

# CLARENCE BROWN THEATRE

AT THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE

## INFO SHEET – *THE HARVEST*, Lab, Fall '25

*The Harvest* by Samuel D. Hunter

Lab Theater, October-November 2025

Directed by David Ratliff

### KEY PRODUCTION DATES

**Rehearsals:** September 8 – October 14

- Days Off: 9/13, 9/15, 9/20, 9/21, 9/28, 10/5, 10/6, 10/7, 10/11, 10/12

**Tech:** October 15-18 and 20-21

**Performances:** October 22 – November 9

- Evening Performances: October 22 – 24, October 28 – 30, November 5 – 8
- Matinees: October 26, November 2, November 9
- No performance on Halloween



### A NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Thank you for your interest in auditioning for *The Harvest*. This is a thoughtful and intimate play that explores faith, identity, and belonging.

The play takes place in the basement of an evangelical church in Idaho, where a group of young missionaries prepares for a trip to spread their message in the Middle East. As their training progresses, tensions rise and hidden doubts emerge, forcing the characters to confront what they believe, why they believe it, and what they're really searching for.

Before you audition, please read the following information carefully. Do not hesitate to be in touch with any questions. You may contact me at [dratlif2@utk.edu](mailto:dratlif2@utk.edu).

### TO REQUEST AN AUDITION APPOINTMENT

- Follow all instructions on casting notice on CBT audition website [LINK]
- Email [cbt\\_auditions@utk.edu](mailto:cbt_auditions@utk.edu) with any questions.

### BREAKDOWNS & SCRIPT INFORMATION

- Continue reading this document to review the **Casting Breakdown** and a **Violence, Intimacy, & Special Activity Breakdown** for this production.
- The Casting Breakdown (**see below**) offers information about available roles; basic information about each character; and how the identities of actors and those of characters will interact in this world. The Violence, Intimacy, & Special Activity Breakdown (**see below**) includes a list of moments in the play that you may wish to be aware of when auditioning.
- Though breakdowns offer important insights into the characters and content of the script, **it is highly recommended that you read the play in its entirety before your first audition.**

**Scripts are available to borrow in hard copy from the Theatre Department Office (McClung 206).**

#### **FOR THE FIRST ROUND OF AUDITIONS**

- **Prepare 1 of the available sides for the part (or parts) you are interested in** from *The Harvest* (if just auditioning for this play) **OR** from *A Christmas Carol* (**you may choose either play if auditioning for both**). All sides will be available on the audition site within one week of auditions.
  - You will act with another actor (auditioner) **or** “reader” (depending on when your appointment is). A **reader** is someone seated near the audition table who will be your scene partner in all ways except physical interaction.
  - Be familiar enough with the language that you can comfortably look up and connect with your scene partner. See tips for cold reading on CBT audition site.
  - CBT will provide e-readers for auditioners’ use. **If you would like a hard copy for accessibility, please let us know.**

#### **FOR CALLBACKS**

- **Read the play by this point. Wear comfortable clothing/shoes to all callback sessions.**
- You will be assigned a role or roles for individual sessions and given sides to prepare to read with other actors. (Or with a reader). The director will likely work with you on your side, and you will read it more than once.
- **STUDENTS ONLY:** When you receive a callback, it will include a **withdrawal date**. This is a day by which we ask you to withdraw from consideration if you are no longer interested in being cast. **We will assume that actors who do *not* withdraw by this date will accept roles if offered.**
- Cast lists will be posted on CBT audition site within two weeks of the final callback. **All auditioners will receive email notification when lists are available to view.**

#### **UNDERSTUDY CASTING/ASSIGNMENTS**

- There will be NO understudies for this Lab production

## CASTING BREAKDOWN

### A NOTE ABOUT IDENTITIES AND CASTING:

*The Harvest* takes place in a small, evangelical church basement in rural Idaho in the present day. The characters are young adults and church members navigating deep questions of faith, purpose, family, and doubt. They bring with them personal convictions and emotional histories that surface in intimate and sometimes painful ways over the course of the play. See below for specific information regarding...

**Race/Ethnicity/Nationality** – The script does not explicitly assign race or ethnicity to any characters. Actors of all backgrounds are encouraged to audition, and casting will reflect an inclusive approach that honors the emotional and spiritual truth of each character. If a character's cultural identity becomes meaningful in performance, we will work collaboratively and respectfully to support that portrayal.

