



New Voices for the Theatre 2025
One-Act Plays and Character Breakdown

Ghosts of Theatre Kids

Amelia Buckwright, the shy new girl at Winchester High, vows never to tell anyone about her theater obsession again. But when she hears voices coming from the theater after school, she can't stop herself from peeking. There, she meets four teenage ghosts that have been cursed to haunt the theater for eternity. The only way they can break this curse is by finding a magical necklace lost in the theater - but they're not the only ones looking for it. Can Amelia help the four ghosts - or will they be cursed to haunt the theater forever?

AMELIA BUCKWRIGHT (Female teens) – Amelia (she/her) is the shy and soft-spoken new girl at Winchester High. She's a theater fangirl but has vowed not to tell anyone thanks to several bullying incidents at her old school. She gets flustered and is quick to defend herself whenever her secret comes close to getting out. She tries to avoid speaking to people and is awkward when doing so, but when she's alone, she likes to talk and is more confident.

JUNIPER ADAMS (Female teens) – Juniper (she/her) is at first glance, a classic "mean girl." She's the one who has cursed the four ghosts to haunt Winchester High's run-down theater. She has a hard time accepting the truth, especially when the lie is "better" in her eyes. This can cause her to get loud when her emotions get out of control. But deep down, it's because she cares about the people she loves – she's a good person and ultimately just wants everyone to be happy.

NITA SHAH (Female teens) – Nita (she/her) is usually dramatic, sarcastic, and bossy, but she's a true friend if you get to know her. She isn't afraid to speak her opinions, but this often comes off as rude due to her nature (although she doesn't mean it like that). Lately, however, she's been more annoyed and angry than usual, and she's not faking it.

OLIVER "OLLIE" FORD (Gender not specific, teens) – Although Ollie (they/them) wants to express themselves freely, previous situations at home enable them to go with the flow and avoid getting judged. When they do state their opinion, they are quick to push it back down. They're naturally outgoing and have a good sense of humor.

BRYCE MILLER – (Male teens) Bryce (he/him) has the mentality that being funny is what makes him likeable. However, Bryce seems to cross the line between "funny" and "annoying" more often than not – and without realizing it. Whenever his friends try to point this out, he ignores it to avoid straying from that mindset.

EVELYN SHOWALTER – (Female teens) Evelyn (she/her) is the gang's punching bag. Knowing that the others are dealing with conflicts of their own, she refuses to confront them directly. When she does try to interject, she always ends up getting pushed back down. She wants to escape the theater so that her and her friends' relationships don't get any more tainted. She acts very caring and motherly and tries to maintain her composure.

The Canvas

An artist, a cheerleader, and a ballerina are on a field trip at an art museum with their "eccentric" art teacher, Ms. Langtree, who has given them an assignment to choose a piece of art and "become one" with the painting. Each of the girls go on to find themselves alone with a painting, where they are now able to express their inner thoughts; the girls each face a different struggle mirroring their painting. The artist has the opportunity to submit a portfolio for a chance at a prestigious art school scholarship and finds herself obsessing over the way Ms. Langtree insists on "fixing" her art; she walks us through an instance when her teacher had attempted to "fix" her paintings with glitter and doodles. The cheerleader suffers from depression; despite her kind demeanor, her family never seems to stay in one place long enough for her to connect with anyone, her trust issues and paranoia cause her to think the other cheerleaders are planning something awful. Finally, the rich ballerina faces extreme pressure from her family to carry on her mother's legacy as a prima ballerina, she eventually breaks away from her snobby mean girl persona and reveals her true passion is fashion design, she plans to come to a compromise with her family by starting a ballet-wear company, as to "not totally leave the dance world".

THE ARTIST- (Female teens) She has an art portfolio due that night for a chance at a college scholarship but their art teacher, Ms. Langtree keeps trying to "fix" her paintings. Generally anxious, fidgety.

THE RICH GIRL- (Female teens) Her parents want her to be a ballerina because her mother was a prima ballerina, but she wants to be a fashion designer. She is texting/scrolling on her phone for pretty much the duration of the play until her monologue.

THE CHEERLEADER- (Female teens) She moves around a lot, is new to school and struggles with depression, she is supposed to be the flier in a stunt during halftime but doesn't trust the other girls to catch her. She fakes a smile until she can't anymore.

It Started in the Filth

Impoverished districts of London, England, 1864.

In 19th century London, young Dimitri and his sister struggle to keep themselves afloat, living deep within the city's impoverished slums. When Dimitri is wrongfully accused of murder the boy soon finds himself caught in a world of wretchedness as pressures to submit to immorality creep in from every side within the prison. Dimitri must fight against his own desperation to maintain his beliefs as he and his sister search for a way to overturn his conviction.

DIMITRI VALE - (Male 15) He believes in the goodness of the world and in people's ability to choose to fulfill that goodness. He is unshakeable in his morals and will go to any length to keep to them. He cares greatly for his sister CLARA and will do anything in his power to keep her safe.

CLARA VALE - (Female 14) A stubborn, headstrong girl. She is the sister of DIMITRI and loves her brother, doing everything in her power to keep him safe. She is progressive in her views on nearly everything and cannot be dissuaded from her determination in anything she pursues. She is kind and angry, despising the obvious injustices performed all around her.

