

## Night of January 16<sup>th</sup> Auditions

August 9, 11 and 12, 2021 (12<sup>th</sup> is for callbacks *only*)

### Character Synopsis

**Ages listed are suggestions as to what the character should be able to portray. Many of these roles have minimal dialogue but are essential and need fully developed characters.**

#### **Karen Andre (Female, 28-40)**

Former secretary and lover of the dead Bjorn Falkner and was proud to be his mistress. She is accused of killing him in a jealous act of revenge. First impression: to handle her would require the services of an animal trainer, not an attorney. She has a profound, inexorable calm, but underneath has a tense vitality, primitive fire, and an untamed strength in the defiant immobility of her body. She has the elegance of a woman that does not give much thought to her clothes, but rather she is one who knows she can make any rag look attractive and does it unconsciously.

#### **Defense Attorney Stevens (Male or Female, should present as 40+)**

Defense counsel for Karen Andre. Stevens seems to admire the ideals which Bjorn and Karen espouse in their lives. May be a heavy, middle-aged person with the kindly appearance of a respectable father/mother of a family along with the shrewd, piercing manner of a pawnbroker.

#### **District Attorney Flint (Male or Female, should present as 30+)**

Prosecution. Tall, gray-haired, displaying the grooming grace of a person of the world. Flint stands for more traditional values and desires Karen to be convicted as much because she represents an affront to the status quo than because of her guilt.

#### **Larry 'Guts' Regan (Male, 30-50\*)**

A gangster who loves Karen Andre. Although he lives outside the law, his sense of honor is on display at every turn. The way he regards Bjorn Faulkner, the way he treats Karen Andre, and the efforts he makes to protect them, all bespeak an attitude toward life that matches that of the two lovers. Regan's gangland exploits are played for humorous effect during the trial, but at bottom his role is serious and essential to the plot.

#### **Dr. Kirkland (Male or Female, should present as older)**

Medical examiner for the county. Kind and indifferent to theatrics.

#### **John Hutchins (Male, should present as age 60+)**

Older security guard/doorman is timid and neat, but almost shabby. On the stand he is shy, nervous. He is one of the witnesses who sees Bjorn and Karen on the night of January 16th.

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### **Homer Van Fleet (Male, should present as 35+)**

A private detective who is tall, not very young, and can best be described by the word “correct”. Not terribly bright, for which he tries to compensate by keeping meticulous notes on his observations which he frequently refers to.

### **Magda Svenson (Female, should present 50+)**

She was Bjorn Faulkner’s nursemaid when he was a child and currently serves as housekeeper. She is Swedish with a very thick accent, waddles, has tight, drawn lips, suspicious eyes, and an air of off-handed righteousness. Highly disapproves of the loose sexual morality of Karen, but still loves Bjorn as if he were her own child.

### **Inspector (Elmer) Sweeney (Male or Female, should present as 30+)**

First policeman on the scene, round-faced, somewhat naïve, comes off as being a bit of a bumpkin.

### **Nancy Lee Faulkner (Female, should present as 22-32)**

Widow of Bjorn Faulkner and daughter of John Graham Whitfield. She is younger than Karen, delicate, perfect like porcelain statuette. She met Bjorn at a society event and decided that she had to have him. She is spoiled, wealthy, beautiful and is the opposite of Karen Andre in every respect: prim and proper, rather than sexual and sensual, contemptuous of material success rather than comfortable in the business world.

### **John Graham Whitfield (Male, should present as age 60+)**

Father-in-law of Bjorn Faulkner. He is tall, gray-haired, perfectly groomed, a thorough gentleman with the manner of a war time general. He is the president of Whitfield National Bank. He purports himself as the kind of person who never loses his temper but proves himself a liar several times when he is called to the stand.

### **Mr. /Ms. (James) Chandler (Male or Female, should present as 40+)**

Handwriting expert for the local police department, precise, dignified, unflappable. Chandler testifies on the possibility of the suicide letter being forged.

### **Siegurd Jungquist (Male, should present as late 30s+)**

Swedish with an accent, a little timid in a quiet, reserved way, with a naïve face and questioning, as if constantly wondering, eyes. Jungquist was hired as Bjorn Faulkner's secretary after Karen was fired. Jungquist admires Bjorn highly and would do anything to help him.

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### **Judge Heath (Male or Female, should present as 40+)**

Presides over the proceedings of the court is every bit the typical and expected image of a Judge. Stoic and reserved.

### **Clerk (court clerk) (Male or Female, should present as 25+)**

Professional and reserved; enjoys the judicial process and takes role seriously.

### **Bailiff (court officer) (Male or Female, should present as 25+)**

Uniformed and professional. Seems to exude a bored exterior, but is aware of tension, emotion and the temperature of the courtroom.

**All action takes place in a courtroom New York. The time period will be based somewhere between 1955 and 1965. This play was first performed in 1935 and this latest play version was updated by Rand in 1968.**

## **Notes on Ayn Rand**

She was a Russian American author who was a bold critic of social conformity. The main characters in *Night of January 16<sup>th</sup>* are bold egoists who unapologetically seek the world's rewards and pleasures for themselves.

Notably, she said of this play, "I do not think, nor did I think it when I wrote this play, that a swindler is a heroic character or that a respectable banker is a villain," she writes. "But for the purpose of dramatizing the conflict of independence versus conformity, a criminal – a social outcast – can be an eloquent symbol.

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### Who are the Kirk Players?

#### KP Mission Statement

We are a nonprofit organization whose mission is to enrich, educate and entertain our community by providing a superior theatre experience, to give back to our community with an emphasis on the arts, and to create a safe and inclusive environment.

#### KP Vision Statement

Our organization strives to:

- Provide an engaging and memorable theatrical experience to a broad and diverse audience
- Cultivate an environment where people who are passionate about the performing arts can grow and thrive
- Serve as a valued cultural asset through our work and service to the community

#### KP Values / Guiding Principles

The Core Values that drive our organization include:

- **Integrity and Fairness** - we commit to building relationships and trust by being accountable, truthful and consistent
- **Diversity and Inclusivity** - we respect people, value diversity, and are committed to equality
- **Collaboration, Teamwork and Participation** - we value and recognize the contributions of our volunteers and are committed to a culture of openness
- **Quality and Excellence** - we strive for the best possible outcome with every task and role we undertake
- **Spirit and Passion toward the Mission** - we embrace the energy that comes from our organization and our community to further our vision and mission