**Sex/Gender** – While the characters are written with specific genders, cisgender and transgender actors, as well as non-binary actors, are welcome to audition for any role that aligns with their gender expression or identity. We will cast thoughtfully and inclusively while honoring the dynamics of the relationships within the play.

**Physical Ability** – While most of the play is grounded in dialogue and stillness, there are two key moments that require medium-to-high-intensity physical expression during scenes of “speaking in tongues.” In addition, due to the requirements of the script and staging, all actors must be able to independently move up and down stairs on the set. We welcome actors of all physical abilities and are committed to inclusive casting. If you have specific access needs or questions, we are happy to discuss them and explore potential accommodations.

**Age** – The central characters are young adults in their early 20s. This production will be cast primarily with undergraduate actors. Character ages are listed as written in the script and are provided only as a reference.

**Subject Matter** – Performing in *The Harvest* may be emotionally or spiritually challenging, particularly as it grapples with themes of faith, doubt, grief, and belonging. In addition, the two medium-to-high-intensity moments of “speaking in tongues” can be physically demanding and may require actors to access intense emotional states. We are committed to creating a respectful and supportive rehearsal environment where actors feel safe exploring this material. Please do not hesitate to communicate any concerns or needs at any point in the process.

PLEASE CONTINUE TO NEXT PAGE FOR AVAILABLE ROLES

## AVAILABLE ROLES

**JOSH** – Early 20s, he/him. Quiet, devout, and emotionally isolated. Grieving the recent death of his alcoholic father, Josh has committed to a permanent missionary assignment abroad, hoping to find purpose and escape. His spiritual intensity, especially when speaking in tongues, is genuine but fraught, less about certainty and more about longing for something to hold onto.

**TOM** – Early 20s, he/him. Shy, soft-spoken, and intensely loyal to Josh. A true believer who wants to support his best friend unconditionally, even when it means silencing his own questions or desires. Tom is emotionally repressed and struggling to reconcile his outward faith with the deeper parts of himself he keeps buried.

**ADA** – Mid 20s, she/her. Energetic, exacting, and tightly wound. As the mission leader, Ada oversees prayer and spiritual exercises, including speaking in tongues. She walks a careful line between positivity and realism, knowing that the group around her is fragile. While she presents confidence and cheer, she keeps her deeper thoughts and intentions guarded, aware of how much the others are relying on her composure.

**MICHAELA** – Late 20s, she/her. Josh's estranged older sister who returns to Idaho to prevent his departure. Grounded, skeptical, and raw with grief, she left home to escape family trauma and addiction. Now determined to reconnect with Josh and question his choices.

**DENISE** – Early 20s, she/her. Warm, sincere, and quietly questioning. Married to Marcus, she earnestly seeks spiritual meaning and purpose. Her blend of devotion and introspection makes her the emotional anchor of the group, especially when moments grow spiritually intense.

**MARCUS** – Early 20s, he/him. Blue-collar, earnest, and eager to do the right thing. Married to Denise, Marcus is trying to be a leader in his marriage as his faith expects, but often finds himself looking to others for direction. He embraces spiritual fervor as a means of fitting in, caught between a desire for acceptance and a growing sense of insecurity.

**CHUCK** – 50s, he/him. The pastor of the church and Tom's father. Chuck appears only briefly, but his presence is both comforting and unsettling. He arrives to reassure the young missionaries and offer guidance, but his words carry mixed messages that leave room for doubt, pressure, and interpretation. His authority is quiet, but its impact lingers. **Note: This role will likely be cast with a non-undergraduate.**

*PLEASE CONTINUE TO NEXT PAGE FOR VIOLENCE, INTIMACY, & SPECIAL ACTIVITY*

## **VIOLENCE, INTIMACY, & SPECIAL ACTIVITY**

*The Harvest* production team does NOT include an intimacy or fight choreographer. We will, however, be welcoming a cultural consultant to provide context for religious content.

*All page numbers refer to the Samuel French script, available in Theatre Department office.*

<b>Page</b>	<b>Character(s)</b>	<b>What</b>	<b>Notes</b>
7-17; 100-2	Josh, Denise, Marcus, Tom, Ada	Charismatic worship practices	Speaking in tongues and ecstatic movement, read script for further details
46	Denise & Marcus	Hug	Denise & Marcus have an extended hug
46	Denise & Marcus	Touch	Marcus touches Denise's stomach
69	Tom & Josh	Touch	Josh grabs Tom by the shoulders

***Thank you for reading this info sheet!***

*If you still have questions, please visit CBT audition site  
or email [cbt\\_auditions@utk.edu](mailto:cbt_auditions@utk.edu).*