

## GRIMLY HANDSOME Audition Packet!

*Grimly Handsome*

By Julia Jarcho

A Senior Thesis in Directing for the TAPS major for Mikaela Boone

Our YCA Page: <https://collegearts.yale.edu/events/shows-screenings/grimly-handsome>

Hello hello! Thank you for your interest in auditioning for GRIMLY HANDSOME! We would love to have you join our production family :). This packet is designed to give you all of the information you might need to audition for our show. However, if you have any questions please feel free to reach out to our director, Mikaela (she/her) at [mikaela.boone@yale.edu](mailto:mikaela.boone@yale.edu), or one of our producers, Malia (she/her) at [malia.munley@yale.edu](mailto:malia.munley@yale.edu)! We are happy to answer questions about the production or about Yale theater in general!

**\*\*Per the Yale School of Public of Health's policies regarding COVID-19, individuals must be fully vaccinated to participate in all in-person productions, including GRIMLY HANDSOME.\*\***

### **Show Synopsis:**

Two down-and-out immigrants sell Christmas trees and occasionally murder their clients. Two cops attempt to solve a vicious killing spree. Three red pandas roam the city, consuming what remains. And, one woman is devoured by the circles that surround her.

This horror triptych will explore themes of transformation, perception, belonging, and identity.

**Warning:** Show includes violence, allusions to sexual violence, and allusions to police brutality.

### **Performance Dates:**

December 9, 2021 - 8pm

December 10, 2021 - 8pm

December 11, 2021 - 2pm

December 11, 2021 - 8pm

### **Production Residency:**

November 14, 2021-December 8th, 2021

Note: November Recess is November 19th-28th (so you won't be in rehearsal!!)

**Location:** Theater and Performance Studies black box, 53 Wall Street

## **COVID:**

It's on your mind, it's on our mind, it's on everyone's mind. Unfortunately, we have about as many answers as woodchuck wondering how much wood it can chuck. But, jokes aside, we don't know exactly what form this show will be able to take by the time December rolls around. We are hoping to have an in person production with a co-present audience, even if that means we do the show outside, but we just don't know what that will look like yet. We are ready to roll with the punches, and we hope you are too. Regardless, the process is as important to us as the end product. So, we promise to make sure the production process is fun, inclusive, engaging, and ideally not too stressful.

## **Character Descriptions:**

GRIMLY HANDSOME is written in three parts. There are 3-4 characters in each part, but the same three actors play different characters in every section. So, if you are cast in one role you will be playing 3-4 "distinct" characters. Distinct is placed in quotes, as a major theme in the play is transformation; in many ways, each character is transforming into the character the actor plays in the following part of the show. Our rehearsal process will often be centered around this transformation.

## **Available Roles:** (Each set is played by one actor)

Alesh/Alpert/Alfo

Gregor/Greggins/Grox

Natalia/Nelly/Nally/Noplop

## **Roles Broken Down By Part:**

**Part One. The Low:** Two immigrants sell Christmas Trees in an empty lot. Every year, they murder women and steal their winter wear.

**Alesh** -- Identifies as a man // is very handsome // this is his first year in the US and first winter selling trees.

**Gregor** -- Identifies as a man // is not handsome // he's been doing this for a while.

**Natalia** -- Identifies as a woman // grew up in the neighborhood and remembers it pre-gentrification // likes to read.

**Part Two. We've Got the Law On Our Side:** Two police officers investigate a recurring series of Christmas murders.

**Alpert** -- Identifies as a man // is very handsome // is a younger police officer// is married to Nelly.

**Gregor** -- Identifies as a man // is not handsome // is an older police officer //

is sleeping with Nelly.

**Nelly\*\*** -- Identifies as a woman // is married to Alpert and sleeping with Greggins // is starting to feel like life is going in circles // feels herself transforming.

**Nally\*\*** -- Identifies as a man // lives across the street from where the murder victims were found // is questioned by the police.

**\*\* both of these characters are played by the same actor**

**Part Three. The Lesser Pandas:** Three red pandas share a meal.

**Alfo** -- a red panda

**Grox** -- a red panda

**Noplop** -- a red panda

**Note on Inclusivity:** We especially encourage BIPOC, LGBTQ+, and first-time theatermakers and creatives to audition or join our production team! Absolutely no experience is necessary, and we would love to work with and mentor you throughout the process. Moreover, we firmly believe that all students, regardless of ability or disability, should have equal opportunity to be involved in theater. We are committed to accommodating all needs to make that happen and create a barrier-free environment. If specific accommodations or architecture would aid your participation in our auditions and virtual or in-person engagements, please do not hesitate to let us know, and we will tailor to your needs as best we can.

