



AUDITIONS – Saturday 10 June 2017 at 10:00am
Ellerslie Theatrical Society Inc.
Stables Theatre, 138 Main Highway, Ellerslie



Her Story

written and directed
by Mary Granfors

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Life's pretty much the same at Bedford Manor Nursing Home; bingo on Thursdays, chicken pot pie on Fridays, a perky, positive nurse helps keep the place humming and a lovely, yet forgetful old gentleman serenades the residents over the loudspeaker.

Sadly, some of the tenants at the Manor share feelings of loneliness, abandonment and invisibility. Bedford's grumpiest resident Hazel, and her high-spirited friend Maddie, do their best to keep their spirits up. Maddie amuses herself with hilarious pranks while Hazel slowly retreats into herself and her room. Hazel has a secret, and she is not ready to share it with anyone, even Maddie.

Then one day a new janitor arrives at the Manor; Kai, a resettled refugee, who's witnessed horrific violence in his home country. Despite the extreme circumstances of his past, he radiates kindness and a big, loving heart. He brings joy and song to the Manor and strikes up an unlikely friendship with Hazel. As they slowly open up to each other, she realizes that finally, she's found someone to share her secret with, and someone who might be able to help.

About the director

I am a recent immigrant myself! Our family moved from the US to New Zealand in 2008 in search of a better life for ourselves and our children. After many years involvement in community theatre outside Seattle, directing an assortment of plays including my favourites; "The Vagina Monologues" by Eve Ensler "Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?" by Edward Albee and "Getting Out" by Marsha Norman, it was big fun to move to NZ and jump into the thriving Dolphin Theatre and direct "We'll Always Have Paris" by Jill Hyem. Next step for me was casting the Ellerslie Theatre's production of "I Hate Hamlet," by Paul Rudnick and now here I am, directing my own little one act play and thrilled to be a "budding playwright." (A dream come true for me!) I love combining humour and drama; shows that have you giggling through the tears, that are funny but at the same time deeply thought provoking. My biggest wish is for "Her Story" to achieve all that and more for you. Enjoy!

Cast Required

The ages are only suggestions and should only be treated as guidelines. If you are outside of this age range but feel you are perfect for the role, please come along to audition.

- **Hazel** (Age: 70+ Female) Smart, strong-willed, not afraid to speak her mind. Angry at what life has thrown at her, yet big-hearted. A very private person though, as she is hatching a secret plan and shares it with no one. (ideally with American accent but please come if you feel a connection with her).
- **Maddie** (Age: 70+ Female) Big personality, feisty and lovable. A trickster who likes to play pranks and stir up a bit of fun/trouble at the nursing home. Strong American southern accent (and I mean strong y'all!).
- **Nurse** (Age: 25+ Female) Perky, positive, big-hearted caregiver. Keeps things running smoothly at the Manor. Irish accent. (can be any age really, as long as you look old enough to have finished nursing school!).
- **Kai** (Age: 30+ Male) Newly resettled refugee. Kai's witnessed horrendous brutalities in his home country, but is calm, gentle, loving and wise. (Think: Nelson Mandela). He was a trained Doctor at home, but working as a janitor at the nursing home now.
- **Mr. Holden** (Age 70+ Male) Happily sings old-fashioned, funny folk songs over the loudspeaker throughout the play. Sweet but a bit forgetful. A lovable grandpa. (Never seen on stage. This part will be pre-recorded).

Rehearsals

Start the week commencing 19 June 2017. Rehearsal times are evenings through the week and Sunday afternoons.

Season

Thursday 24 August to Saturday 2 September 17 June 2017 - 5 performances including a matinee.

Contact

For more information, a copy of the script and an audition time please contact Mary Granfors by email: mary.gforce@gmail.com or on mobile 021 781 962. For enquiries between 21 - 28 May please email Kathy Walker at kathy.walker4@clear.net.nz.