



Character Descriptions

*Grand Rapids Civic Theatre is seeking 10-15 actors, ages 16-55 for their Centennial Season production of **Dear Evan Hansen**. We are looking for a company of performers who are strong storytellers, thoughtful collaborators, joyful artists, and dependable community builders.*

A Note on Character Descriptions

The ages and gender identities below are the ages and gender identities of the *characters*. Actors who fall outside of these age ranges, and actors whose gender identities are different from the gender identities of the characters will be considered, based on the stated preferences of the auditioning actors and with consideration for the essence and intent of the original story.

Actors of all ethnicities will be considered for all roles.

Please see the note about Stage Intimacy at the end of this document.

TEEN ROLES

A NOTE ON TEEN ROLES: *We will be considering actors ages 16-early 20's. You **MUST** be 16 by the FIRST rehearsal to be eligible to audition for this production.*

EVAN HANSEN | Male | Any Ethnicity | Age: 17

Smart, sincere, and cripplingly self-conscious, Evan prefers to be in the background – a supporting player in his own life. He is too afraid to step forward into the spotlight and risk ridicule or, perhaps worse, going completely unnoticed. His therapist assigns him to write letters to himself about why each day will be good, which becomes the catalyst for the plot of the story. *Vocal Range: G2 - B4 (Tenor)*

ZOE MURPHY | Female | Any Ethnicity | Age: 16

Connor's younger sister and Evan's crush. She plays guitar in jazz band and couldn't care less about the silly status games of high school. She feels ambivalence about her brother's death, finding it difficult to forgive him for all he did, and forgive the part of herself that finds relief in the fact that he's gone. *Vocal Range: F3 - E5 (Soprano)*

CONNOR MURPHY | Male | Any Ethnicity | Age: 17

An angry loner, Connor is Evan's classmate who is also an outcast, though he and Evan were never friends. He has been a troubled kid for as long as anyone can remember, and is a source of endless concern to his long-suffering parents and sister. He dies by suicide before the story begins in earnest, yet continues to appear

as a posthumous presence – a version of Connor that exists in Evan's mind. *Vocal Range: G2 - E4 (Tenor/Baritone)*

JARED KLIENMAN | Male | Any Ethnicity | Age: 17

Jared claims to be forced by his parents to hang out with family friend Evan, for whom he has nothing but disdain. Jared covers his own obvious insecurities with a well-practiced sarcasm and a know-it-all arrogance. Aids Evan creating evidence of he and Connor's "friendship." *Vocal Range: A2 - B4 (Tenor)*

ALANA BECK | Female | Any Ethnicity | Age: 17

A classmate of Evan's, Alana is a genuinely authentic person – everything she does springs from a place of deep honesty and feeling. Though she projects an easy cheerfulness, beneath it lies a quiet, private loneliness. She is always ready with a warm smile or an encouraging word. Deeply moved by Connor's death, she throws herself wholeheartedly into the Connor Project alongside Evan. *Vocal Range: F3 - E5 (Soprano)*

ADULT ROLES

HEIDI HANSEN | Female | Any Ethnicity | Age: 40s - 50s

Evan's single mother. Overworked and stretched too thin, Heidi loves her son fiercely, but fears they have begun to grow apart. She is prepared to do anything to repair the damage. She works as a nurse's aide and attends paralegal school at night, often leaving Evan on his own as a result. *Vocal Range: F3 - E5 (Soprano, Mezzo-Soprano)*

CYNTHIA MURPHY | Female | Any Ethnicity | Age: 40s - 50s

Connor and Zoe's stay-at-home mother. To Evan, she seems to be the perfect mother, nurturing, available, and willing to talk about anything. To her own children, it's a bit more complicated. She is constantly trying to keep her fragile family from falling apart, but is often unsuccessful. *Vocal Range: G3 - E5 (Soprano, Mezzo-Soprano)*

LARRY MURPHY | Male | Any Ethnicity | Age: 40s - 50s

Connor and Zoe's father who is often busy and distant. Larry shows a different face to the world, representing for Evan the dad he always wished for: strong, confident, and, more than anything, reliable, someone to be counted on. *Vocal Range: C3 - A4 (Tenor)*

ENSEMBLE

At least 4 additional Ensemble tracks (roles), as well as at least 2 Ensemble "Swings" who will perform a regular track, but also be prepared to step into other Ensemble Tracks, if necessary. More information on Swings available at Auditions and Callbacks. For Ensemble members, we are looking for (qualities/skills desired). Ensemble members must be team players who bring a positive attitude and a strong work ethic to rehearsal and performances. They will portray (students, etc.)

A Note on Theatrical Intimacy/Stage Violence

Moments of Theatrical Intimacy are moments where the given circumstances of the story call for characters to engage in acts of simulated physical and/or sexual intimacy during the production. Stage Violence refers to moments where the given circumstances call for characters to engage in moments of simulated physical violence.

Moments of Intimacy will be choreographed collaboratively with the actors, Director, Intimacy Director and Choreographer to ensure that all actors feel confident and comfortable with the material. Moments of Stage Violence will be choreographed collaboratively with the actors, Fight Choreographer, Director, and Intimacy Director (if appropriate).

Please take note of the planned moments of Theatrical Intimacy and Stage Violence for each character below. Consider the requirements of the roles carefully, and if you have any questions or concerns about the expectations or the process, please reach out to Artistic Director Allyson Paris (a.paris@grct.org). Theatrical Intimacy may also be discussed at Callbacks, if applicable.

STAGED INTIMACY

The following characters will be involved in moments of Staged Intimacy for *Dear Evan Hansen*:

Evan/Zoe:

- Lip to lip kissing
- Potential hand to leg contact on upper thigh (both characters)
- Fully body embracing while in a bed

STAGED VIOLENCE: Not applicable to this production.