

You Got Older
by Clare Barron
A Senior TAPS Thesis for Naomi Goodheart
Fall 2022/Spring 2023

Who?

Directors: Elka Wade
Producers: Ellie Burke and Jeffrey Steele
Stage Manager: Arden Parrish
Preferred Contact Emails: ellie.burke@yale.edu and jeffrey.steele@yale.edu

What?

You Got Older by Clare Barron is a sad-funny play about family, illness, and cowboys. Fresh off getting dumped and fired and covered with a weird rash, Mae moves home to take care of her sick father and has to start dealing with all sorts of things she's been trying not to deal with. She finds different ways to cope: a fling with almost an old friend, passionate sibling debates, and some confusing cowboy sex fantasies. We'd love to have you join us!

When?

Date of First Rehearsal: Late October
Current Tech Week Dates: February 19 - March 1, 2023
Performance Dates: March 2-4, 2023
Overall Dates (First Rehearsal to Last Performance): Late October 2022 - March 4, 2023

Time Commitment

Weekly Estimated Time Commitments (in Hours):

Fall Semester

Dad / Mac / Cowboy — 2-5 hours
Hannah / Matthew / Jenny — 2-3 hours

Spring Semester leading up to tech

Everyone — 6-12 hours

Tech

Everyone — 20 - 30 hours (5 hours on weekdays, likely more on weekends)

Content Warnings

This play has a lot of strong language, used in almost every scene by most of the characters. The Cowboy and Mac also have sexual material including: sexual language, touching, kissing, and simulated foreplay. Throughout the play, Mae has repeated sex dreams about the Cowboy, which escalate in intensity. There is one scene with Mac where Mae and Mac almost have sex but don't. All of the intimacy in this play will be choreographed by a professional intimacy choreographer provided by Yale and every moment of intimacy will have a conversation with all actors involved about what feels most comfortable. Additional content warnings include: death, illness, and mentions of sexual assault.

Character Descriptions

We are looking to cast six roles. As it's their thesis, the role of Mae has been precast with Naomi Goodheart. Please audition for any role whose pronouns you feel comfortable using—anything is possible with regards to casting.

Dad (he/him) — father of Mae, in his 60s

Mae (she/her) — daughter of Dad, 32

Mac (he/him) — a dude from Mae's hometown

Cowboy (he/him) — you don't know if he's gonna fuck you or kill you

Hannah (she/her) — big sister

Matthew (he/him) — middle brother

Jenny (she/her) — little sister

Production Roles

We are also looking to fill the following production roles—please reach out if you would be interested in working on this show in a design or technical capacity!

Set Designer

Costume Designer

Props Designer

Projections Designer

Assistant Stage Manager

Audition Expectations

We have attached and provided sides for each character that you can use. Please feel free to use your own monologue (1-2 minutes of material) if that feels more comfortable than the provided sides—we may ask you to read from a side in auditions so please take a look at them either way. Please arrive five minutes early for your audition slot and fill out our [audition form](#).

Audition Times and Locations

Auditions will be held in the Watson Center at 60 Sachem St, across the street from Pauli Murray College. Specific rooms for each audition slot are listed below:

Monday, October 3, 7:30 - 9:30 — Watson Center A32

Tuesday, October 4, 6:30 - 9:30 — Watson Center A32

Wednesday, October 5, 7:30 - 8:30 — Watson Center A72

Monday, October 10, 6-9 — Watson Center A74

Callbacks will be held Tuesday, October 11, 7-10 pm (and Wednesday, October 12 from 8-10 pm if needed) at Watson Center A32.

Please reach out to us if none of these times work for you and we will find one that does!

DAD

Let me give you some advice:

When you're dealing with something like this

It's always best to bring it up early and casually

Just hear me out

You want to mention it right away, just off-the-cuff

Hey! Thanks for the interview! I'm in Washington State taking care of my dad but I'd be happy to do something over Skype.

You never know. Maybe they'll even want you more if they know why you're away

It's admirable! I'd want to hire a candidate who went home to take care of her dad!

Did you tell them why you lost your job?

You have to tell them why you lost your job! You don't want them to think you were fired. It wasn't your fault!

Let me tell you a story—

Just—

Give me, okay—

I'm going to tell you a story to illustrate my point—

Just let me tell you a story—

The other week

I was really stressing out about some shipments that hadn't come in

And this woman - one of our vendors - was really giving me the run-around

You know, follow up in a few days and bullshit like that And I finally said to her: You know, lady. I'm sorry but I'm actually away from the office undergoing cancer treatments right now, and it's really hard for me to follow up.

