

Call for Auditions - Upstage Spring Production 2023



Lobby Hero by Kenneth Lonergan, directed by Myriam Schleiss



“How are you supposed to know if you're right and everybody else is wrong, or if you're just wrecking your own chances?”

Synopsis

As the path of four people criss-cross in and just outside the lobby of a high-scale apartment building in New York, their world views and ambitions clash and their mostly good intentions lead to bad results.

Jeff, a down-on-his-luck twenty-something, works as a security guard under William, a black man trying hard to establish himself as a respected leader. While both Jeff and William work at the building, the two police figures come there regularly as Bill, the veteran cop, visits his mistress, leaving Dawn, a rookie in her first police role, to wait for him in the lobby. William mentors Jeff, then asks for his help when his brother is accused of murder. Dawn first admires Bill; their relationship then sours as she learns more about him from Jeff. Bill offers to help William with his brother's case. Jeff tries to win Dawn by doing the right thing, alienating her instead.

This is a play of fast and often funny dialogues. It interrogates racial biases and sexism sensitively and exposes the moral inconsistencies and the conflicted impulses that make us all so terribly and confoundingly human.

The author, Kenneth Lonergan, is an American film director, playwright, and screenwriter. He is the co-writer of the film *Gangs of New York* (2002), and wrote and directed *You Can Count on Me* (2000), *Margaret* (2011), and *Manchester by the Sea* (2016). His most noted plays include *This Is Our Youth* (1996), *Lobby Hero* (2002) and *The Waverly Gallery* (1999).

Script

The play script is available in the Members' Area of the Upstage website.

If you have no access, please contact director@upstage.ch to receive it by email.

The director

Myriam Schleiss has been on stage and backstage with Upstage as well as with other amateur theatre groups in and around Berne. She made her debut as a director in 2022 with the Upstage Spring production “Trap for a lonely man” by Robert Thomas. After her first successful experience as a director, she is now ready to take another shot at it!

Performance Dates

The play will run for six performances at the **Theater Remise** in Bern.

Week 20

- Sunday 28.05 / Move-in

Week 21

- Monday 29.05 / Technical rehearsal
- Tuesday 30.05 / Final Rehearsal
- Thursday 01.06 / Dress rehearsal
- Friday 02.06 / **Premiere**
- Saturday 03.06 / **Performance**
- Sunday 04.06 / **Performance**

Week 22

- Thursday 08.06 / **Performance**
- Friday 09.06 / **Performance**
- Saturday 10.06 / **Performance**

Auditions

When and where?

If you are interested in auditioning, please fill out the [Doodle form](#) or write to director@upstage.ch. Please fill in all your availabilities, as we will try to group the people auditioning in order to do a few dialog scenes. If you'd like to audition but you can't make it to any of the dates, you can still write an email to director@upstage.ch.

Dates:

- Tuesday **31.01 / 18:00-20:00** at **St. Ursula's Church** (Jubiläumsplatz 2, 3005 Bern)
- Wednesday **01.02 / 18:00-20:00** at **St. Ursula's Church** (Jubiläumsplatz 2, 3005 Bern)
- Thursday **02.02 / 18:00-20:00** at **St. Ursula's Church** (Jubiläumsplatz 2, 3005 Bern)

How?

Please prepare one of the **monologues (on the last page) according to the role you are auditioning for**. After performing your monologue, you will be handed a short scene from the play (dialogue), supplied by the director at the time of auditioning.

When you arrive at the audition, you will need to fill out a form with your **available days during the week** and **planned absences**. Please note that rehearsals will start in February and will be scheduled **Tuesday and Thursday evenings usually from 18:00 to 20:00**. There will also be a **rehearsal weekend**. The exact date will be set after the audition.

Roles

- **Jeff** - 27-year-old security guard, likes to joke but has lacked direction in his life. He's an easy-going chatterbox, but knows his life seems to disappoint even himself.
- **William** - Jeff's boss is a serious, disciplined, hardworking and honest supervisor. He prides himself on taking on responsibility and doing the right thing. For the story, this part should be played by a non-white male.
- **Dawn** - a female rookie police officer in her 20s. Naïve and a bit impulsive, Dawn is infatuated with her partner Bill.
- **Bill** - an older, married police officer visiting his mistress in the building. He's willing to make life easier for Dawn, if she'll play by the rules.

And behind the scenes?

Every production needs people behind the scenes. With an amateur production, you get many opportunities to bring in your ideas and help the project develop. If you are interested in helping backstage, contact us via email at director@upstage.ch, and indicate your interest. We can then schedule a meeting online or in person.

Open backstage roles: Production managers (2), Stage manager (1), Set design and construction (1-2), Lights and sound (1-2), Costumes, hair and make-up (1), Props (1-2), Poster and publicity (1-2), Transport (1), Front of house (1)

Please note: All members of the production (cast or crew), must join Upstage by paying the **Upstage membership fee (40 CHF / 20 CHF** for students, pensioners, and unemployed).

Audition monologues

For those auditioning for a role on stage, please learn one of these monologues before you come to the audition. You will be asked to perform it according to the character's description.

Note: these monologues from the play have been slightly altered for audition purposes.

JEFF (to Dawn)

Remember how a long time ago, when we were kids, the police uniforms used to be all dark blue? And then around the 1980's I guess, they switched to the dark blue pants and a light blue shirt? And then recently they switched them back to the dark blue pants and a dark blue shirt again? What I always wondered was, did they throw out all the old dark blue pants when they did that? If you think about it, you could be wearing pants right now that were being worn by some lady cop in 1975. Except I guess the women police officers didn't wear pants back in 1975. I don't mean they didn't wear pants, like they were walking around in their underwear. I just mean... I know I'm blathering, I'm just completely in love with you.

BILL (talking about Dawn, to Jeff)

Now, I could tell that girl likes me. It's only natural. I'm her partner, I'm a big strong father figure, whatever, gotta lot of experience, gotta lot of confidence, I know what I'm fucking doing – and that's attractive to a woman, it's attractive to anybody. So she's attracted to me. That's OK. She's human. I'm human. But maybe part of what I'm doing, part of building her confidence is making her feel like I'm interested in her too. Maybe that makes her feel impressive. Makes her feel cocky, makes her feel like she's got something on the ball. Makes her feel like she's really a cop. But this is not a game. We're not doormen. We're policemen.

WILLIAM (talking about his brother, to Jeff)

Now, I'm very disciplined. But that's just my nature. I was always that way. So when all these criminals used to come around our house and try to tempt me, I would stay away. But I can't take a lot of credit for that, 'cause I was just a little kid. So how am I gonna be patting myself on the back for how I acted or didn't act when I was ten years old? That's just absurd. But he was more like a regular kid. So he got sucked up by these criminals and that was it. If they hadn't been around he would have been a so-called normal kid and now he'd be a so-called normal man, probably inflicting lawful misery on someone in the corporate world. But I'm just exhausted with it, I really am.

DAWN (talking about Bill, to Jeff)

I was near the top of my class at the Academy... I just... I just fucked up with this prick, that's all. And now I'm screwed. Because I obviously really misjudged him, you know? And for all I know he's been shooting his mouth off all over the department. And it wouldn't have been so hard to avoid the whole thing in the first place. But these guys... They wanna test you, all the time. And it's always like: "Hey – you're not men, you're not women: You're cops. Act like cops and you'll be treated like cops." Only then it turns out they got a pool going as to who's gonna fuck you first, OK? And that's fine. I can handle it. You make them respect you.