

The Shape of Things

Character List and Audition Pieces

Please note that we encourage auditions from people of all genders, races, abilities and ages. The guidelines on gender and age ranges listed in these breakdowns is taken largely from the text and should be seen as jumping off points rather than hard and fast rules.

Submission Requirements

The following should be compiled and submitted together for your audition:

- A brief resume of your experience (word or PDF).
- Headshot (JPEG or PNG)
- Self-filmed audition including:
 - A recital of the below text, reading the parts of the character you are auditioning for (text in hand is permitted).
 - A 2-3 minute introduction of yourself, your motivations for being cast and what you believe you will bring to life in the character.

If you are auditioning for the role of **Evelyn**, due to an extensive monologue in the play, two pieces have been provided for the audition and both should be performed on your submission film.

If you are auditioning for more than one character, you do not have to submit multiple copies of your resume and headshot, but we ask you to film each character audition separately (though they can be submitted in the same email).

For questions and clarification, please contact info@whiterabbittheatre.org

All submissions must be received by June 14, 2023 to be considered.

The Shape of Things

Adam

Introduction

Adam is the protagonist of “The Shape of Things”. His story is one of growth, self-discovery, and the pursuit of personal agency in a world that often seems determined to shape us into something we are not.

Role

Adam is a conflicted character who undergoes a radical transformation in his quest for self-discovery and personal agency. He succumbs to temptation and the pressure to conform to societal expectations, losing his values and boundaries along the way. He explores his desires and emotions in a way that is both liberating and dangerous, challenging the audience to question their own views on love, sexuality, and happiness. Adam’s struggles reflect our own, and his character arc highlights the importance of keeping a sense of self in the face of overwhelming pressure to conform or please others.

Arc

Adam undergoes a dramatic transformation throughout the play, influenced by his relationship with Evelyn, an art student who shows interest in him. Here are some of the main changes that Adam experiences:

Aspect	Initial	Final
Appearance	Shy, insecure, and lonely college student who works at a museum. He has low self-esteem and is unhappy with his appearance and social life. He wears glasses and has a large and naturally misshapen nose.	Confident, outgoing, and attractive young man who has a new hairstyle, clothes, and contact lenses. He undergoes plastic surgery to fix his nose and becomes more fit and healthy.
Behaviour	Reserved, polite, and respectful. He is timid around women and does not take risks or stand up for himself. He values privacy and intimacy.	Adventurous, assertive, and dominant. He is more sexually active and expressive. He does not hesitate to lie or cheat to get what he wants. He engages in public displays of affection and allows Evelyn to videotape their sexual encounters.
Values	Loyal, honest, and compassionate. He cares about his friends, Phillip and Jenny, and tries to avoid conflict or hurtful situations. He respects art and culture.	Selfish, deceitful, and cold. He distances himself from his friends and betrays them by having an affair with Jenny. He abandons his respect for art and culture by allowing Evelyn to vandalize a statue at the museum.
Relationships	Single and lonely. He has a crush on Jenny but never asks her out. He meets Evelyn at the museum and is immediately smitten by her attention.	Engaged to Evelyn. He proposes to her after dating for a few months. He has an affair with Jenny behind Evelyn's back. He loses his friendship with Phillip and Jenny after they disapprove of his changes.

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Adam

cont'd

At the end of the play, Adam learns that he has been part of Evelyn's MFA thesis project, which consisted of "sculpting" him into a more attractive human being as an artistic statement on how far someone is willing to go for love. Evelyn reveals that she never loved him and that everything she did was part of her experiment.

Intimacy Notice

This actor will perform two scenes of intimacy, one with the actor playing Evelyn and one with the actor playing Jenny. The exact nature of the choreography will be set in collaboration with the actors, the Director and an Intimacy Director, but in both scenes it is implied that the characters have sex and actors should consider their comfort with lip-to-lip contact.

Conclusion

Adam's character arc is significant because it shows how easily we can lose ourselves in a relationship that is based on manipulation and deception rather than genuine love and respect. Adam sacrifices his identity, values, and friendships for someone who does not care about him at all. He becomes a victim of Evelyn's cruel game and a pawn in her artistic vision. His story warns us about the dangers of letting others shape us into something we are not.

Adam is a tragic character who deserves our sympathy but also our criticism. He is naive and vulnerable but also weak and selfish. He makes bad choices that hurt himself and others but he also suffers from Evelyn's betrayal and humiliation. He learns a hard lesson about love, art, and himself but he also loses everything he had.

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Adam (page 1)

ADAM: Not that again...

(He puts a hand up to hide his face. JENNY grabs one of his hands, studying it.)

