THE PERFECT AMERICAN MAN
A Workshop Reading
Audition Guide

Performances: April 4-6
What is it: a workshop reading of a brand-new student-written musical!
Music, Lyrics, and Book by Ben Kramer ’24

Director: Jay Mehta (jay.mehta@yale.edu)
Music Director: Ben Kramer (ben.kramer@yale.edu)
Producer: Tabatha Stewart (tabatha.stewart@yale.edu)

Synopsis:
This original musical follows the lives of five men—all 22 years old and gay in five different years between 1969 and 2023—over the course of a single calendar year, from New Year's Eve to New Year's Eve. Presented as a series of intertwined musical monologues and song fragments, the piece explores the intergenerational experience of gay identity, centered around collective memory of the AIDS crisis. Together, these five men's stories build a mosaic of love, loss, and hope in contemporary gay America.

Who can audition?
Anyone is welcome to audition, and no prior experience in musical theater is necessary! We are seeking to cast five performers, who will work closely with the composer, director, and creative team to develop the world premiere of an original work of musical theater. The piece has been under construction since December 2022, and you will help bring it to life in a workshop reading! We are so excited to welcome you to the team.

While all of the characters in the piece are male-identifying and sing in a tenor range, performers of any gender identity are welcome to audition as long as they feel comfortable portraying a male-identifying character and singing in that range. Performers should keep in mind that the show deals with sensitive issues, including suicidal ideation.
What will the audition process be like?
You can either send in a self-tape to jay.mehta@yale.edu and ben.kramer@yale.edu (due January 15), or you can send an email to jay.mehta@yale.edu and ben.kramer@yale.edu to schedule an in-person audition between January 15-18! We may ask to see you for an in-person callback, which would take place between January 18-20. Casting decisions will be announced no later than January 21.

What will the production process be like?
Rehearsals for the reading will begin during the week of January 20. From then until spring break (March 8), performers can expect 2 rehearsals per week. After spring break, there are two weeks of rehearsal before performances. Tech week for the reading (much less intensive than tech week for a show!) will be March 30-April 3. Performances will be on April 4 (8 pm), April 5 (8 pm), and April 6 (2 pm and 8 pm)!

Characters:

SAMUEL “SAM” SCHWARTZ. 1981. New York. A student of law and a rabbi’s son. Madly in love with his florist boyfriend, Tom, with whom he lives in a new apartment purchased by his parents.


ARTHUR GOLDMAN. 1997. Los Angeles. Leads a meaningless and anonymous life as a closeted telephone salesman, while his perfect older brother is rising in the political ranks in Washington.

NOAH MAXWELL. 2023. Washington, D.C. A student of linguistics. Wants to be in love but isn't.
How do I audition?

Your audition (whether a self-tape or in-person) will consist of the following parts! If you are submitting a self-tape, you can skip the vocal warm-up section :)

1. **A vocal warm-up.** This is a chance for us to hear your vocal range and for you to warm up for the rest of the audition. (Note: for in-person auditions only!)

2. **An excerpt from a song.** We have selected two excerpts, each roughly a minute long, from the show. The first excerpt consists of measures 38-70 of "The Boy Who I Love." The second excerpt consists of measures 12-27 of "Noah's Song." Please prepare one excerpt and sing it for us! It is totally fine to use sheet music, and if you do an in-person audition, sheet music will be provided. Sheet music and demo recordings of Ben singing each excerpt can be found [here](#). If you're doing an in-person audition, Ben will accompany you on the piano as you sing. If you're doing a self-tape, please record yourself singing with the accompaniment tracks in the Auditions Materials folder. If you have any questions about the music, do not hesitate to reach out to Ben at [ben.kramer@yale.edu](mailto:ben.kramer@yale.edu).

3. **A monologue.** While the show is sung-through (i.e., just music without scenes of dialogue), we would love to see you act a bit. To that end, we've selected three monologues from works with related themes. They can be accessed [here](#)! Please select one and prepare it for the audition. Feel free to use the script! If you choose to do an in-person audition, the script will be provided. If you have any questions about the monologue, please reach out to Jay at [jay.mehta@yale.edu](mailto:jay.mehta@yale.edu).

If you are not cast in the show but still wish to be involved, we would love to have you join our creative team! Reach out to Tabatha (tabatha.stewart@yale.edu) for more information on creative team roles.

If you have any questions about the audition, about the rehearsal process, or about the reading in general, feel free to contact Ben ([ben.kramer@yale.edu](mailto:ben.kramer@yale.edu)) and Jay ([jay.mehta@yale.edu](mailto:jay.mehta@yale.edu)). We cannot wait to see your auditions!