



## AUDITION INFORMATION

84 Charing Cross Road

**BARE BONES**  
STAGED READINGS AT THEATRE@FIRST

**ABOUT THE PLAY** –In 1949 a struggling young New York playwright sent a letter inquiring about second-hand books to an antiquarian book store in London. So began a 20-year friendship between Helene Hanff and the booksellers at 84, Charing Cross Road. Taken from their actual letters, this story will amuse you, charm you, and send you running to your nearest library.

Since the play takes place over the course of twenty years, actors from 20-70 are all encouraged to audition.

### **CHARACTERS** -

**HELENE HANFF.** (Second syllable pronounced to rhyme with “rain”.) Exuberant and unaffected, a struggling young writer and self-educated bibliophile in New York, passionately in love with England and literature.

**FRANK DOEL** – British accent. Delightfully dusty, a proper Englishman, with a dry wit and a kind heart hidden behind his British reserve.

**OTHERS** (*The director will work with one actor to develop distinct personalities for these multiple characters*):

**CECILY FARR.** British accent. Book store employee. A friendly young mother.

**MEGAN WELLS.** British accent. Secretary to the bosses. Businesslike and extremely organized, always has the right word.

**MAXINE STUART.** Helene's friend, a glamorous Broadway actress

**AUDITIONS** - When your audition time arrives, you will be called into the hall with the other members of your audition group. Please take a seat. The director will introduce herself and then assign you sides for cold readings. You will have a few minutes to look over the sides before being called to perform them. The director may stop you during the scene to re-direct—this is not an indication that what you are doing is wrong, simply that she is giving you the opportunity to show her something more. Every attempt will be made to let you read for parts of specific interest, as noted on your audition sheet. We understand that auditions are nerve-wracking—we want you to relax, have fun, and have every opportunity to show us what you can do.

**NOTIFICATION** - You will be notified, one way or another, by Sunday, March 18<sup>th</sup> at 5pm. If you have given us an email address, we will use that to notify you. If not, we will call you at the number you have provided. Please make sure that your contact information is legible. If you have not heard from us by that time, please email [auditions@theatreatfirst.org](mailto:auditions@theatreatfirst.org)

**REHEARSALS** – Rehearsal location will be determined after casting, but will be at the home of either a cast member or the director on weeknights 7-10 pm, or Sunday afternoons and/or evenings 7-10 pm.

**CONFLICTS** - Please be sure to indicate all potential conflicts on the calendar on the back of the Audition Form. Every attempt will be made to accommodate conflicts, but once the schedule is set, it is very hard to adjust it. If you do not have your calendar available at auditions, you may email [auditions@theatreatfirst.org](mailto:auditions@theatreatfirst.org) with additional conflict information.

**PERFORMANCE** - 8pm on Thursday, April 19, 2011 at Unity Somerville.

**FEEDBACK** - We try to make our auditions as smooth and pleasant as possible. If you have comments or questions regarding the process, please speak to one of our staff, or email [auditions@theatreatfirst.org](mailto:auditions@theatreatfirst.org).

**Thank you very much for auditioning for Theatre@First.**