AMELL HUGHES: (Male 50s) A reclusive Black man that has no faith in the world or the people in it but is content being the best man that he can be. He follows Catholicism and maintains a close relationship with his God, no matter the severity of his situation. He will go to any length to ensure the safety of his daughter, Leanna, and the girl's husband.

HAROLD DANKWORTH- (Male 25-45) A manipulative, morally disgusting man. He is a prison guard and is extremely deceitful, taking great advantage of the power he has. He is willing to give up anything or anyone for his own benefit and encourages others to follow suit.

GARRICK WELLSMAN- (Male 45 +) A controlling, wealthy man, the father of CASIMIR WELLSMAN, and will do whatever is necessary to clean up his son's mistakes. He has lived his entire life with the world under his boot, and he knows it. He believes that everything in the world is his for the taking, and everything in the world is fortunate to have him.

CASIMIR WELLSMAN: (Male 27) A careless, pompous young man who does not think before he acts as he knows that both his own money and power, as well as that of his father will protect him. He will send others toward suffering with ease so long as he is not touched. He understands the world as a thing that is meant to serve him, and cares only for his own well being.

Love, Charlie

"Love, Charlie" follows the story of Elliot, a young college graduate as he sorts through the belongings of his late friend Charlie, who has just committed suicide. He finds a box of letters that Charlie left behind, and each one reveals scenes from their college days, in which Charlie was struggling more than he knew. Through flashbacks, the audience sees Charlie struggle with his feelings for "E" a girl named Emma that Elliot suspects he was in love with. The play explores themes of love, identity, and regret.

ELLIOT - (Male 20s) Charlie's best friend who finds his letters after his death and is left to interpret how he feels about each one and what they could mean. Elliot is a frat boy. He's a jock, plays college football, and is taking photography as an elective. He is a PT Major.

CHARLIE - (Male 20s) The deceased, a young man who's committed suicide and left Elliot to pick up the pieces. He's been heavily impacted by some events that happened in his college years and writes letters to express his feelings. Charlie is more reserved. He can be awkward, and sometimes anti-social. He's majoring in photography.

HARRIS - (gender not specific 40s+) Photography Professor at Charlie and Elliot's college. He can be biased about what sort of photography he actually enjoys, and he's known as a hard teacher.

EMMA - A young girl from Charlie's college years that Elliot suspects he was in love with. Emma is a sweet and bubbly girl. She's outgoing, and has no problem being friendly with everyone she meets. She can also be too trusting in some circumstances. She's a Fine Arts major.

ABBY - Elliot's college girlfriend. Abby is somewhat posh. She's a cheerleader, and is majoring in some sort of nursing.

LANDLORD - (not gender specific 30s +) The landlord of Charlie's present-day apartment building. Somewhat insensitive/desensitized to morals and can come off as uncaring. Worried mostly about the business they are running.

FRAT GUY - Elliot's frat friend.

One More Step

Liam, a man who is grieving the recent loss of his wife, Katelyn after her long battle with cancer, struggles to rebuild his life without his one and only love. As he navigates this new emotional loss, the play explores how the impact of Liam's other relationships including friends, family, and new connections help him rediscover hope, healing, and the possibility of love again. Through these events, Liam takes the needed steps to find peace with himself and move forward.

LIAM OWENS (Male early 40s) - A recently widowed man who is grieving and heavily struggling with the loss of his beloved wife.

KATELYN OWENS (Female early 40s) - Deceased wife of Liam, appears spiritually.

DR. SMITH (Gender not specific 40s +) - Liam's monotone therapist who isn't the most emotionally available for him.

JEFF LORE (Male early 40s) - Liam's best friend who helps him through his struggles and pushes him to move on to better things that his life withholds.

CLAIRE ANDERSON (Female early 40s) - Liam's childhood friend with whom he reconnects and forms a potentially romantic relationship.

MARTHA OWEND (Female 60s +) - Liam's mother who is a bit over the top and loves her son.

HENRY OWENS (Male 60s +) - Liam's father, who loves Liam's mother but feels the need to fix everything, is a stereotypical dad.

WAITER (Gender not specific teen/20s) - Appears in the 2 restaurant scenes.

Transient

With every passing loop of the train she's stuck on, Dani forgets more and more about her life before. Aided by a boy named Garrett, Dani has to face her long forgotten past and consider her ever nearing future. Will Dani be able to unravel the mysteries of her past and remember who she was before it's too late?

DANI - (Female 17) She is very maximalist. She's generally hopeful but feels daunted by the gravity of her situation and experiences.

GARRETT - (Male 13) A scrawny boy. Can be quite energetic but he can tell when he needs to take things more seriously.

AUNT ELIZABETH/ BIRDIE - (Female 25-30) Garrett's aunt. She is also the childhood friend/lover of Dani in the past. Kind and mostly soft spoken. Has a softer version of Dani's style.

GARRETT'S MOM - (Female mid 30s-40s) Birdie's older sister and Garrett's Mom. Can be overbearing but she does her best to be a good mom. Has a plain, almost motherly, style.

DANI'S MOM - (Female 50-60) Major traditionalist, everything must be perfect by her standards. Well put together, high and mighty style.

