

Passion

By Stephen Sondheim and James Lapine

December 9-11, 2021

[Performances December 9th at 8pm; 10th at 8pm; 11th at 2pm and 8pm]

Welcome to 2021-22 Yale Theatre! We are so excited that you are interested in auditioning for *Passion*. Attached you will find a brief outline of the content of the show, a list of characters, and (tentative) dates and scheduling information.

Note: Only Yale students who have received a COVID-19 vaccine can participate in extracurricular performance, according to Undergraduate Production guidelines.

Please follow this link for a clear description of Yale's policy:

<https://up.yalecollege.yale.edu/fall-2021-covid-policy-performing-arts>

THE SHOW:

Unfolding in a nineteenth century Italian military outpost, *Passion* tells the story of an army captain pulled miles away from his mistress, soon crossing paths with the fascinating and obsessive Fosca, cousin of his Colonel. This Tony Award-winning musical by Stephen Sondheim and James Lapine delves into the dark realms of infatuation, illness, and power, and probes how deeply intertwined love and destruction can be.

THE CHARACTERS:

Although we list the traditional/scripted gender identifications of these characters for reference, all actors are encouraged to audition and will be considering actors of all gender identities for the roles listed below.

[Note: The roles of Fosca, Giorgio and Clara entail moments of intimacy, including kissing and physical touch. Clara and Giorgio are shown embracing in a shared bed in the opening scene. Fosca and Giorgio are then shown briefly kissing in a shared bed in one of the final scenes of the show. Our team will work with an intimacy coordinator and in closed rehearsal rooms to stage these scenes in a manner that is comfortable for each actor involved, and we encourage anyone with concerns to reach out to sarah.valeika@yale.edu, or to any member of our production team].

****Fosca:** (female-identifying character, age 20-25)

Colonel Ricci's cousin. Fiercely intelligent, ill with a poorly-understood disease, in love with Giorgio.

Vocal range: F3-D5

*****this role has been pre-cast***

Clara: (female-identifying character, age 20-25)

Giorgio's (married) lover. Practical and concerned with appearances. *[Note: This role does entail moments of intimacy, including kissing and physical touch]*

Vocal range: Ab3-F5

Giorgio: (male-identifying character, 20-28)

Army Captain. Bold, intense, and shaken to his core when Fosca enters his life.

[Note: This role does entail moments of intimacy, including kissing and physical touch]

Vocal range: F2-G4

**Note: This role involves brief staged violence, as he engages in a duel with the Colonel using a pistol.*

Colonel Ricci: (male-identifying character, age 40-50)

Army Colonel. Fosca's guardian and cousin. *“A rather taut gentleman, who carries the weight of his position with authority and ease.”*

Vocal range: Db3-G4

**Note: This role involves brief staged violence, as he engages in a duel with Giorgio and is wounded by a pistol shot.*

Doctor Tambourri: (male-identifying character, age 50-60)

A well respected Doctor. *“A somewhat aloof and distinguished older officer”* who sincerely cares about Fosca. Non-singing role.

Commanders

High-ranking military personnel at the military outpost.

Vocal range: ~B2-G4

Torasso (male-identifying character, age 40-50)

Cook/Lombardi (male-identifying character, age 30-45)

Barri (male-identifying character, age 40-50)

Rizzolli (male-identifying character, age 30-40)

Augenti (male-identifying character, age 18-21)

Fosca's Mother/Ensemble (female-identifying character)

Vocal range: D4-F5

Fosca's Father/Ensemble (male-identifying character)

Vocal range: B2-G4

Count Ludovic/Ensemble (male-identifying character)

A romantic pursuer and swindler from Fosca's past.

Vocal range: C3-G4

Ensemble

Soldiers and attendants at the military outpost. Characters of all ages and all genders, with numerous featured soloist roles available.

HOW DO I AUDITION?

1. **Sign up** for a ten-minute audition slot [here](#)!
2. During the audition, share with us a **story**, 2-5 minutes, about love. This can mean many things- platonic love, romantic love, obsessive-love, love for a pet... all up to you! We just want to hear you sharing about something or someone you care about, and inviting us into that world.
3. Then, we'll move on to a **vocal audition**. We'll start by warming up your voice, and then you'll sing a brief excerpt (~1:00-1:30) of a piece of music from *Passion*. You have three options, depending on what is most comfortable for your vocal range:

If you have a lower voice (tenor/baritone), you should prepare the following excerpt from "Sunrise Letter," performed by Giorgio, starting at measure 31 (from the lyric "Giorgio, I now sit staring at the mirror...") until the end of the piece. The sheet music can be found [here](#), and a piano track for you to practice singing along with can be found [here](#). You may have to download the file. You can listen to the original Broadway cast recording [here](#).

If you have a higher treble voice (soprano), you should prepare the following excerpt from "Sunrise Letter," performed by Clara, starting from the beginning of the piece and ending at measure 30 (at the lyric "and merely think, 'How beautiful..."). The sheet music can be found [here](#), and a piano track for you to practice singing along with can be found [here](#). You may have to download the file. You can listen to the original Broadway cast recording [here](#).

If you have a lower treble voice (alto), you should sing "Loving You" (the entire song, which is brief). The sheet music can be found [here](#), and a piano track for you to practice singing along with can be found [here](#). You may have to download the file. You can listen to the original Broadway cast recording [here](#).

If you have any questions about the audition, don't hesitate to contact sarah.valeika@yale.edu or ben.kramer@yale.edu with any questions!

What will the semester look like?

We are committed to clear and honest communication about time commitments, questions, concerns, hopes, dreams... you name it! We understand that this semester remains uncertain, and though musical performance remains limited by Covid-19 protocols, below is a tentative outline of the semester for our cast.

NOTE: To reduce actor stress, it is our priority to make a schedule that is as consistent and reliable as possible. For both leads and ensemble members, we will aim for a recurring weekly schedule, based on actor availability.

September 3-8: Auditions

September 8-10: Callbacks

September 12: Casting Day

September 14-October 19: Music rehearsals and ensemble building!

Music rehearsals, in accordance with current guidelines, will be limited to one hour in duration per session or two hours with a break in the middle. Leads (Fosca, Giorgio, Clara) can expect 8-9 hours per week of rehearsal. Other actors may expect 5-6 hours per week of rehearsal.

October 27-November 18: Blocking and music together!

If the duration policy of 1-hour remains in place, each rehearsal will last no longer than one hour per session. Regardless, all actors can expect 4-5 hours per week of blocking rehearsal in addition to 3-4 hours per week of music review.

November 29-December 8: Tech!