

AUDITIONS at Other Voices Theater for
YOU CAN'T TAKE IT WITH YOU by Moss Hart and George S. Kaufman

Roles

(Age indications refer to the intended appearance of an actor in a role, not the age of the actor)

PENNY SYCAMORE (F, 40s-50s) Daughter of Martin, wife of Paul, mother of Alice and Essie. A free spirit, who has a maternal quality to the extent that she wants to make sure people are taken care of, but is primarily devoted to her own artistic expression, which includes, plays, paintings, and anything else for which the materials show up on her doorstep.

ESSIE (F, 18-29) Daughter of Penny, younger sister of Alice, wife of Ed. Her form of self-expression is ballet, which she inserts into nearly every interaction. Wears tutu and ballet slippers almost constantly.

RHEBA (F, 20s-50s) Romantically linked to Donald. Family domestic, chiefly cooking, washing, and general moral support of all the creative activities. Cheerful and sometimes a little bashful.

PAUL SYCAMORE (M, 40s-50s) Husband of Penny, father of Alice and Essie. He expresses himself through designing fireworks, of which he sells just enough to buy materials to make more fireworks. Usually working in close collaboration with Mr. DePinna.

MR DE PINNA (M, 40s-60s) Former postman, now the perpetual companion and collaborator of Paul. Not only does he contribute ideas to Paul, at one point he agrees to serve as a model for a painting by Penny.

ED (M, 18-29) MUST PLAY XYLOPHONE AND/OR VIBRAPHONE. Candidates for this role will need to provide a video of themselves playing a mallet instrument. Husband of Essie, expressing himself with his music, and his printing press, which he uses to print random text, including political slogans he doesn't understand.

DONALD (M, 20s-50s) Romantically linked to Rheba. Donald does not live with the Vanderhofs, but spends all day there to be near Rheba and help her. Lives on government assistance and doesn't try to hide it. He considers observing the Vanderhofs as good as a graduate course in human psychology.

MARTIN VANDERHOF (M, 60s+) Father of Penny, grandfather of Alice and Essie, and called "Grandpa" by most of the household. Former Wall Street trader who gave it up to live the way he wanted to, and encourages others to do the same. Kind, well-mannered, dapper in a shabby way and not above pulling the leg of the "straight" world.

ALICE (F, 20s) Daughter of Penny and Paul, romantically linked to Tony. An inexplicably "normal" person, like Marilyn Munster, who enjoys and encourages the eccentricity around her, but has no impulse to be creative, but only to find happiness with Tony, of course. Charming and sweet, there is some quality about her that enchants and beguiles nearly everyone she meets.

HENDERSON (M, 20s-50s) Sour, charmless IRS functionary, sent to collect income tax from Grandpa, thinking he is dignified and intelligent, when he is actually a stooge, who will flee the house in hysterics.

TONY KIRBY (M,20s) Romantically linked to Alice. Attractive, charming, humble, ingratiating. Every mother's dream son-in-law. Raised in a rich family, but has not let that be a handicap.

KOLENKHOV (M or F, 40s+) Ballet teacher for Essie. Is willing to accept the money they need to ignore the fact that their student has no talent. Refugee from the Bolshevik takeover of Russia. Thinks they are subtle and clever, but actually low and boisterous. Has a huge baton they beat on the floor to keep time, or give emphasis. Full of unsolicited advice.

GAY WELLINGTON (F, 30+) Actress Penny brought home to have her read one of Penny's plays. As she is perpetually inebriated, she promptly passes out on the chaise lounge.

MR. KIRBY (M, 50+), father of Tony, husband to Mrs. Kirby. Partner in a Wall Street trading firm, who has abandoned the artistic pursuits of his youth in favor of business success, and lives for the expectation that Tony will join him in the firm.

MRS. KIRBY (F, 50), mother of Tony, wife of Mr. Kirby. Snooty society type.

3 G-MEN (M, various ages) Three FBI men, a supervisor, and two field men. They arrive to investigate Ed because of the strange political slogans he has been printing, but then stumble on the cache of fireworks in the basement, and try to handle the ensuing chaos. Two of them should be able to pick up an adult woman in a fireman's carry.

GRAND DUCHESS OLGA – (F,40+) friend of Kolenkhov, also a refugee from the Bolshevik Revolution. Although an aristocrat, she is warm, down-to-earth, eager for everyone to enjoy the blintzes she loves to make.