**Note on Gender and Casting:** This production aims to be as inclusive of trans, non-binary, and gender-non-conforming folks as possible. Individuals of any gender identity are encouraged to audition for whichever characters they wish! Though each character has a specified gender identity (except for the pandas because do pandas even have gender identities? Maybe we'll find out), this identity refers to the identity of the character, not necessarily that of the actor. On the audition form, we would love for you to list the gender identities you are comfortable playing so that we call you back only for those respective roles. Your well-being is our top priority: if there is anything that we can do to make this process and the audition space more inviting and safe for you, please let us know! Feel free to reach out to Mikaela at [mikaela.boone@yale.edu](mailto:mikaela.boone@yale.edu) or Malia at [malia.munley@yale.edu](mailto:malia.munley@yale.edu).

**Here's who you will meet in the audition room:**



**Mikaela Boone (she/her)**

Mikaela is GH's director and this production is her TAPS thesis! She has a ton (way too much) Yale theater experience, so seriously ask her anything.

Have questions for Mikaela?

Email her at [mikaela.boone@yale.edu](mailto:mikaela.boone@yale.edu)



**Malia Munley (she/her)**

Malia is one of GH's producers and a sensational actress!

Have any questions for Malia?

Email her at [malia.munley@yale.edu](mailto:malia.munley@yale.edu)



**Sean Rogers (he/him)**

Sean is one of GH's producers and a phenomenal actor!

Have any questions for Sean?

Email him at [sean.rogers@yale.edu](mailto:sean.rogers@yale.edu)



**Adam Wassilchalk (he/him)**

Adam is GH's stage manager and a production expert!

Have any questions for Adam?

Email him at [adam.wassilchalk@yale.edu](mailto:adam.wassilchalk@yale.edu)



**KG Montes (she/they)**

KG is GH's dramaturg and a talented playwright!

Have any questions for KG?

Email them at [kyra.montes@yale.edu](mailto:kyra.montes@yale.edu)

## **Audition Timeline:**

- September 4th: GRIMLY HANDSOME and DRINKING GAMES joint **Audition Workshop**. Check out our YCA page for an updated time and location!
- September 4th-September 8th: First round of auditions
- September 8th-September 11th: Callbacks
- September 12th: Casting Call Day!

Okay, so let's break that down even more!

**What's an audition workshop?** An audition workshop is an opportunity for you to meet the rehearsal team, ask them questions about the show, and receive feedback/guidance on audition materials. This event is geared to auditionees of all levels of experience but is especially designed for folks who either have never auditioned before or have limited experience. You don't need to prepare anything for this workshop, but if you've been working on a monologue, feel free to bring it -- we will meet you where you're at. Additionally, even if you're not planning on auditioning for GRIMLY HANDSOME or DRINKING GAMES, we would be happy to talk to you about Yale theater or prepare for another show's audition. We want YOU to feel comfortable, confident, and welcome in our space!

**Note:** Attending an audition workshop does not increase your chances of being cast in a production, but we hope that it will make you a more confident and capable auditionee!

**What can I expect from a first round audition?** If you are auditioning for GRIMLY HANDSOME, you will sign up for an audition slot on the [YCA website](#) (where you found this packet!). Make sure you are logged in before you try to sign-up for a slot, as the auditions will look unavailable if you are not signed in. If you encounter any issues when signing up for an audition slot or on the day of, please email Mikaela or Malia! You will then come to 220 York Street 5-10 minutes before your slot and fill out an audition form. Before you arrive, take some time to look over and practice your desired character's monologue (suggested practice time is half an hour). When you arrive, you'll be greeted by our team members and sent into the audition room. Each auditionee will have 15 minutes with the director, stage manager, dramaturg, and producer in order to ask questions, perform their monologue(s), and receive feedback. You may be asked to read your monologue multiple times with added direction or you may be given an additional audition side for a cold read. Masks must be worn for the duration of the audition.

If you are unable to audition in person due to quarantine requirements or because you have tested positive for COVID-19, please email Malia ([malia.munley@yale.edu](mailto:malia.munley@yale.edu)) to discuss virtual audition options.

**When will I hear back about my audition?** We will try to let you know about the outcome of your audition as soon as possible, ideally on a rolling basis. At the latest, you will be notified as to whether you have received a callback by EOD on September 8th. You will hear back about final casting decisions on Casting Call Day (September 12)!

**What's a callback?** If you are asked to come to callbacks it is because we really liked your first round audition and want to see more! No two callbacks are the same, but we will most likely be playing theater games, reading audition sides, and getting to know each other a little bit. We want to create a cohesive and supportive rehearsal environment, so your attitude towards teamwork will be as important as your acting skills!

