

BESSIE – (40-55) Unassuming but possessing an inner strength, Bessie has spent her quiet life taking a backseat, first to her more outgoing and demanding sister, then as the only caretaker for her aunt and chronically ill father. Bessie is onstage for the majority of the show so heavy dialogue and a full commitment to the rehearsals is required

LEE – (35-50) Full of restless energy and a burning desire for something better, Lee is kinetic and somewhat manic. Life has not turned out as she planned and as a result she's weary and a little defeated, especially in her relationship with her son Hank. There is guilt and distance in her relationship to Bessie but there is a hope of reconciliation. A strong ability to portray a character arc is required.

RUTH – (60+) Childlike, sweet, absent and a little selfish, Ruth has spent her entire life in chronic pain from collapsed vertebrae. Although now cured she has cultivated a helplessness that she uses to keep from having any responsibility other than watching her favorite soap opera. A very funny role, this actress will need good comic timing.

HANK – (16- 19) A lost boy on the verge of manhood and not sure of who he is or where he fits in, Hank is currently an inmate in a juvenile detention facility for arson- he burned down the family house. He tries very hard to project an aura of toughness, but in reality is actually quite sweet and kind, a side of him his Aunt Bessie brings out. Outwardly tough and difficult but in reality a little boy looking for the love he doesn't get from his mother.

NOTE FOR PARENTS/GUARDIANS: THIS CHARACTER MUST SAY THE F WORD.

CHARLIE – (12-15) Quiet, shy and introverted, Charlie has learned not to make trouble to compensate for his more aggressive brother. He is compliant and sweet, he idolizes Hank but has closed himself off from connecting with anyone while his mother and brother fight and fume. Obsessed with reading he fades into books to avoid his uncomfortable home life.

WALLY – (50+) A doctor, he is kind and genuinely concerned with Bessie but may have lost his ability to be an effective doctor. He is overwhelmed running his practice alone having just lost his nurse and with his partner on vacation. This actor will also be asked to be in the character suit in Disneyworld scene.

CHARLOTTE / RETIREMENT HOME DIRECTOR – (age undetermined). CHARLOTTE is Hank's therapist. The RETIREMENT HOME DIRECTOR shows the sisters an alternate care facility for Marvin.

BOB/MARVIN – (age undetermined) Bob is Dr. Wally's brother who helps him out in the office after the doctor's nurse quits, Bob is just as incompetent as Dr. Wally. Marvin is not an actual character in the play; he is a presence. The set will be designed so that the bed in Marvin's room will only be partially visible to the audience. Someone will need to be in the bed; there will be occasional movement

and possibly some groaning or noise but no actual dialogue and we will never actually see Marvin.