



INFORMATION SHEET

Please read this information carefully—there are a lot of details and answers to many questions included below. If you have any additional questions, please email auditions@theatreatfirst.org.

ABOUT THE PLAY – R.U.R. was written in 1920 by Czech writer Karel Capek, and is most famous for inventing the word “robot,” from a Czech word meaning “drudgery” or “slavery.” The central idea of the play is whether or not human beings have the right to create a paradise for themselves by building an army of supposedly unfeeling robots. Considering there is only one human left alive at the end, you can imagine how well this goes.

The play is not frequently performed, likely due to very outdated interactions between the male and female characters. The plot of our version has been altered and some characters have been gender-swapped (or removed entirely) to refocus the story on human hubris and the robots’ evolution.

ENSEMBLE – There are twelve characters in the play, seven humans and five robots. Domin, Helena, and Sulla will be women, while the rest of the characters can be any gender, with pronouns changed where needed (no cross-casting). See second page for character descriptions, and let the director know if there is a certain character you want to read for.

PREPARATION – Actors may prepare a monologue if they like from any era, but this is not required.

AUDITIONS – Please arrive 15 minutes before your scheduled audition time. If you have not filled out an audition form in advance, extra copies will be available. Headshots and resumes are not required. Auditions will last approximately one hour.

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 – Casting decisions will be issued by 5pm on Friday, December 15th. Please make sure that your contact information is legible. If you have not heard from us by that time, please email auditions@theatreatfirst.org . Please be sure to check your email regularly this week—we greatly appreciate timely responses to any questions or offers.

READ-THRU – The first reading of the play will take place at 3pm Sunday, December 17th at 13 Park St. Somerville.

REHEARSALS – Rehearsal information is located on the back of the audition form. Since we are rehearsing in the winter, it is probable that there will be some snow cancellations, so we have scheduled more rehearsals than we will likely need.

CONFLICTS – Please be sure to indicate all potential conflicts on the calendar on the back of the Audition Sheet. 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 with additional conflict information.

WORK DAYS – Work days will take place on some Saturdays from 1pm-5pm (see back of audition form) at Unity Church. Actors are required to come to at least two work days, which will involve building the set, coordinating costumes, hanging posters, etc. Food will be provided, and these are a great time to hang out with your cast and crew mates!

PERFORMANCES – The play will run on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday nights from March 15-23, with a matinee on the 24th. Actors are required to arrive at the church 2 hours before showtime.

CREW – If you are interested in joining the crew, mark it on the back of your audition form. This show will be a lot of fun, so if you don't make the cast, we encourage you to join our crew! No experience necessary - if you've always wanted to try doing makeup, for example, we are willing to train you.

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

Thank you very much for auditioning for Theatre@First.

Chris DeKalb
Producer, *R.U.R.*

Mary Parker
Director, *R.U.R.*

Human Characters:

HARRIET DOMIN (female, older): Director General, Rossum's Universal Robots. Confident, verging on arrogant. Passionate about her work. In love with Helena.

FABRY (male or female, older): Technical Director, R.U.R., taken off guard by the robots' evolution.

DR. GALL (male or female, older): Head of Physiology and Research Department, R.U.R. Takes a researcher's view of the robots, but does not believe in their consciousness until it is too late. In love with Helena.

DR. HALLEMEIER (male or female, older): Head of Institute for Robot Psychology and Behaviour, R.U.R. Loud, arrogant, denies the truth about the robots until the end.

BUSMAN (male or female, older): Commercial Director, R.U.R. One of the first to accept what is happening with the robots, and tries to bargain with them.

ALQUIST (male or female, older): Head of Construction, R.U.R. Somewhat religious, resigned to the human's fate, blames him/herself and the other scientists for the robot revolution.

HELENA GLORY (female, young): Idealistic, romantic, empathetic, impulsive. In love with Harriet.

Robot Characters:

MARIUS (male or female): Philosophical, in the end.

SULLA (female): Intelligent, has emerging emotional responses to Robot Primus.

RADIUS (male or female): The leader. Vindictive.

ROBOT PRIMUS (male): Romantic, develops feelings for Sulla.

ROBOT SECUNDUS (male or female): A follower, but self-sacrificing.

The mission of Theatre@First is to work together to provide a fun, friendly, and creative theater experience for cast, crew, and audience alike. We welcome volunteers at all levels of experience, without regard to race, color, religion, ethnicity, ancestry, marital status, sex, sexual orientation, gender expression, national origin, body type, age or disability. We encourage a supportive environment in which to work, play, grow, and explore new areas of the theatre arts. We offer affordable and eclectic performances to the community, aiming to surprise, delight, entertain, and educate our audiences.

Theatre@First is part of the Massachusetts Community Theatre Corporation, a non-profit arts organization recognized by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and by the Internal Revenue Service under Section 501(c)3.