

## **Audition Packet**

### *In the Heights*

#### General Information

Hola todxs! Thank you for your interest in auditioning for *In the Heights*, we're stoked to hear you try out. This packet should contain just about all the information you'll need to know about our production. Due to the material of *In the Heights*, our production is focused on predominantly casting as many Latine and Afro-Latine actors as possible. This being said, our production is, of course, open to all Yalies to audition, especially Afro-Caribbean and other POC actors.

Our auditions will take place in WLH 209 and will be followed by a callback process which will also take place in WLH 209. Rehearsals and performances will also be in person, exact locations TBD, as long as Yale policy allows. If you have concerns about these spaces or have other access needs, don't hesitate to let us know.

Below are most of the details you'll need to prepare for auditions/callbacks for the shows. Feel free to email us with any questions/concerns you may have.

#### *In the Heights*

Director and Producer: Erick Lopez ([erick.lopez@yale.edu](mailto:erick.lopez@yale.edu))

Assistant Directors: Semilore Ola & Montserrat Rodriguez

#### Anticipated Timeline

Audition Packet Made Public: Monday, August 22nd

Auditions: Tuesday 09/06 @ 6-10pm

Callbacks: Sunday 09/11 @ 12-6pm

Notification to Auditionees: Monday 09/12 @ 12:00pm EDT

Performance Dates:

Thursday 12/1 @ 7pm

Friday 12/2 @ 7pm

Saturday 12/3 @ 7pm

#### What is *In the Heights*?

*In the Heights* is a two-act musical written by Quiara Alegría Hudes and composed by Lin-Manuel Miranda. Many of the named roles should be performed by Latine actors but the ensemble and a few of the named roles are open to any races, ethnicities, and gender identities.

**Synopsis:** Over the course of *In the Heights*, we encounter the many residents of Washington Heights -- a New York City neighborhood on the brink of change. Usnavi, a first generation Dominican-American corner bodega owner, and his friends and family are dealing with the pressures of rising rents and closing neighborhood businesses. As one family struggles to figure out how to pay for an Ivy League tuition for their brilliant and hard-working daughter, a young woman is trying to put a down payment on a new apartment, and Usnavi himself is trying to get back to the Dominican Republic to reconnect with his roots after the death of his parents. In Washington Heights, community is everything, and we see how each of these individuals struggles to survive and how these same individuals come together as a community to mourn their losses and rejoice in their triumphs. Over the course of the show, we see the hard-working residents of Washington Heights grapple with love and lust, identity and racism, all while the prospect of a winning lottery ticket hangs in the air, potentially changing the livelihoods of the people and the community forever. *In the Heights* combines Latin rhythms and dance with hip-hop lyrics to tell a captivating story about what it means to chase your dreams as you cling to your roots and celebrate the community from which you grew.

### **Cast Breakdown**

**Usnavi De La Vega (he/him)** - Lead (Baritone) - Our protagonist owns De La Vega Bodega and longs to visit his beloved Dominican Republic, where he has not been since his deceased parents immigrated when he was a child. He lives with Abuela Claudia, who is not actually his grandmother, but is as close as family to him. He is in love with Vanessa, but struggles to share his feelings. Usnavi serves as an unofficial ambassador for his community.

**Vanessa (she/her)** - Lead (Mezzo-Soprano) - She is a shampoo girl at the local salon who longs to make her way out Washington Heights and away from her alcoholic mother. Vanessa grew up with Usnavi and Benny, and is now the object of Usnavi's hidden affection.

**Nina Rosario (she/her)** - Lead (Soprano) - Nina, a first-generation college student, has just returned home from her first year at Stanford University. She is the daughter of Kevin and Camila Rosario, the owners of the local car service. The community looks to her as a symbol of success, as someone who has achieved great things outside "the Heights".

**Benny (he/him)** - Lead (Tenor) - Benny is best friends with Usnavi, and in love with Nina, even though her father disapproves. Benny is a driver for Rosario's, who grew up a bit of a rough kid that Kevin took under his wing. Benny hopes to someday own his own car service.

**Abuela Claudia (she/her)** - Supporting (Alto) - The matriarch of the neighborhood, she emigrated from Cuba when she was very young. She has raised Usnavi since his parents died and still lives with him. She serves as the guiding light for many in the community.

**Kevin Rosario (he/him)** - Supporting (Baritone) - The owner of Rosario's Car Service, Camila's husband and father to Nina. After emigrating from Puerto Rico, he has worked hard his entire life to build his business and provide for his family. He is stubborn and fiercely proud of his daughter's achievements.

**Camila Rosario (she/her)** - Supporting (Mezzo-Soprano) - Camila is the co-owner of Rosario's Car Service and has a quiet, but strong hold on her husband Kevin. She fell in love with him at 19 and emigrated together to New York to open their business and raise Nina.

**Daniela (she/her)** - Supporting (Alto) - She is sassy, savvy, and the owner of a salon. She has fought to create her own business, but cannot compete with the rent hikes as the neighborhood gentrifies.

**Carla (she/her)** - Supporting (Soprano) - She works at Daniela's salon and is her best friend. She is a kind, sweet, young woman, who cares deeply for her family and friends, but is a bit naive.

**Sonny (he/him)** - Supporting (Tenor) - He is Usnavi's 15 year old cousin who helps at the bodega in the summer. Sonny hangs out with his friend Graffiti Pete, but also has a strong desire to make his community better and to be like his older cousin and mentor, Usnavi.

**Piragua Guy (he/him)** - Featured (Tenor) - He makes his living walking the streets of Washington Heights selling flavored shaved ice. He is a representative of the islands so many of the residents once called home.

**Graffiti Pete (he/him)** - Featured - Tenor/Bass - He is the nemesis of Usnavi, who is constantly hanging around the streets, listening to music and painting graffiti. He is friends with Sonny, much to Usnavi's dismay, as he doesn't want Sonny to follow Pete's example.

**Ensemble (11 total)** - All Parts - Residents of Washington Heights, (5) men and (6) women. Auditions and casting are open to actors from all ethnicities.

### How are auditions going to work?

#### **First round:**

The first round of auditions will be held in person at WLH 209.

For your audition, we'd like to hear the following from you:

- 1) Sing the final minute or so of Finale (begin at measure 116A). Recordings for each voice part are available in the Google Drive [here](#).
- 2) Prepare any one of the 5 scripts in the Google Drive [here](#). You needn't be memorized.
- 3) Perform a one-minute solo of your choice. The song doesn't need to be from In the Heights, but it might be advantageous to perform a song for the character you are auditioning for, especially if it's one of the leads.

Please fill out [this](#) Audition Form to sign up for auditions. Additionally, please select a time slot during our audition period that works best for you [here](#).

**Second round/callbacks:**

The second round of auditions will be held in person, location TBD.

For your callback, we'd like to hear the following from you:

- 4) Sing the song for the character you were called back for. Recordings for each character are available in the Google Drive [here](#).
- 5) Prepare one of the 5 scripts in the Google Drive [here](#). You should be memorized for your callback.