JENNY: What the heck is this? What is this?!

ADAM: What?

JENNY: Did you stop biting your nails?

ADAM: Yeah, for, like, a month now...

JENNY: Don't tell me...

ADAM: It's true. She put some crap on them, slapped 'em out of my mouth a few times and that was it. I stopped....

JENNY: You have nails! This is crazy....

ADAM: It's no biggie....

JENNY: Ever since I've known you, three years now, your fingers've looked like raw meat. anyway, awful. And now you just quit?! This girl is the messiah.

ADAM: I've quit before....

JENNY: For, like, an hour! *(Beat)* I love this woman....

ADAM: Me too.

JENNY: Yeah, I see that. Wow *(She looks over at ADAM again.)* And you'd really tell me if you knew something?

ADAM: I would. Yes.

JENNY: 'Kay. Damn, when did you get so cute? *(She kisses him lightly on the cheek. They look at each other for a long moment. Suddenly, they kiss. A real kiss, not a "great to see you, aren't we the best of friends" kiss. After a moment, they shudder to a halt.)*

ADAM: Shit.

JENNY: Yeah. Huh.

ADAM: What was that all about?

JENNY: I dunno. I just...I'm not sure.

ADAM: Look, I'm sorry.

[continued on next page]

The Shape of Things Adam (page 2)

[continued from previous page]

JENNY: No, don't be. I am. I'm the one with the ring on....

ADAM: Yeah, good point. My friend's ring. Thanks for reminding me...

JENNY: Welcome.

ADAM: Oh, Gosh. dang it!

JENNY: no, listen. It wasn't because of, you know, my worries or whatever. How I feel about Phillip right now. It wasn't....

ADAM: Okay.

JENNY: It just...

ADAM: Happened.

JENNY: Right. I've wanted to do that for a long time...three years....

ADAM me too. *(Beat)* And now we take it down to the beach and bury it. don't we?

JENNY: Yeah. I mean, yes, definitely. I guess....

ADAM: Don't you think? We have to. Jesus, what're we even talking about?!

JENNY: No, we do. 'Course. Don't you want to?

ADAM: Bury it?

JENNY: Yes...or...

ADAM: No, we can't talk about...don't even say the...do you have a shovel in your car?

JENNY: I don't, no. but I have my car.

ADAM: My bike's right over there.

JENNY: Is it locked up?

ADAM: Uh-huh.

JENNY: Then it should be fine. if we were to go to the beach.

ADAM: I suppose so. It's a small town, after all.

JENNY: That's what people say....

ADAM: Good people. People we know and care about....

The Shape of Things

Evelyn

Introduction

She is the powerful deuteragonist, the second most important character next to Adam in "The Shape of Things".

Role

She is the antagonist, the driving force of the plot. She initiates and controls Adam's transformation. She comes from a wealthy background, aloof from the rigours of funding herself through college. Her wealth allows her to pursue her theory without care for cost of any kind. She convinces him to change his appearance, his personality, his friends, and his values. As the instigator of conflict and drama, she manipulates and hurts the other characters. She seduces Phillip and Jenny to create a rift between them and Adam. She reveals that her relationship with Adam was part of her art project, which humiliates and devastates him. Her voice is representative of the controversial artist, who values art above everything else and does not care about the consequences of their actions. She claims that she has changed Adam's world for the better, and that she has created a masterpiece of art. However, she is rejected by her audience and her evaluators, who are appalled and disgusted by her project.

Arc

She is a complex and controversial character who provokes strong reactions from the audience. She is young, beautiful, charismatic and ruthless. Intellectual strength appears in her ability to manipulate and deceive others with her words and actions, and her ability to able to rationalize and justify and articulate her immoral behavior. However, she has intellectual weaknesses manifested by inability to empathize or respect others, or being unable to accept criticism or challenge, being unable to appreciate different perspectives or values, and being unable to recognize the harm or consequences of her actions. A strong streak of sociopath empowers her to view people as objects to be used and discarded for her artistic purposes. Sex and her sexuality are a weapon she uses to lure her victims. Love is something she neither seeks nor tolerates.

Aspect	Initial	Final
Appearance	Young beautiful and stylish.	Same
Personality	Confident, assertive, rebellious, flirtatious, outrageous, seductive, irresistible,	Secretive, manipulative, ruthless
Motivation	To create a masterpiece that will change the world at any cost.	To expose the hypocrisy and superficiality of people.
Relationship with Adam	Hollow - Pretends to be interested in him and starts an intense, crazy relationship with him.	Reveals that she never loved him and used him as a material for her art.

