



## OPEN AUDITIONS "A TUNA CHRISTMAS"

**WHO/WHERE:** The Navasota Theatre Alliance's Sunny Furman Theatre at 104 W. Washington Avenue, Navasota, Texas 77868, 936-825-3195, navasotatheatrealliance@gmail.com, www.navasotatheatre.org

**WHAT/WHEN:** Navasota Theater Alliance will hold **OPEN AUDITIONS** for the hilarious holiday production, "A Tuna Christmas," written by Ed Howard, Joe Sears, and Jaston Williams. The award-winning show features just three male actors playing over twenty eccentric characters of all ages (and sexes). **Auditions will be Monday, September 18 and Tuesday, September 19, 2017 at 6:45pm.**

**We are auditioning for three male actors.** Actors do not need to bring auditions pieces, but should familiarize themselves with the show's characters and be able to read in a variety of male and female voices at various pitches. Actors may prepare by pre-purchasing the scripts and/or DVD of the play from Amazon or Samuel French. (Note: audition excerpts will be made available at auditions).

**DESCRIPTION:** *A Tuna Christmas* is both an homage to, and a satire of, small town southern living during the holidays. Local radio station personalities Thurston Wheelis and Arles Struvie report on the town's Yuletide activities. The Tuna, Texas annual Christmas Yard Display Contest has been thrown a curve by a mysterious vandal who sabotages the displays. Meanwhile, the townsfolk try to manage their own crazy holiday turmoil, including family woes, probation problems, and an ill-fated production of "A Christmas Carol." This is wildly funny holiday entertainment for grown-ups.

**ROLE/CHARACTER DESCRIPTIONS:** **These 22 characters will be portrayed by three actors**

- **Arles Struvie** - A disc jockey at radio station OKKK.
- **Didi Snavely** - Owner of Didi's Used Weapons ("If we can't kill it, it's immortal")
- **R.R. Snavely** - UFOlogist and husband to Didi
- **Petey Fisk** - Employee of the Greater Tuna Humane Society
- **Bertha Bumiller** - Housewife and mother to Jody, Stanley, and Charlene; member of the Smut Snatchers of the New Order ("Censorship is as American as apple pie, so shut up!")
- **Jody Bumiller** - Youngest child of Bertha Bumiller
- **Stanley Bumiller** - Aspiring taxidermist, fresh from reform school; twin to Charlene
- **Charlene Bumiller** - Daughter of Bertha Bumiller and sister to Stanley and Jody; infatuated with Joe Bob Lipsey. [2] As seen with Bertha Bumiller (Sears) at the Kennedy Center]
- **Vera Carp** - Town snob and acting leader of the Smut-Snatchers of the New Order ("until the Rev. Spikes gets out of prison")
- **Dixie Deberry** - Controller of the Tuna Electric Company
- **Helen Bedd** - A waitress at the Tasty-Creme [3] As seen with Inita Goodwin (Sears) at the Kennedy Center]

- **Farley Burkhalter** - A "little person" and a patron of the Tasty-Creme
- **Garland Poteet**- A soda distributor and one of Inita's many boyfriends
- **Thurston Wheelis** - A disc jockey at radio station OKKK
- **Elmer Watkins** - The victim of a tragic flame shooter incident, Elmer was left with no eyebrows.
- **Leonard Childers** - Entrepreneur and radio personality on OKKK
- **Pearl Burras** - Aunt to Bertha, former riveter in Houston during World War II (the Japanese "never sank one of [her] ships!")
- **Sheriff Givens** - Called "Rubber Sheets" due to his having wet the bed at church camp
- **Ike Thompson**- a slow-witted highway worker
- **Inita Goodwin** - A waitress at the Tasty-Creme
- **Phoebe Burkhalter**- Presumably Farley's significant other, Phoebe is voiced by Sears but onstage is a wig behind a window manipulated by a stagehand
- **Joe Bob Lipsey** - the "not-the-marrying-kind" director of the Tuna Little Theater's "troubled production" of A Christmas Carol"

## ACTOR REQUIREMENTS

- Must be able to memorize lines quickly.
- Must have good comedic timing.
- Must be able to maintain consistency in a variety of character voices.
- Must be available for evening rehearsals. A full rehearsal and performance schedule will be available at auditions.



**DIRECTOR BIO:** Mark Taylor is a Texas actor, writer, and musician. An active member of the Brazos Valley arts community, he has written two full-length musicals (*Esther: For Such A Time As This* and *Corazon!*) and two youth musicals (*Kronika* and *SomeWherehouse*). The Theatre Company of Brazos Valley performed his musical, *Esther: For Such A Time As This*, to sold-out audiences. He starred in the award-winning short film, *The Tenor*, which earned him a Best Actor nomination at the Idyllwild Film Festival. Mark was a featured performer in the Neal Berg *Phantoms of the Opera* concert produced by Texas A&M's MSC OPAS, performing with several noted Broadway legends. The City of College Station commissioned him to write and produce an original musical, *Santa's Texas Vacation Celebration*, which was performed two seasons at the annual Christmas At The Creek event. In 2014, he performed *Bah Humbug! A one-*

*man Christmas Carol* for the Caldwell, Texas annual Christmas on the Square at the Old Post Office. He performed the same show for the Calvert Merchants Association in Calvert, TX in 2016 at the historic Eloia Theater. Mark has written and performed numerous original scripts for the Arts Council's annual Celebrate The Arts gala, and has starred in lead roles for dozens of Brazos Valley productions at The Theatre Company, Stage Center, and the Navasota Theater Alliance. Mark is a full-time history teacher for Cy-Fair ISD, a part-time college professor for Blinn College, worship minister for Hillcrest Baptist Church, writer for Texas Living magazine, and an award-winning graphic designer and marketing consultant with his own company, Taylor Creative. He holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Agricultural Journalism and a Masters Degree in Agricultural Education from Texas A&M University in College Station.

## PLAY RUN DATES:

There will be 10 shows that run Thursday through Saturday at 7pm and matinees Saturday and Sunday at 2pm from December 7 through 17, 2017.

## CREDITS:

A Dramatist Play Service, Inc. production. Made possible through the Hotel Tax Revenue funded by the City of Navasota through the Arts Council.