

“Harvey” Cast Description

Myrtle Mae Simmons - A fading wallflower, an old maid, Myrtle is self serving, self absorbed, and somewhat shallow. She has no compassion for her uncle Elwood, and little patience for her mother, Veta. She could be anywhere from an old 25 to a young 40.

Veta Louise Simmons - A flighty, failed ersatz socialite, Veta is a bit muddled and absent-minded and tends to blame her brother Elwood for too many of her troubles, though she loves him. She is alternately blissful and beaten down. Her main focus in life is to see Myrtle Mae married well, though she herself projects some lingering bitterness over her own marriage (she is a widow). Veta could be anywhere from age 45 to 60.

Elwood P. Dowd - Seriously Affable (it makes sense in the context of the play!), Elwood has a bit of a drinking problem. He takes life at face value, lives in the moment, hasn't a mean bone in his body and seems incapable of seeing the meanness in others, though all of these personality characteristics seem to be the result of choice rather than an alcoholic fog. His best friend and companion is a Pooka that has taken the form of an invisible 6-foot tall rabbit named Harvey. Elwood could be anywhere from his late 40s to 65.

Miss Johnson - A maid in the service of Myrtle, Veta and Elwood. This is a cameo with one line and would be an excellent part for someone who wants to 'get their feet wet' in community theatre. Age is wide open. Might potentially be asked to sing badly from off stage. *See note at bottom of page.*

Mrs Ethel Chavenet - Coming from 'old money', she is bombastic, full of self-confidence for little observable reason, and an incurable busy body. Mrs. Chavenet could be late 50ish on up. This is another good part for someone getting a start in community theatre or who may be unable to make a full commitment to the rehearsal schedule.

Ruth Kelly, RN - Ruth is the nurse/receptionist at Chumley's Rest. She is young, attractive, and competent at her job and in love with Dr. Sanderson. Their relationship could be described as rocky at best, emotionally abusive at worst. Ruth could be anywhere from about 25 to 30+ years of age.

Duane Wilson - Big, burly and brutish. Duane is a bit slow and is the 'muscle' of Chumley's Rest. He is fiercely loyal to Dr. Chumley. Duane should be powerfully built, though not necessarily 'athletic'. He could be 25 to 40 years of age.

Lyman Sanderson, MD - Lyman is young, handsome, ambitious and an arrogant, self-serving jerk. He is the 'love interest' of Ruth, though his interest in Ruth may not be all that 'permanent'. He is frequently insensitive and dismissive. His age could range from about 30 to about 35.

William R. Chumley, MD - is pompous, arrogant, self-absorbed. He is less concerned with his patients' welfare than his own reputation. Willie, as his wife calls him, could be aged 55 to 65.

Betty Chumley - The very pleasant, down-to-earth wife of Dr. Chumley. Betty is perhaps the only 'normal' person in the entire cast. She could be played aged 55 to 65. This is another 'smaller' role and would be great for someone not quite confident enough yet to audition for a larger role.

Judge Omar Gaffney - A very sincere older gentleman, who also happens to be a lawyer. A decent man who may be a too concerned about details and tends to be a bit reactionary. There is no upper age limit for this character and he could be as young as 50 or 60. This role, like that of Betty Chumley, would be ideal for someone not quite comfortable with the thought of taking on a larger role.

E. J. Lofgren - A somewhat rough and gruff taxi driver. He is uneducated but not stupid. He could be played at ages 35 to 45 or even older. This is another great 'starter' role.

Optional character: Voice – The Director, Bill Haas might be looking for a 'bad' female singing voice. If someone wishes to provide this "talent", I have no objections to a 13th cast member. Otherwise, he will have one of the cast members provide this off stage singing voice.