**What's Casting Call Day?** Yale's Casting Call was created by the YDC (Yale Dramatic Association) in order to give actors more autonomy and control over their theater commitments. All Yale productions will offer roles on the same day (September 12th). So, if you receive more than one offer for a role, you can decide which one works best for you! Don't feel like you have to respond to a show until you have heard from ALL of the shows you have auditioned for. Keep your cell phone's ringer on, as you will be notified by an actual real-life phone call!

**Rehearsal Timeline and Information:**

So, say you've been offered a role in GRIMLY HANDSOME, hooray! Here's what you can expect in terms of time commitment over the semester:

GRIMLY HANDSOME is a straight play, which means there is no singing and limited dancing involved. This makes it less of a commitment than a musical. However, because there are only three actors and all of them are in pretty much every scene, the time commitment will be fairly high for everyone involved. Essentially, if you want to take part in this production, it will be a pretty big part of your semester!

**September 15th-November 13th:** Rehearsal will be in the evenings, 3-4 days per week. The exact days will depend on the availability of the cast/rehearsal team. Actors can expect to be in rehearsal ~10-15 hours a week.

**Note:** Rehearsal schedule will change between October 24th and November 7th, as our director will be in tech for another show simultaneously. Expect a significantly lighter rehearsal schedule.

**November 13th-November 18th:** GH's residency (aka the time when we can actually move into and rehearse in the theater in which we'll perform) begins. Actors are expected to be available between 6pm and 12pm during residency, though it is unlikely they will be needed for the duration of that time.

**November 19th-November 28th:** November Recess -- woohoo!!

**November 29th-December 7th:** GH's residency continues. Actors are expected to be available between 6pm and 12pm during residency, though it is unlikely they will be needed for the duration of that time.

**December 7th- December 11th:** Invited Dress and Performances. Actors are expected to be in the theater 1.5 hours prior to performance (so, if the show is at 8pm, we'll get there at 6:30).

**What if I don't get cast?**

Don't worry! Yale has more theater than it knows what to do with; if you want to be a part of a production, you will be! You just may need to audition for a couple more shows.

If you still want to be a part of the GH family (and we hope you do!), we also have a number of production roles available. You don't need to have any experience to fill a production role, as we have an extensive network of mentors who can help you learn!

**Our available positions are:**

Set Designer  
Assistant Director  
Assistant Producer  
Assistant Stage Managers  
Assistant Lighting Designer  
Assistant Set Designer  
Assistant Sound Designer  
Assistant Costume Designer  
Assistant Hair/Makeup Artist

Please reach out to our producers Malia at [malia.munley@yale.edu](mailto:malia.munley@yale.edu) or Sean at [sean.rogers@yale.edu](mailto:sean.rogers@yale.edu) to learn more and (hopefully) get involved!

***Audition Sides begin on the following page!***



**AUDITION SIDES:**

Please prepare only **one** audition side from the following options (not one from each character set).

**Natalia/Nelly/Nally/Noplop**

**Please prepare ONE of the following sides for your audition.**

**Side 1 -- Nelly**

Last night I woke up and found that I was not at home. And I was not wearing my own clothes. And then I wasn't sure. Maybe they were my clothes, and I was someone else. But I could find no information on this, with me or without.

I don't know whose friend once said it took her a long time to realize who she was and what she wanted.

Who are you?

What do you want?

Gulls sweep the air.

I walked in these stranger-clothes, through places I didn't recognize, in the night. A different part of the city, or a different city, near a highway. Everything was huge, had been built for machines, not people, and there were no windows anywhere, no doors. I thought I should try to get back, to get to someplace I could get back from. I thought this was why I was walking. And then I realized no. I was heading further into this place. I was trying to get to its exact center.

## **Side 2 -- Nally**

### **Nally**

I see two guys across the street carrying something into the lot. I think one of them was a little smaller than the other. Not fat, They were wearing bulky jackets. And hats, I think they were both wearing caps. Knit caps.

They were men. I don't know about their complexion. I really couldn't tell.

### *Beat*

Well I guess I prob'ly thought they were white.

Well, when they came they were carrying the, bag, so, it was heavy so, they were both walking like people who're carrying something heavy. It was that long kind of duffle bag.

I saw them walk into the lot, and towards the back and into the dark. And then I couldn't see them. And then they came our of the dark without the bag, they left the lot and they walked --

### *Pause*

They embraced.

At the edge of the lot they stopped and embraced. And then they walked away to the east.

### *Beat*

No, it. Was like a dance.

They were like one thing. A thing and its shadow. Like they'd been practicing. But maybe

### *Beat*

Maybe I just imagined that.

### **Side 3 -- Noplop**

#### **Noplop**

Hey losers!

I wanna propose a new paradigm.

We take turns seducing humans and slaughtering them. By way of the big blood vessel in the neck. We cover them up with choice garbage and snack throughout the week, allowing the flavors to meld.