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Evelyn

Intimacy Notice

This actor will perform one scene of intimacy with the actor playing Adam. The exact nature of the choreography will be set in collaboration with the actors, the Director and an Intimacy Director, but it is implied that the characters have sex and actors should consider their comfort with lip-to-lip contact.

Conclusion

Evelyn's character is a complex and controversial one. She brings to the play a sense of intrigue, suspense, and shock. She also raises important questions about the nature and purpose of art, the ethics and morality of human actions, and the power and responsibility of artists. She challenges the audience to think critically and reflectively about their own values and beliefs. She also exposes the flaws and weaknesses of the other characters and the society they live in. She is a catalyst for change, but also a source of destruction. She is a fascinating and frightening character who leaves a lasting impression on the viewers and readers of the play.

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Evelyn (piece 1)

PHILLIP: "Statement," she says!

EVELYN: Shut the fuck up, alright? Just fuck right off...how would you know? I think she was making one, so that's my opinion....

ADAM: Jenny, thanks for everything. Phillip, I'll call ya, or whatever, but we're gonna....

PHILLIP: Yeah? How do you know it was a girl?

EVELYN I don't. I didn't say it was a woman.

PHILLIP: Girl, woman, whatever. You said "she," how do you know that?

EVELYN: I don't, I just said. It's a guess. What it was, where it was placed. *An educated guess...*

PHILLIP: You are not. she's not trying to take a poke at my being an undergrad, is she? Adam, tell me she didn't just....

JENNY: Can we stop, now, please?! You guys...

ADAM: Evelyn, let's go...

PHILLIP: Hey, artiste. how'd you know it was a woman who painted the cock, huh? Very, very suspicious there...

EVELYN: You are such a prick, man, how do you go on, day after day? *(To ADAM)* Let's go. *(She rises, snatches up her things and moves towards the door)* Adam? Are you coming?

ADAM: I'm. yeah, but, just go. I'll meet you downstairs, I just wanna. go ahead.

EVELYN: 'kay. *(To JENNY)* You're very sweet. Good luck. *(She heads for the door and exits.)*

The Shape of Things Evelyn (piece 2)

The Merchant of Venice - Act IV, Scene I

The quality of mercy is not strained;
It droppeth as the gentle rain from heaven
Upon the place beneath. It is twice blest;
It blesseth him that gives and him that takes:
'T is mightiest in the mightiest; it becomes
The throned monarch better than his crown:
His sceptre shows the force of temporal power,
The attribute to awe and majesty,
Wherein doth sit the dread and fear of kings;
But mercy is above this sceptred sway;
It is enthronèd in the hearts of kings,
It is an attribute to God himself;
And earthly power doth then show likest God's
When mercy seasons justice. Therefore, Jew,
Though justice be thy plea, consider this,
That, in the course of justice, none of us
Should see salvation: we do pray for mercy;
And that same prayer doth teach us all to render
The deeds of mercy. I have spoke thus much
To mitigate the justice of thy plea;
Which if thou follow, this strict court of Venice
Must needs give sentence 'gainst the merchant there.

The Shape of Things

Jenny

Introduction

Jenny is a secondary character who is important for the plot and the themes of the play. She acts as a foil for Evelyn, who is the main antagonist and the opposite of Jenny in many ways. Evelyn is artistic and creative, but also deceptive manipulative and single, Jenny a sweet and loyal girl who is Adam's ex-girlfriend and former high school crush and engaged to Phillip, Adam's friend.

Role

Jenny provides a subplot and a complication to Adam and Evelyn's relationship. She becomes more attracted and intrigued by Adam as he changes his physical appearance and attitude. She kisses Adam behind Phillip's back and expresses her regret for breaking up with him. She is curious and impressed by Evelyn's art project and wants to be part of it.

She is also a victim who is manipulated by Evelyn and betrayed by Phillip. She learns that Evelyn used Adam as a human sculpture and that their relationship was a lie. She also realizes that she was part of Evelyn's experiment and that Phillip cheated on her with Evelyn.

She represents the innocence and the vulnerability that Evelyn exploits and destroys. She evokes the audience's empathy, compassion, curiosity and criticism.

Her character challenges the audience to question their own values, choices and actions in relation to art, love and morality.

She provides a subplot and a complication to Adam and Evelyn's relationship. She is the love interest who kisses Adam and makes him question his loyalty to Evelyn. She is also the victim who is manipulated by Evelyn and betrayed by Phillip. She represents the innocence and the vulnerability that Evelyn exploits and destroys.

