



## CASTING NOTICE

New Stage Theatre, Mississippi's professional theatre located in Jackson, is seeking actors for its upcoming production of the dark comedy *The Attala County Garden Club* by Mississippian Topher Payne.

Mississippi, 1987. For women in the quiet town of Kosciusko, there's only one surefire route to respectability: An invitation to join the City Garden Club. Rose Chipley feels certain of her chances- she comes from a good family, and her mother holds considerable sway among the ranks. So when Rose is denied membership, she's devastated. An alternative arrives on her doorstep (literally) in the form of the charismatic Bettye Little-Landrum, who has united a quartet of social outcasts to form a competing organization- THE ATTALA COUNTY GARDEN CLUB. Rose's initial bliss in joining their ranks slowly gives way to trepidation as she's exposed to some of their more curious practices- members are only allowed to garden at night, and their gardening methods are so specific, they almost feel like rituals. Because Bettye's garden club is a coven of witches. And nobody leaves the coven. Aided by her fellow club member, Danita Dixon, as well as an all-knowing hairdresser and several books on inter-library loan, Rose sets out to learn the secrets of Bettye's past, and what magic she'll require to stop the County Garden Club from exacting revenge on the town that did them wrong.

**Rehearsals begin on March 17, 2026. The show opens on April 7 and plays through April 19, 2026.**

Casting is currently ongoing for all of the play's adult characters. Seeking AEA (SEA-Category 2- Tier C) and non-union actors. Travel, housing and per diem included for out of state artists. **If you would like to submit for the production, please send picture and resume to [submissions@newstagetheatre.com](mailto:submissions@newstagetheatre.com) and put the name of the character you wish to be considered for and where you live in the subject line. The deadline for submissions in December 15, 2025.**

New Stage Theatre is committed to creating an inclusive environment for all employees.  
Actors of all backgrounds are strongly encouraged to submit their information.

### Character Breakdown

**ROSE CHIPLEY**, 20s. Ambitious, eager, charming, high-femme, reactionary. Innately clever, in desperate need of a purpose, susceptible to both flattery and intrigue. Cursed with a middle-class Southern white girl's longing for approval.

**MICHAEL CHIPLEY**, 20s. Rose's husband and- sincerely- her best friend. Factory foreman at an office supply company. As content as Rose is striving. A good-natured and kind white guy with a sharp sense of humor. A little mystified by the world at large.

**DANITA DIXON**, 30s. An observant and studious Black woman living in a town that values none of these attributes. A librarian by trade- a bit reserved, has grown accustomed to not demanding much space or attention. Quietly maintains a flame of rebellion for future use.

**EUPHROSINA "EFFIE JO" PICKLE**, 30s. A descendant of Albanian immigrants, and mother to six children. An ethnically ambiguous light-brown woman in a community that prefers clear labels and doesn't welcome nuance. Lonely and goofy and eager to please. Her wholly-unique logic leaps are often misread as a lack of intellect.

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