

Newse Little Theatre AUDITIONS



Directed by Meta Toole

Monday & Tuesday,
July 20 & 21, 2026 - 7pm
at the Hut
(Corner of Front & Market Streets, Smithfield, NC)

CAST: 8+w/9+m/3+ (20+ total)

All listed roles are open - Casting is open to everyone and newcomers are especially welcomed and encouraged. Crew volunteers are also needed. Auditions will consist of a prepared song of the auditioners choosing (recommend non-show songs, come with music for accompanist if needed), short movement exercise, and if time allows, cold reading from the script. Please come prepared to tell of any conflict dates you have from auditions to week before show opens (no conflicts allowed week of show opening). Rehearsals will likely be Monday-Thursdays 7pm-9pm. We encourage all performers to submit for any role regardless of experience, race, ethnicity, sexuality, neurodiversity, and similarity to the source material or original cast. Ages are relative, and should not discourage anyone from auditioning. For more information, you may contact the director at metatoole@gmail.com.

Alice Murphy (female, late 30s): An editor of a southern literary magazine; intelligent, attractive, professional – but with an air of melancholy. Plays both 16-17 and 36-37. Young Alice is rebellious, high-spirited, adventurous – looking to break out of small-town life and experience the world. She must be a very strong singer and comfortable in folk and bluegrass styles. (Mezzo-Belt) Vocal range: F3-C5

Billy Cane (male, early 20s): a young soldier returning home from WWII; an aspiring young writer; fresh, open, optimistic, charming, and a little naïve. (Tenor)
Vocal range: C3-A4

Jimmy Ray Dobbs (male, late 30s-40): Sad, remorseful, hopeful. Still very much cares for Alice. Young Jimmy Ray is Mayor Dobbs' son and young Alice's beau; handsome, boyishly charming, well-built and intelligent; from a family of wealth and power and is being groomed by his father for a similar future in the family business; an independent thinker who is not afraid to stand up to his father for what he believes in; he has a sense of personal responsibility and morality as well as a deep reserve of passion and emotion. (Tenor) Vocal range: C3-A4

Daddy Cane (male, 50s to 65): Billy's father. A widower. Spry, good looking. Kind hearted, if a bit lonely. (Tenor) Vocal range: C3-A4

Margo Crawford (female, early 20s): a small-town bookstore owner; a childhood friend of Billy's who now harbors romantic feelings towards him; a natural beauty with a keen intellect. (Mezzo-Belt) Vocal range: B3-F#5

Daryl Ames (male, 20s-40s): An assistant at a literary magazine. Funny, with a dry and officious sense of humor. Insecure, and perhaps a bit socially awkward, but endearing and innately likable. (Baritone) Vocal range: C3-E4

Lucy Grant (female, mid 20s-30s): A junior editor at a literary magazine. An ambitious, professional young "modern" career woman of the 1940's. Strong, forthright and provocative with a sharp sense of humor. (Alto) Vocal range: A3-D5

Mama Murphy (female, 40s-60s): Alice's mother. A caretaker to her family and her rural community. A warm, loving, sensible woman. Hardworking, with great inner strength and compassion. (Alto) Vocal range: G3-C5

Daddy Murphy (male, 40s-60s): Alice's father; an authoritative and a stern disciplinarian; devoutly religious, hard-working, a poor but proud farmer. (Baritone) Vocal range: A2-G4

Mayor Josiah Dobbs (male, 50s-60s): The Mayor of Zebulon; a political and financial powerbroker – distinguished, an imposing and controlling presence; has a genuine interest in protecting his son's future and his family name, but in doing so, is ultimately pushed to a point of extreme and irrevocable cruelty. (Baritone) Vocal range: A2-G4

Florence (female, 18-early 20s): an employee at Margo's bookstore and a childhood friend of both Billy and Margo. (Soprano)

Edna (female, 18-early 20s): an employee at Margo's bookstore. (Alto)

Max (male, 18-early 20s): a customer at Margo's bookstore, at first, he has a crush on Margo, but later becomes Edna's beau. (Tenor)

Stanford (male, 40s-50s): Loyal assistant to Mayor Josiah Dobbs (Tenor)

Dr. Norquist (male, 40s-60s): The local family doctor in Zebulon (Baritone)

Government Clerk (female, 40s-60s): A clerk at the Office of Records in Raleigh (Alto)

Well-dressed Woman (female, 30s-40s): A woman living in Raleigh. (Soprano)

Ensemble: Ensemble actors need to embody the joy and energy of the music - strong musicality and movement. Will be required to move set pieces with grace. Everyone moves scenery, and is quite active and involved throughout the entire show. Team players, active listeners!

Music, Book and Story by Steve Martin—Music, Lyrics and Story by Edie Brickell

A sweeping, heartfelt tale featuring a bluegrass score. Set against the vibrant backdrop of North Carolina in the 1920s and 1940s, this deeply emotional tale explores love, loss, and the transformative power of redemption. When literary editor Alice meets a young soldier just home from World War II, she is reminded of the secrets of her past. Alice sets out on a journey to understand her past revealing long buried secrets.

September 25 & 26, 2026—8PM
September 27, 2026—3PM

Performances will be at Johnston Community College's Paul A Johnston Auditorium