

Harvey Character Description

Elwood P. Dowd (Lead) – (male) Age 40-60

Elwood is a charming eccentric whose best friend is Harvey, an invisible six-foot tall rabbit. He is well mannered, very friendly, cordial old-school charm with time for and interest in everyone. Elwood is Veta's older brother who never married and remained in the family home.

Veta Louise Simmons – (female) Age 35-55

Elwood's younger sister. She has returned home after the death of their mother and is looking for a suitable husband for her daughter Myrtle Mae. She is concerned about her position and her family's position in society and all that includes. She loves her brother very much and goes back and forth regarding her feeling for Harvey.

Dr. William B. Chumley – (male) Age 50-85

Dr Chumley is a well-known psychiatrist and the head of Chumley's Rest. He is a difficult, exacting man who will do anything to maintain appearances and the reputation of the Sanitarium. He is dreaming of retirement.

Ruth Kelly – (female) Age 18-35

Nurse Kelly works at Chumley's Rest. She is pretty, young, caring, sweet, kind and always sees the best in people. She has a strong attraction to Dr. Lyman Sanderson.

Dr. Lyman Sanderson – (male) Age 25-40

Dr. Sanderson is a young, attractive and highly qualified psychiatrist, handpicked by Dr. Chumley. His skill is only surpassed by his vanity. He is infatuated with Nurse Kelly and yet pretends he is not interested.

Myrtle Mae Simmons – (female) Age 18-35

Myrtle is Veta's daughter and Elwood's niece. Myrtle, with her mother leading the way, is intent on landing a "suitable husband". Myrtle is extremely self-centered and in some way slightly askew. Elwood and Harvey are interrupting her plans. Wilson is not who her mother has in mind.

Wilson – (male) Age 20-45

Wilson is the "muscle" or Orderly for Chumley's Rest. He does not have to have muscle just be intimidating and/or assertive in some way and hands-on with others. He falls for Myrtle Mae as soon as he meets her.

Judge Omar Gaffney – (male) Age 45-85

The judge is an old family friend of Elwood's and also the family lawyer. He is fiercely protective of the family and very understanding of Elwood's friend Harvey.

Ethel Chauvenet – (female) Age 45-80

Ethel is an old family friend of Elwood's, and an elite member of the town's social circle that Veta and Myrtle want to join. She knows everything and everyone.
Act 1 only role.

Betty Chumley – (female) Age 45-80

Betty is Dr. Chumley's kind and extremely talkative wife who is always busy and very practical.
Act 2 only role.

E. J. Lofgren – (male/female) Age Any

E. J. Lofgren is a cab driver with a monologue about sanitarium passengers that is crucial to the message of the play. This role has a single scene and a limited and flexible rehearsal schedule. It is all about the delivery.

Harvey Play Description

When Elwood P. Dowd starts to introduce his imaginary friend, Harvey, a six-and-a-half-foot rabbit, to guests at a society party, his sister, Veta, has seen as much of his eccentric behavior as she can tolerate. She decides to have him committed to a sanitarium to spare her daughter, Myrtle Mae, and their family from future embarrassment. Problems arise, however, when Veta herself is mistakenly assumed to be on the verge of lunacy when she explains to doctors that years of living with Elwood's hallucination have caused her to see Harvey also! The doctors commit Veta instead of Elwood, but when the truth comes out, the search is on for Elwood and his invisible companion. When he shows up at the sanitarium looking for his lost friend Harvey, it seems that the mild-mannered Elwood's delusion has had a strange influence on more than one of the doctors. Only at the end does Veta realize that maybe Harvey isn't so bad after all.