And wouldn't you know it was all taken care of within twenty-four hours. Like that.

Dad really thinks this is a profound story. His voice wavers.

So. You see

Sometimes you just have to tell people what's going on And they'll take care of you.

MAC

Yeah, I've been thinking about you because
My Mom, when she had me, was just nineteen
And when kids used to make fun of me at school and stuff and be mean to me, I used to say: If everyone lives to one hundred. And my mom is twenty-six and your mom is forty-four or whatever, then that means that I get eighteen more years with my mom than you do
But I mean, of course, that's not true. Because my mom could die before your dad, I mean, still. Even with everything. It's possible.
Like my mom lives in California
And I see her like
Once, maybe twice a year if I'm lucky
For a few days at a time
And you've been here for what? Six weeks?
So that's like six years
In my book
And even if I added up all the days
All the days I'm going to spend with my mom for the rest of my life
So let's say one week a year times fifty more years that's like fifty weeks that's like one more year of life, one more year of actual days, spent together, in each other's company, I mean, after eighteen years of growing up together, one more year of days, and I know there's like the Internet and phone calls and stuff, but one more year of actual days together in each other's company before...
I'm sorry, Mae
I just wanted to like
Talk to you, you know?
I just wanted you to feel like you could talk to me about stuff
I mean, if you needed someone to talk to

COWBOY

You're in Nova Scotia

There's a blizzard

I found you tied to a tree

You were buried halfway in the snow. Unconscious. Your mouth was open. There were snowflakes on your tongue.

I had to take your clothes off so you wouldn't freeze to death. I'm sorry. I didn't look

They're still wet. I'm drying them by the fire

I have to rub you down now

You're hypothermic

The friction will warm you up

I'm sorry. I don't have a choice. It's for your own good

Mae?

I'm going to rub you down now.

Even if I have to tie you to that bed I am going to rub

Every part

Of your body

Vigorously

Until heat

And feeling return

to every

part

of

your

body.

Don't look at the door.

There's a blizzard outside, remember? You're not going anywhere

HANNAH

Have you heard of the curse?

You knit someone a sweater, they break up with you, unless you've been together 5 years or longer

It is a real curse! It happened to me. With Johnny

I knit him a sweater. And we broke up. Like three months later.

And also. Like two years after Johnny and I broke up. He got this horrible, rare blood cancer.

And he died. And the way I found out is that one day I got this package in the mail. From his mother. And I opened it up. And it was the sweater. She thought I'd want to keep it, or something. So yeah. There's definitely a Curse.

It's weird when someone you hate dies of cancer.

I'm pretty sure I wished that he'd die of cancer. Like verbally wished that he'd die of cancer.

More than once. Maybe several times. I'm pretty sure that I said he was fundamentally a force for evil. I'm pretty sure I said that if he died the world would get a net gain in goodness and purity and kindness and love.

But yeah. I didn't mean it. I don't think I meant it. Maybe I meant it? I guess I did mean it. At the time. In any case. I'm sorry he died. I didn't want him to actually die. But anyway.

It's not just me.

It's everyone.

There is a curse.

You knit someone a sweater and they break up with you

MATTHEW

The Hardy family smell

True or false?

It's not mothballs

It's a human smell. You know, like the smell of our skin or something

It's not just me. It's all of us. The whole clan.

The Hardy family smell

Do you think it bothers our lovers? Do you think they love us despite our smell?

Maybe they like it

I don't know. Maybe they want to stuff their faces into our necks and just sniff us up

I think it's an oil gland. We are really oily people.

We smell

Like dank and Like mildew

Like something fermenting

A little like BO

I think our family scent is a little like BO and I'm talking totally independent of literal BO

You can't smell it on yourself, guys! That's the whole problem. You have to smell it on each other.

JENNY

Oh you guys. I almost forgot
Everyone gets a baseball cap
This lady I work with told me about it
She says that at the hospital everyone should wear a baseball cap
And then if you need to cry
You pull the cap down over your eyes
And you can cry in private
I thought it was really sweet
Do you think he's going to wake up soon?

(on the verge of tears again)

Do you think I'm going to get to see him ring the gong?
I really want a picture with all of us and the gong.
When Camille's Mom finished treatment her whole PEO group came to see her ring the gong and
there were like balloons and everything.
It's like we're on a picnic

...

Dad. It's like we're on a picnic
Hannah bought a cheesecake. It's for me
Dad I have to go soon
Do you think we could ring the gong?
I'm going to go ask Iris if we can ring the gong