Arc

Jenny's arc is a subtle but significant change in her self-awareness and happiness. She is realistic and grounded, values authenticity and sincerity, and respects the ethics of human relationships. Engaged to Phillip, she discovers she is neither as happy nor fulfilled as she would like to be. She is friends with Adam. The changes brought about in him under Evelyn's influence re-ignites her feelings for him, which she has suppressed since they broke up as boy and girl friend. She opposes Evelyn's art vision and philosophy, which are based on deception, manipulation, exploitation, selfishness, nihilism and relativism. She becomes more aware of her own desires and needs. She realizes that she loves Adam and he loves her. She breaks off with Phillip and pursues Adam. She becomes more confident and expressive. She confronts Evelyn about her art project. She evokes empathy, compassion, curiosity and criticism. She challenges the audience to question their values, choices and actions in relation to art, love and morality.

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Jenny

Aspect	Initial	Final
Appearance	Traditional, young, beautiful, reserved	Same
Personality	Sweet, loyal, compassionate	Shocked, betrayed, anxious, broken
Motivation	To live a happy, healthy, wealth beautiful life, free of care, in love, with a beautiful family	Attempting to cope with the new emotions of loss and pain
Relationship with Adam	Friendly, supportive, an old flame she thinks a lot of, hidden desire, "If only"	Attracted and regretful, forgiving, hoping
Relationship with Phillip	Engaged and stable	Cheated, humiliated, ruined
Relationship with Evelyn	Polite and wary	Curious, Impressed,

Intimacy Notice

This actor will perform one scene of intimacy with the actor playing Adam, with the possibility of additional brief moments of kissing with the actor playing Philip. The exact nature of the choreography will be set in collaboration with the actors, the Director and an Intimacy Director, but it is implied that the characters Adam & Jenny have sex and actors should consider their comfort with lip-to-lip contact.

Conclusion

Jenny is a foil for Evelyn and a subplot for Adam. She is a victim of Evelyn's manipulation and Phillip's infidelity. She represents the innocence and the vulnerability that Evelyn exploits and destroys. She evokes the audience's empathy, compassion, curiosity and criticism.

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Jenny (page 1)

JENNY: Adam, hi, hello.

ADAM: Hi.

JENNY: Thanks for coming, I appreciate it.

ADAM: Of course, how's it going?

JENNY: You know...okay.

ADAM: Right.

JENNY: Lots to do for a wedding.

ADAM: I'll bet....

JENNY: Invitations to get out, arrangements to make....

ADAM: ...air tanks to fill....

JENNY: *(laughs lightly)* That too.

ADAM: So, you guys're still going through with that?

JENNY: That's what we're saying....

ADAM: What do you mean, "saying"?

JENNY: No, we are, it's what we're doing, I'm just....

ADAM Jenny, what?

JENNY: I don't know. I'm, you know, worried.

ADAM: Why? About what?

JENNY: What do you think? Phillip. He's just. I dunno, being funny.

ADAM: Funny, how? Like "telling jokes" funny or "making letter bombs" funny?

JENNY: No, no bombs yet, but kind of. just funny. Odd. *(Beat)* Like, nice...

ADAM: "Nice?"

JENNY: Yeah, you know. sweet. Now, I love him and all, I do, you know that, but that's not the way I'd describe him to people. "Sweet." Would you?

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The Shape of Things

Jenny (page 2)

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(ADAM thinks for a moment.)

ADAM: No, I wouldn't exactly use his name and "sweet" in the same short story....

JENNY: And that's what's bugging me.

ADAM: Why, though? Maybe he's just....

JENNY: I've only seen him like this once before, maybe twice. Definitely once, when we were first going out and he was seeing somebody else, too. It was over, mostly, but he was still seeing her. Remember that?

ADAM yeah. I do. The "other" one.

JENNY: The other Jenny, exactly. I'd call and I could hear him freeze up, stop for a moment if he answered and I said, "Hey, it's Jenny." He didn't know what to do, so he'd get all sort of sweet and fish around slowly until he figured out if it was her or me. God, I used to hate that!

ADAM: So, do you know anyone else named "Jenny" right now?

JENNY: No, I don't mean that, not the name so much as the feeling...that sense that there's someone else.

ADAM: Nah...

JENNY: Maybe I'm making it up, you know, my own insecurities and looking for a reason not to....

ADAM: *(Smiling)* Dive in? Take the plunge? Jump off the deep end? Stop me before I...

JENNY: Cute. but yes. And that might be it, but I don't think so. I want to get married, I do, and I love the guy, whether he's sweet or not. It's just that I don't believe him now that he is....

