

Geneva English Drama Society (GEDS)

Audition Notes

DISGRACED

By Ayad Akhtar

Director, Charles Slovenski

Performance dates:

1 through 5 October 2019 at the Théâtre Esplanade, Geneva. Tues-Fri, 8 PM; Sat. 7 PM.

Auditions:

Wednesday 12 June in the basement hall of the English Church. Rue du Mont-Blanc 14bis. 7:00 – 9:30 PM.

The play:

“...The veil is evil. You erase a face, you erase individuality. Nobody’s making men erase their individuality. Why’s it always come down to making the woman pay? Uh-uh. There is a point at which you just have to say no.” – Jory, DISGRACED

“...For three hundred years they’ve been taking our land, drawing new borders, replacing our laws, making us want to be like them. Look like them. Marry their women. They disgrace us.” – Abe, DISGRACED

Disgraced premiered in Chicago and has had [Off-Broadway](#) and [Off West End](#) engagements. The play won the 2013 [Pulitzer Prize for Drama](#).

The play is centred on socio-political themes such as [Islamophobia](#) and the self-identity of Muslim-American citizens. It focuses on a dinner party between four people with very different backgrounds. As discussion turns to politics and religion, the mood quickly becomes heated. Described as a "combustible powder keg of identity politics," the play depicts racial and ethnic prejudices that "secretly persist in even the most progressive cultural circles." It is also said to depict the challenge for upwardly mobile Muslim Americans in the post-9/11 America.

Auditions:

The audition will consist of cold readings from the script, as requested. You may choose to prepare a short piece, within a 2 minute time limit.

The auditions are being co-coordinated with A MIDSUMMER NIGHT’S DREAM auditions scheduled for Thursday 13 June. Any actor who can’t make the scheduled audition can audition on the 13th of June instead.

Cast:

Roles: 3M, 2F

Amir: Amir, 35 – 40+, is the central character in *Disgraced*. Amir’s family is of South Asian origin, but he was born in the United States and firmly identifies as an American. He is a

successful corporate lawyer and lives in a lush apartment on New York City's Upper East Side, where the play takes place. He was raised Muslim, but now describes himself as an apostate. Amir is married to Emily and works at the same law firm as Jory.

Emily: Emily, early 30s, is an artist and Amir's wife. Emily finds inspiration for her work in ancient Islamic art traditions, though she is Christian. She has seen some success in her recent showings, and she hopes to be included in a new group show at The Whitney Museum of American Art in New York.

Abe: Abe is Amir's nephew, also of South Asian origin. He is in his early 20s. Abe was born with the name Hussein Malik but decided to change his name to Abe Jensen in order to better assimilate into American culture.

Isaac: Isaac, 35-40+, is a curator at The Whitney Museum of American Art, and he is interested in Emily's artwork. He is Jewish, and he is married to Amir's co-worker, Jory.

Jory: Jory, 35-40, is African-American and Amir's colleague and friend. They are two of a very small number of ethnic minorities at the law firm. She is very successful and always candid in her conversations with Amir. Jory is married to Isaac.

Process:

The schedule can be flexible depending on who is cast. However, rehearsals are currently scheduled for 27, 28, 29 August; 2, 3, 4, 9, 11, 12, 16, 18, 19, 23, 25, 26 September. The entire cast must be available during the technical weekend of 28/29 September. Rehearsals will start at 7 PM (can be flexible with this) and run until 10 PM at the latest.

I am looking for actors who are willing to work hard. As soon as the play is cast, actors need to start studying and memorizing the text, even before the first rehearsal. Actors who have other commitments need to clear these before we begin the rehearsal period. Some exceptions can be made.

Script:

For a copy of the script or questions, please contact Charles Slovenski cjslovenski@yahoo.com. If you are unable to attend the audition, please contact me and we may try to arrange another time, if possible.