After all, we're still attractive.

OUR QUALITY OF LIFE WILL SKY ROCKET

Know why they call us the Lesser Pandas?

#### **Grox**

Because of our stature

#### **Noplop**

No, wrong

But who cares actually?

Pretty soon the same catastrophe that drove us here will drive us out. Better not invest too much in any one thing. I have a feeling the next place'll be similar to this one.

Except

This whole time there's something seething

I used to think it would go away

But at times like this I feel more than ever

It's pouring through me right now though you don't notice and that

Ignorance will be your downfall, "friends".

*Noplop raises a red panda twitter with her voice. It is a very eerie sound.*

Woe to you if you think this is not in my deepest blood.

## **Gregor/Greggins/Grox**

**Please prepare ONE of the following sides for your audition.**

### **Side 1 -- Gregor**

#### **Gregor**

So. About seven o'clock p.m. I see her down the block, towards the train, she's coming from work. There are other people on the street, but not so many, it's dark as it will be for the night. But I can see that it's her because, because of the street light. And she comes smiling and goes by.

Hey!

She stops.

She comes back.

Hello.

How you doing.

She says OK, how bout you?

I say shrug.

Trees selling like hotcakes?

Yes, like hot cakes.

Coming from work?

She says Yeah well. She says she took a detour. She has a look of mystery. I say: Christmas shopping. She laughs. And she says "sure".

Now: I have to be careful. I say, would you like to take another detour? But I don't point to the trailer or anything, I'm careful. I make a joke, I say, walk in the forest? Here wait, just wait one minute. And she waits. And I bring her:

*Alesh looks down at his coffee. He takes a sip.*

Beer, no, it can make them uncomfortable. Tea, makes you seem old. She takes it. And she says, Now I'll never get to sleep tonight.

I say: Maybe not.

## Side 2 -- Greggins

**Note:** A slash / in a line indicates that the following line starts at this point and overlaps with this one.

**Greggins**

So, Mr. Nally.

**Nally**

Yes.

**Greggins**

You

Would like

Some cream.

**Nally**

Please

**Greggins**

wwAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAGGGGGHHH!

**Nally**

What?

**Greggins**

You know what that is?

**Nally**

Um

**Greggins**

That's what a victim feels. When she realizes she's been trapped. Drugged. By a man who is going to end her life now. And take everything. Everything. She's ever worked for. Hoped for. Take everything.

*Beat*

I make this point.

**Nally**

Ok, yeah.

**Greggins**

I Make this point Mr. Nally because, uh, it's important that you bear in mind the / gravity of what --

**Nally**

I know, it's im/portant --

**Greggins**

Don't interrupt me.

**Nally**

Sorry.

**Greggins**

Don't interrupt me.

**Alesh/Alpert/Alfo**

**Please prepare ONE of the following sides for your audition.**

**Side 1 -- Alesh**

**Alesh**

Um. Excuse me. What is your name.

**Gregor**

That's what the rats say to her she won't stop.

**Alesh**

Natalia!

**Gregor**

Not her name.

**Alesh**

Could be.

**Gregor**

The odds are terrible.

**Alesh**

Like this: Natalia! Oh I'm sorry. Wait. I'm sorry, but you look so much like my cousin Natalia. And I haven't seen her in a long time. You're not from the village? Our village, no, american. Well it's a nice compliment Natalia is very beautiful, everyone agrees. Hey. Would you like a cup of coffee? I just made some. You can smell it, it's good. From back home.

Oh good! Let me get you a, please.

Uh, it's my first time this year. The guy I work with he's been doing it a long time. You've seen him probably yeah, kind of a freak of a fellow. But he has a good heart.

But what about you?

**Side 2 -- Alpert**

*Alpert and Greggins are at the gym. They work out while they talk.*

**Greggins**

You goin out to the Island again this year?

**Alpert**

Funny thing. We always do, right?

**Greggins**

Heya Mike

**Alpert**

Mike. Since we been married, even before the kids, every year. Thanksgiving and Christmas Eve in Bay Ridge, Christmas Day on the Island.

**Greggins**

Traffic must be murder.

**Alpert**

Oh it's terrible. But y'allow for it, fine. Every year. So last night we're in bed, she's readin, I'm watchin the wrap-up, and outa nowhere I get the idea, I say hey Nell, why don't we stay home this year. We can make eggnog, the kids can play with their toys...

You know we c'decorate the place get a tree...

I say maybe we could ask Greggins if he wants to come over -- anyway she just immediately busts out cryin. Without a word. Just like suddenly crying hysterically. In this way where she doesn't make any sound just her face is all stretched out like a fuckin still shot from a horror movie.

So yeah I guess we're going to the Island.