The Shape of Things

Phillip

Introduction

Phillip is one of the four main characters in Neil LaBute’s play “The Shape of Things”, which explores the themes of love, art, deception, and betrayal. Phillip is a confident, conservative, and somewhat arrogant college student who is engaged to Jenny, his childhood sweetheart. He is also friends with Adam, a shy and insecure English major who falls in love with Evelyn, a radical and manipulative art student.

Role

Phillip serves as the antagonist of the play, as he represents the opposite values and personality of Evelyn, who is the main driving force of the plot. Phillip is often rude and dismissive of Evelyn and her artistic views, and he tries to influence Adam to stay away from her. He also cheats on Jenny with Evelyn, who seduces him as part of her master’s thesis project. Phillip’s role is to challenge and contrast Evelyn’s actions and motives, and to show how far she is willing to go to change someone’s world. As the antagonist, Phillip’s role in the play is also to provide a conflict and a foil to Adam and Evelyn’s relationship. He opposes Evelyn’s art project and tries to expose her deception. He highlights Adam’s transformation and insecurity. He represents the status quo and the conformity that Evelyn challenges and manipulates. He cares more about the surface than the substance of things and people.

Arc

Phillip’s arc is a downfall of losing his values and trust. He is confident and successful with Jenny and Adam, but insecure and defensive with Evelyn. He cheats on Jenny with Evelyn, but still wants to marry her. He resents Adam’s change and tries to ruin his relationship with Evelyn. He follows the norms, but is unaware of Evelyn’s art project. He learns that he has been betrayed by Evelyn and Jenny, who slept with Adam. He breaks off with Jenny and Adam. He confronts Evelyn and Adam and breaks down. He is alone and devastated by Evelyn’s art.

Intimacy Notice

This role may include brief moments of kissing with the actor playing Jenny depending on production needs and actor comfort. The exact nature of the choreography will be set in collaboration with the actors, the Director and an Intimacy Director, but actors should consider their comfort with lip-to-lip contact.

Aspect	Initial	Final
Appearance	Handsome, athletic, confident, well-dressed.	No significant change.
Personality	Arrogant, rude, insensitive, possessive, jealous, insecure, easily manipulated.	More angry, bitter, and resentful after learning that Evelyn used him and Adam cheated with Jenny.
Motivation	To maintain his status and image as a successful and attractive man. To marry Jenny and have a comfortable life with her.	To confront Evelyn and Adam for their betrayal. To break up with Jenny and end their engagement.
Relationship with Adam	Mocks and belittles him as a loser and a nerd. Does not respect or like him as a friend.	Hates him for sleeping with Jenny and being part of Evelyn’s art project. Attacks him physically and verbally.

The Shape of Things Phillip (page 1)

PHILLIP: ...I'm serious, it looks good.

ADAM: Just shut up...don't get here late and then make fun of me.

PHILLIP: No, you look distinguished.

ADAM: Phil, I look like a hockey player....

PHILLIP: Yeah, but a distinguished one.

(They chuckle.)

PHILLIP: What'd you do, anyway?

ADAM: I fell.

PHILLIP: Come on...

ADAM: Seriously, I did....

PHILLIP: You sound like a battered wife. "I fell."

ADAM: That's not funny.

PHILLIP: Yeah, it is. it's very funny. I mean, it's not that funny that wives get beat up, but the fact that you look like one, that I find hilarious....

ADAM: Well, anyway, that's what happened. I tripped, I fell. no big deal.

PHILLIP: Sure it wasn't the bathroom door? That's the usual excuse....

ADAM: For who?

PHILLIP: Abused women...

ADAM: You're sick.

PHILLIP: Somewhat, yeah. But I'm nice-looking, which makes up for a lot.

ADAM: Not as much as you think....

PHILLIP: 'Don't hate me because I'm beautiful."

ADAM: I don't. I just hate you.

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The Shape of Things **Phillip (page 2)**

[continued from previous page]

PHILLIP: See, I knew you did, all these years. (*Beat*) You really fell?

ADAM: Yeah. I tripped on the stairs going into my apartment and caught my face on the...you know...the....

PHILLIP: No, what?

ADAM: Oh, come on! It's not that fascinating....

PHILLIP: It is, too. It's completely fascinating. So, you don't wanna tell me then, right?

ADAM: Tell you what?!

PHILLIP: What happened to your...

ADAM: I told you. I tripped going up the. and hit the edge of the....

PHILLIP: Yeah, it's the "edge of" that I'm a little hazy on here....

ADAM: Edge of the knob. My door knob.

PHILLIP: She clocked you one, didn't she?

ADAM: Who?

PHILLIP: "Who?" The artist, formerly known as Evelyn, or whatever her name is....