's all Hootie Pie made up for me.

SONIA: Fuck Hootie Pie.

MASHA: Well, what do you want to be then? Goodness, all this fuss over costumes. It's just a party for heaven's sake.

SONIA: I don't want to go as a dwarf. I want to go as Jean Harlow – or Marlene Dietrich.

MASHA: Well I must say, I'm the one who was invited and I'm going as Snow White. And obviously the rest of you should go in a costume connected to me. Snow White is the central figure. Oh I have an idea. Sonia, do you want to go as the wicked witch with the wart on her nose?

SONIA: I do not wish to be a witch with a wart on my nose, Masha. I'm going to go as the beautiful evil queen before she turns into the wicked witch. The one who says mirror mirror on the wall and so on. SAnd I will look good in my costume!

## **MASHA/NINA**

MASHA: Come in. The door is open.

NINA: Hello. Oh my you look beautiful.

MASHA: Oh dear. I didn't talk to you about costumes did I? Whatever are you dressed as?

NINA: I didn't have anything but my aunt and uncle took me to K Mart and I'm a princess.

MASHA: Oh are you? I didn't get it. I thought you were a child dressed in her mother's clothes.

NINA: I'm sorry. I wasn't expecting to go to a costume party.

MASHA: No, that's quite evident.

NINA: What are you dressed as?

MASHA: I'm dressed as Snow White. The Walt Disney version.

NINA: I've never seen Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs. Is it like The Little Mermaid?

MASHA: No. One's about a mermaid, and the other's about dwarfs.

NINA: I see.

MASHA: Now since I'm Snow White, I feel all the other people going to the party with me must relate to Snow White. The good news is that I have an extra costume that does relate to Snow White – Dopey the dwarf.

NINA: I'm just so happy to be included. I love to be around artistic people who create things, who act, who value the arts.

## **NINA**

Hello. Oh, it's so thrilling to meet you. My aunt and uncle said to me you mustn't go bother them and plus she's never ever there, but then we hand our binoculars out and we saw your car drive up and I thought -I can't believe she's here! I can meet Masha Hardwicke, a woman who has long achieved fame and success in theatre and in motion pictures. I long to make theatre my life and you're an idol to me. And I'm only here for three days and I hoped I could meet you but then I didn't dare think it would actually happen. But it has.

## **SPIKE**

So I was auditioning for the spin-off series Entourage 2. And it has a different setup because in this one there's an up-and coming actor who's starting to make it big in the movie. His name is Bradley Wood and he's the lead. And in this version, his entourage is this old dame, who's his agent, and this young guy on coke who's his manager, and his best friend from high school who has a crush on him but she has this disease that gives her convulsions so she can never kiss anybody cause she gets convulsions. And I live next door to a rabbi who's played by Judd Hirsch. But he's not on every week.

## **CASSANDRA**

Lunch will be a little delayed. I dropped the omelette on the floor and I'm going to have to start over. (spies Nina) What did I say? Beware of Nina!!! I warned you but the curse of Apollo keeps everyone from acting on my warnings. Oh mystery and misery descends upon me like a thundercloud. Pregnant with rain and Jupiter's arrows. The terrible burden of true prophecy, of my unwanted but unstoppable prelude. Look out, look out – all around us are lions and tigers and bears. You ignore me because I am not tall. But I am right! I see disaster ahead for all of you! Lunch in about 20 minutes.

## **MASHA**

Well I'm sorry you felt numb, but I was working so I could pay the bills. I was paying the bills! I was paying your bills! I paid for the house, the doctors, the food. I paid for the snow ploughing. I paid for the lawn care. I paid for the heat, the electricity. I sent you both a monthly stipend because I knew you couldn't work and what you were doing was hard. And I'm sorry if you hated taking care of them, but someone had to earn the money to pay for it all – and it was me!!!

## **MASHA**

I'm feeling very good – except for the fact that I have such very bad taste in men. And I don't know why I wanted to sell the house. Oh, I have less money than I used to. And I was going to turn down this film where they want me to play a grandmother, which I'm not anxious to do. But I think I'll take it for the money. I don't know why I didn't think of this earlier, but I don't have a husband, I don't have children – but the roots I do have are here, aren't they? With you two.

**SPIKE/VANYA/MASHA**

SPIKE: Wow, intense.

MASHA: Oh she's always been jealous of me. I'm really sick of it. I can't help it if I'm beautiful and intelligent and talented and successful, can I?

VANYA: NO I guess you can't.

SPIKE: But the unhappy orphanage lady thinks I'm a stud. That's nice. What about you? Do you like how I look?

VANYA: What?

MASHA: Now Spike, I'm sure Vanya thinks you're a perfectly nice-looking young man. Let's leave it at that.

SPIKE: I'm hot.

VANYA: Oh yes? Shouldn't you leave that for others to say?

SPIKE No , I mean I'm warm. The air is warm. I'm hot! That pod out there – can you swim in it?

VANYA: Swim in it? It's not very deep. You can wade in it.

SPIKE: Yeah. Maybe I'll do that

MASHA: Did a swimsuit?

SPIKE: No, I can just strip to my underwear. See you later babe, I'm gonna go cool off in the pond.

VANYA: Did he do that because he knows I'm gay?



## **Audition Dates and Times**

- **Audition Thursday 13th and Thursday 20th March 2025**
- Registration 7.00pm for a 7.30pm start.
- The Peninsula Theatre (home of Woy Woy Little Theatre), John Hoare Cl, Woy Woy 2256
- Open auditions. Everyone is welcome, no need to book. Audition pieces below.

**Venue:** Rehearsals and performances will be held at **The Home of Woy Woy Little Theatre** - The Peninsula Theatre, John Hoare Cl, Woy Woy.

**Performance dates** are 25th July - 10th August 2025.

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### **Rehearsals etc:**

- Rehearsals start on 22nd April 2025. They will be every Tuesday and Thursday night from 7.00pm.
- There is also a technical rehearsal on Monday 21st July 2025.
- Play opens for three weeks from Friday 25th July 2025.

Any questions or more information please email the director c/- [boxoffice@woywoylt.com.au](mailto:boxoffice@woywoylt.com.au)

Look forward to seeing you at the auditions.