

Big Love | Fall 2018

by Charles Mee

directed by Chelsea DuVall

Based on Aeschylus's *The Suppliants*, *Big Love* is a contemporary play about fifty brides who flee from Greece to an estate in Italy to avoid marrying their fifty cousins. While on the estate, the characters raise issues of gender politics, love, and domestic violence. This play is edgy, smart and passionate; a roller coaster of emotions, ideas, gender, humor, wedding dresses, Italy, cake, nerf-guns, people falling over, broken dishes, wine glasses, blood and a bathtub (sorry, no water).

FULL SCRIPT AVAILABLE ONLINE: <http://www.charlesmee.org/big-love.shtml>

Characters (13/14):

This is a small - medium sized cast with each role having a significant amount of lines and involvement in the action. Due to this, I will be casting a **Male** and **Female Understudy**. These are non-speaking roles and will be treated as traditional understudies, meaning that they will be present and attentive in rehearsals and expected to step into another role (per director) if there are changes in casting during the process.

Lydia (F) - a bride, idealistic and romantic but still grounded, acts with integrity, betrothed to Nikos

Olympia (F) - a bride, feminine and sensual, love-lorn woman who only wants a man to take care of her, betrothed to Oed

Thyona (F) - a bride, fierce, independent, feminist, passionate and severe, betrothed to Constantine

Bella (F) - *THE* Italian matriarch, full of wisdom and heart, she knows "what's up," has 13 sons

Eleanor (F) - wedding guest, a classy lady who "thinks" she's got the answers, excitable and enjoys being involved, a bit of a busy-body, wife of Leo

Piero (M) - wealthy owner of Italian estate who provides sanctuary to the brides, son to Bella, takes care of his mother

Giuliano (M) - young nephew of Piero, gay (or transgender), honest, full of light, lovable and a bit confused

Nikos (M) - a groom, idealistic and romantic, longs for a real connection, betrothed to Lydia

Constantine (M) - a groom, traditional and misogynistic, very physical, betrothed to Thyona

Oed (M) - a groom, young, not too bright, betrothed to Olympia

Leo (M) - wedding guest, warm, likable and light-hearted, husband to Eleanor

Ensemble (1M, 1F) - these actors will appear as servant, bride, groom

Wedding Singer - solo singer for the wedding slaughter, non-speaking role

*****PLEASE REVIEW THE BELOW INFORMATION PRIOR TO AUDITIONS*****

Audition details: Thurs., Sept. 6, after school (specific time TBA) @ Performing Arts Center

- Place personal belongings in the Black Box and then meet on-stage for brief orientation with Director, specific time TBA
- Auditions will consist of; **1) prepared monologue** (selected from *Big Love*) and **2) assigned cold-reading** (assigned by director at audition).
- Please prepare and memorize ONE of the selected monologues to perform, choose the piece which speaks to you and have fun.

- Male roles indicated with (M), Female roles indicated with (F). If you identify as non-binary or trans, please choose the gender or piece with which you most relate. While I only pulled monologues for select characters for the auditions, almost all of the characters have a substantial amount of text, so show me your ability to tackle the text.
- **IMPORTANT:** This play is written in verse structure but remains contemporary and should be delivered as such. Look at the line breaks and consider why they exist, how they affect the tempo of the speech, but do not allow yourself to get caught up in the structure.
- After you perform your monologue, cold-read scenes and movement improvisations will be assigned by the director.
- There will NOT be a dance/movement call for auditions, however there is movement in this play. Please indicate movement training/experience on your audition sheet and be prepared to share your movement experience, should the director ask regarding.
- Attached is a sample rehearsal/production schedule for your consideration, please make note of the commitment for before auditioning.

The final CAST LIST will be posted morning of Friday, Sept. 7 - please initial next to your name to accept the role. For those cast, you are expected to start rehearsals Friday, Sept. 7.

Thank you in advance for auditioning for *Big Love*, this is sure to be an exciting production to work on! I look forward to seeing new faces and familiar ones at the audition in the fall. Have a wonderful summer and break legs! - Chelsea DuVall, Director