

ROE
AUDITION AND PRODUCTION INFORMATION

General Audition:

A video submission of a one-minute contemporary dramatic monologue (Anything after 1880) submitted by Oct 15. Access the audition form at:

<https://cola.unh.edu/theatre-dance/audition-form>

Please Note:

- The *ROE* general audition is being conducted in conjunction with the UPPWs, *Mathew Three Horn* (Spring ArtsREACH tour) and the Mask and Dagger Musical. Follow the instructions if you are planning to audition for more than just ROE in this combined audition.
- For students auditioning for both *Roe* and the Mask and Dagger Musical: If you are being considered for both productions, the student will be given the more substantial role.
- Being cast in the ArtsREACH tour or the UPPWs will not affect your ability to be cast in *Roe* or the Mask and Dagger Musical.
- Being cast in *Roe* will not affect your ability to be cast in *Songs for a New World*.
- You cannot be cast in both *Roe* and the Mask and Dagger Musical.

Call-backs:

Call-backs for *Roe* will be conducted in conjunction with the Mask and Dagger Musical on November 7 and 8, starting at 6:30pm.

Rehearsal Schedule:

- There will be one rehearsal before break: Wed, Dec 7 from 6:30-10:30pm
- Rehearsals will continue, starting Mon, Jan 23 at 7pm.
- Rehearsals are M-F, usually 6:30pm-10:30pm,
- Sunday Jan 29 and Feb 4: 10am-1pm and 2pm-5pm
- Sun Feb 12: 6pm-10pm
- Saturdays are planned to be a non-rehearsal day.
- Tech rehearsals 12pm-5pm Sat and Sun, Feb 18, 19.
- Dress Rehearsals: Feb 20, 21. Usually a 5:30pm call for first dress, 6pm call for second. Rehearsals may go until 11pm.

Performances:

- Feb 22-25 at 7pm
- Feb 26 at 2pm
- Feb 26 at 5pm: snow date for second performance if we lose any of the Feb 22-25 performances

What is *ROE*?

Roe is a remarkable play that examines the trajectory of the Roe VS Wade supreme court decision that changed, and continues to change, this country. Playwright Lisa Loomer has ingeniously woven together the conflicting published memoirs of Sarah Weddington (who was only 26 when she argued the pro-choice case before the supreme court) and Norma McCorvey, the real Roe. The play does not offer easy answers but instead poses searing questions about the issues surrounding this landmark 1973 decision. Loomer plans to offer rewrites of parts of the play to reflect the current court's decision last June to overturn Roe.

This play requires a diverse cast of very strong actors. The play is intense at times, funny at times, chaotic at times, but always powerful and thought-provoking. All but two actors (those playing Weddington and McCorvey must have the ability to play multiple roles.

All actors who audition must be comfortable and able to work artistically with the subject matter. It is critical that actors read the play before auditioning so they are fully aware of its adult content and language as well as circumstances surrounding the characters (their personal histories and the actions they take in the play).

What are the roles being cast?

The play will require 7-9 actors who can play females roles, 3-4 actors who can play male roles, and 1-2 child actors.

Here are the roles that these actors must cover:

SARAH WEDDINGTON—20's in Act One, 40's in Act Two, a few scenes in her 70's. A feminist, a great lawyer, charming, brilliant, private, funny in her own way, and quite composed. In real life, blonde and beautiful with big hair. Texan.

NORMA MCCORVEY—20's in Act One, 40's in Act Two, a few scenes in her 70's. A funny, angry, hard drinking and drugging, irreverent lesbian Texan, with a hole in her heart. In real life, short, and they called her "Pixie."

CONNIE GONZALEZ—40's in Act One, 60's in Act Two. An even-handed Tex Mex dyke and true Christian. Loyal, loving, unjudgemental, and maybe even wise.

FLIP BENHAM—40's, the head of Operation Rescue. Passionate, folksy, fiery, earnest and persuasive, a good-looking guy and quite a preacher.

LINDA COFFEE—Late 20's, a shy, bright, socially awkward, and dedicated lawyer.

RON WEDDINGTON—30's, a bright, ambitious, open and optimistic lawyer.

HENRY McCLUSKEY—30's, an adoption lawyer, sensitive and compassionate, closeted gay.

JAY FLOYD—40's, a lawyer in Wade's office, quite affable and effusive, if not brilliant.

ROBERT FLOWERS—40's, a lawyer in Wade's office, smarter than Floyd, passionately pro-life.

RONDA MACKKEY—30's, pretty, warm, fair, a true believer.

EMILY—7, Ronda Mackey's daughter, a feisty angel.

ROXANNE MILLER-RODRIGUEZ--20, college student, working class, bright, emotional, a truth seeker.

AILEEN—30's, down to earth, working class, African American lesbian nurse.

NORMA'S DOCTOR—60's, brusque and superior.

ABORTION DOCTOR—40's, played by a white actor, sometimes with a strange foreign accent.

JUDY—20's, an early second-wave feminist, strong.

HELEN—20's, a budding feminist, eager to get it right.

BARBARA—20's or 30's, African American, well educated, no nonsense, wry feminist.

MOLLY—50's, Texan, upper middle class, flirting with feminism.

MARY—50's, Norma's mother, poor, tawdry, and a real mean drunk.

OFELIA—40's, a housekeeper, Mexican.

UMA—30s, a Texas reporter.

PEGGY—30's, a Christian reporter.

GLORIA ALLRED—40's, the feminist lawyer, quite strong.

PREGNANT WOMAN 1

PREGNANT WOMAN 2

PREGNANT WOMAN 3

WAITRESS

FLO KENNEDY—African American feminist, wry, powerful.

KATE MICHELMAN—40's, well known feminist.

ELEANOR SMEAL—40's, well known feminist.

FRED GILMOUR—A speech teacher.

MARY GILMOUR—A speech teacher.

TV NEWSMAN—40's, important. (Act One)

TELEVISION NEWS REPORTER—Charming, ambitious. (Act Two)

FRED FRIENDLY—60's, used to run CBS News.

MICHAEL MANHEIM—40's, a Hollywood TV producer.

MELISSA --7, Norma's child, as she exits in her mind.

JUSTICE BLACKMUN—60's, deliberate to a fault, torn, and thoughtful.

JUSTICES BURGER, WHITE, DOUGLAS, MARSHALL AND STEWART are the voices of the real justices, available on tape from DPS.

HOLLY HUNTER

HENRY WADE

BEAU

MARIAH

CAMERAMAN

CHRISTIAN WOMAN 1

CHRISTIAN WOMAN 2

CHRISTIAN MAN

PRO-LIFE MAN

PRO-LIFE WOMAN

PRO-CHOICE WOMAN 1

PRO-CHOICE WOMAN 2

If you need any additional information, contact David Kaye: david.kaye@unh.edu