NEW STAGE Theatre

CASTING NOTICE

New Stage Theatre, Mississippi's professional theatre located in Jackson, is seeking actors for its upcoming production of contemporary drama *John Proctor is the Villain* by Kimberly Belflower.

At a small-town high school in northeast Georgia, a group of students begins studying *The Crucible*. What starts as a classroom discussion soon sparks something bigger. As the girls in the class question the stories they've been taught and the heroes they were told to believe in… they start to see their own lives in a new light. Sharp, funny, and fiercely contemporary, this breakout hit explores friendship, power, and the complicated process of finding your voice. Sometimes the stories we inherit aren't the whole truth. The real lesson begins when we start asking questions.

Rehearsals begin on January 12, 2027. The show opens on February 2 and plays through February 14, 2027.

Casting is currently ongoing for all of the play's characters. **If you would like to submit for the production, please send picture and resume to 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 is December 1, 2026. Local actors should submit for an in person audition by November 23, 2026**

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

Carter Smith: (Male Identifying, mid-30s, White) A former golden boy, but one of those rare smart and sensitive ones. Now he's a great teacher: charming, engaging, goofy.

Shelby Holcomb: (Female Identifying, 18+ to portray 16, Any race) A student whose brain works faster than her mouth, but her mouth works pretty dang fast. People have always underestimated her.

Beth Powell: (Female Identifying, 18+ to portray 17, Any race) A student – nervous and ambitious and enthusiastic. Kind of like if Rory Gilmore and Paris Geller had a baby and raised her in the Deep South.

Nell Shaw: (Female Identifying, 18+ to portray 16, Black) A student from Atlanta – grounded, sincere, and genuinely curious about things. A good judge of character, and a quick study.

Raelynn Nix: (Female Identifying, 18+ to portray 16, Any race) A student – cheerleader type who's always lived her life by other peoples' standards. She was paying careful attention and keeping score the whole time.

Lee Turner: (Male Identifying, 18+ to portray 16, White) A student and Carhartt-wearing good ol' boy – deeply insecure and without the tools to deal with it. He's always been good at getting what he wants.

Bailey Gallagher: (Female Identifying, 24, Any race) A counselor – sweet in all the ways Southern women are supposed to be. This is her first real job out of college. She's trying her best.

Ivy Watkins: (Female Identifying, 18+ to portray 17, Any race) A student – fiercely loyal and always well-intentioned. From old Southern money – resist the urge to play her as a mean girl.

Mason Adams: (Male Identifying, 18+ to portray 17) A student. He's never really tried before, and he's surprised by how good it feels – earnest and affable.

New Stage Theatre
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