



### AUDITION NOTICE

#### **FEFU AND HER FRIENDS**

by María Irena Fornés

Directed by Juliana Kleist-Méndez

**Auditions: September 26 & 27 at Riverside Theatre (119 E College Street)**

Riverside Theatre in Iowa City is seeking performers for all roles in its production of *Fefu and Her Friends* by María Irena Fornés, directed by Juliana Kleist-Méndez. Auditions will be held Monday, September 26 from 6:00-10:00 and Tuesday, September 27 from 6:00-10:00. Performers are encouraged to sign up for a ten-minute audition slot [here](#).

Performers are asked to prepare two sides from the play. Sides are available [here](#). Sides do not need to be memorized.

#### PERFORMANCE/REHEARSAL DATES

Rehearsals start: February 14, 2023.

Performances: March 10-April 2, 2023 (15 total)

Rehearsals are typically held 6 days per week, Tuesday-Friday evenings and weekend days. Performances are held Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays at 7:30pm; Sundays at 2:00pm.

#### AUDITION INFORMATION

Contact Adam Knight ([artistic@riversidetheatre.org](mailto:artistic@riversidetheatre.org)) with questions about auditions, or if you cannot attend auditions on these dates/times. A perusal copy of the play is available [here](#).

- Audition Dates/Time: **September 26th and 27th, 6:00-10:00p.m.** by appointment
- Sign up for an audition slot [here](#).
- **On audition day – arrive at the Riverside Theatre lobby** (119 E College Street, 3rd floor) at least 10 minutes before your scheduled audition time. Auditions will be viewed by the director and an additional Riverside Theatre staff member, along with a reader.
- Please bring two hard copies of your resume and headshot. Photocopies of headshots are acceptable.
- Casting decisions will be made by **October 3**. All who audition will be notified of their casting status.

## **ABOUT THE PLAY**

One of the seminal plays of the 20th century, an experimental work that explores feminism and sexuality through the intimate lives of eight New England women in the 1930s. Taking full advantage of the flexibility that Riverside's new home can provide, this play will transport the audience to several different "rooms" where the action of this tantalizing and surprising play takes place.

## **CASTING BREAKDOWN**

**Note:** In this production, revolutions start when women come together. All roles are open to female-identifying actors of any race and ethnicity. BIPOC, MENA, AAPI, and Latiné/o/a/x actors warmly welcomed.

**Stephany "Fefu" Beckmann** (pronounced Feh-foo): (mid 30's - mid 40's)

A self-proclaimed "do gooder" with a blazing revolutionary spirit, Fefu is hostess and handywoman to this gathering of her long-time friends and activist colleagues. She is "outrageous," switching between the indecent to the metaphysical to shock and delight her guests. Yet, when she acts the joker, she is not cruel but rather covering up a deeper truth: her marriage is falling apart and she is wracked with pain that seems to be getting stronger. She is fighting to keep her light ablaze. **\*Shoots a gun\* \*Kissed by Emma\***

**Julia:** (mid 30's - mid 40's)

Julia is the visionary. She was once the most radically outspoken of the group, but now is a shadow of her former self. A year ago, a mysterious hunting accident left her wheelchair-bound and suffering from frequent petit mal seizures. During these episodes, when she stares out absently, she is punished physically by judges only she can see, a fact that she tries to keep hidden. Being around her dearest friends ignites her playful, joyous spirit even though she has become obsessed with death. She may, however, be the strongest among them as she tries to shield Fefu from suffering her same fate. **\*Handles a gun\***

**Christina:** (mid to late 20's)

A self-proclaimed conformist, Christina is utterly scandalized by Fefu who shatters every convention. Christina is skittish and feels completely out of place in a house where wives pretend to shoot their husbands. But she's also intrigued, she did, after all say yes to Cindy's invitation. While she is fearful that "women are made of putty," she is cautiously curious about these extraordinary women and their passion for education. **\*Handles a gun\***

**Cindy:** (mid to late 20's)

Cindy is the future. She is the next generation who will carry on the torch of activism. She has become close friends with Fefu and Julia. She looks up to them and feels lovingly protective towards Julia as she was the only witness to Julia's accident. Today, she brought her friend Christina to meet her outlandish mentors and friends. Also, she's doing a pretty good job of hiding it, but she is in the middle of getting divorced. Her worry and fear around this only bubble up in her dreams. **\*Handles a gun\***

**Emma Blake:** (mid 30's - mid 40's)

Emma is as bold as she is as well-traveled. She is boisterous, outgoing, and extremely wealthy. A gifted performer, she's known for her lavish gowns and her flair for the drama-tics, both of which, (along with the family money), she puts to use in the service of universal education. She is the energetic spearhead of the project that brought all the women together today. While she is dear friends with Sue, Paula, and Julia, she and Fefu share a special, tender friendship. One where they confide in each other and reveal hidden secrets. Today, Emma is shocked to hear there is something disturbingly off about Fefu. **\*Kisses Fefu\***

**Paula Cori:** (mid 30's - mid 40's)

Paula did not grow up with the wealth of her friends. She has dedicated her life to ensuring that poor and immigrant children have access to universal education. She likes to understand life's complexities: she creates a mathematical equation to understand the life and death cycle of a love affair (7 years and 3 months). Today, she faces her former lover, the woman who broke her heart: Cecilia. And, even though she still remembers every day they were together, this time she is going to stand up for herself. She isn't disposable. **\*Hugged and kissed by Cecilia\***

**Sue:** (mid 30's - mid 40's)

Sue is the group's Treasurer and most nurturing of the group. When Fefu is busy, she takes over hostess-ing duties: serving soup to Julia, getting the coffee ready, etc. Sue may seem demure, but she also has a very silly streak: she uses her keen powers of observation and intuition to sense when one of her friends may need cheering up. She is not afraid to get her hands dirty in the kitchen or doing whatever it takes to win a water fight.

**Cecilia:** (mid 30's - mid 40's)

Cecilia has been invited to the gathering for her radical research: she is a professional educator who extols that teachers must cultivate the "unusual" in their students. While she is not good friends with any of the women, she had a blazing love affair with Paula that she ended some years ago. Cecilia is methodical, scientific, and likes to be in control yet seeing Paula again after all these years does something to her. The truth is, she has missed her and isn't quite sure what to do with that. **\*Hugs and kisses Paula\***

### **COMPENSATION**

Union and non-union actors are encouraged to audition. All non-union cast members will receive a \$1400 stipend (\$200/week). AEA members will receive the then-current Special Appearance Contract Tier II minimum salary.

### **COVID SAFETY**

This production will be produced in-person in accordance with Actors' Equity Association's then-current COVID Safety Memorandum of Understanding. Only fully-vaccinated artists are being considered at this time.