

Headlands

By Christopher Chen

Directed by Shen-Vey Lai
Produced by Natalia Perez

Thank you so much for your interest in auditioning for *Headlands!*

This packet has information about the show, the process for our production, and what to expect at auditions. If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to our director Shen-Vey Lai (shen-vey.lai@yale.edu). If you're interested in joining our production team, please reach out to our producer Natalia Perez (n.perez@yale.edu). We're looking forward to seeing you at auditions! Just remember to breathe and everything will be alright!

About the Show

Henry is an amateur sleuth and true crime aficionado who sets out to solve the ultimate case: the unsolved murder of his father. Using his memories and the family stories he was told as a child growing up in San Francisco, Henry begins an investigation through a labyrinth of secrets and deceptions that leads him to question those closest to him. THE HEADLANDS is a contemporary noir that explores the stories we tell ourselves and the fallibility of the mind.

The Production Team



Shen-Vey Lai

Role: Director

Pronouns: he/they

Year: 2024

College: Pierson

Fun Fact: Shen thinks soggy fries are the superior kind

Contact information: shen-vey.lai@yale.edu



Natalia Perez

Role: Producer

Pronouns: she/her

Year: 2023

College: Trumbull

Fun Fact: Natalia has a twin sister!

Contact Information: n.perez@yale.edu



Peter Li

Role: Henry

Pronouns: he/him

Year: 2024

College: Pierson

Fun Fact: I've blown up two microwaves

Production Timeline

- September 11: Casting Day
 - We will give you a call in the afternoon on September 11, so please be by your phone!
- September 12-December 3: Rehearsals
 - We will begin rehearsing by late September/early October, and we will rehearse throughout the fall semester.
- December 4: Load-in
 - Load-in will occur on Sunday, December 4. Actors can expect to be called for the entire day, with breaks for meals.
- December 5-7: Tech
 - Tech rehearsals will run from December 5 to December 7. Actors can expect to be called from 6-11 pm (at the most extreme — we hope to call you for less time!).
- December 8-10: Performances
 - Performances will occur at 8 pm on December 8, 9, and 10. Actors will likely be called at 6 pm before each show at the earliest.
- December 10: Strike
 - Strike will occur after the last show on December 10, and attendance is mandatory.

Audition Information

First-Round Auditions

First-round auditions will be held from 7-9 pm on September 1, 7-9 pm on September 2, and 1:30-3:30 pm on September 3. All auditions will be held in LC 211. You should sign up for a 15-minute audition slot on our YCA page and fill out our [audition form](#) as well. If you have any trouble signing up for an audition slot, reach out to Natalia (n.perez@yale) and she can assist. If none of the audition times work for you, please let Natalia know and we can accommodate you! For the (in-person) auditions, please prepare to read **one** side. The sides, which are excerpts from the play, have been uploaded onto our YCA page. You are not expected to have memorized the side! If you wish to be considered for more than one character, you can indicate this on your audition form.

Self-Tapes

Instead of auditioning in-person, you have the option to submit a self-tape of yourself reading one of the attached sides. You should email the self-tape to Natalia (n.perez@yale.edu) and Shen (shen-vey.lai@yale.edu) by **September 3 at 3:30 pm**. At the beginning of the tape, please state your name, pronouns (if you are comfortable), and what side you will be reading.

Callbacks

We will notify you of a callback by Monday, September 5th by 11:59 pm. We will hold group callbacks within the 7-9 pm range on Wednesday, September 7th in LC 211 — you will not be called for the entire time, but please hold the entire time period open for scheduling purposes. If you have any conflicts within this time period please note it on your audition form. You will not have to prepare any materials for the callbacks; we will have additional scenes for you to read there.

Casting Day

Casting Day will occur on Sunday, September 11! We will give you a call sometime in the afternoon, so be by your phone throughout the day.

Character Descriptions

A note on casting: While this play specifies the race/ethnicities of the characters Henry, George, Leena, Pat and Tom, I would like to welcome all actors of Asian/Asian American/Pacific Islander descent to audition for these roles. As long as you are comfortable portraying these characters and are able to engage with the role in a manner that is respectful of the character's heritage and culture, you are welcome to audition for the part! Similarly, we welcome actors of any gender identity to audition, as long as you are comfortable portraying the gender identity that has been assigned to each character by the playwright.

**Characters labeled with an asterisk have been pre-cast!*

***Characters labeled with double asterisks are depicted with scenes of intimacy, including a kiss scene. The characters George and Leena share two brief kisses. There is also an implied sex scene that is alluded to on the projections involving George and Leena. If you are unsure of how you feel about this or have any questions, feel free to reach out and we will be happy to clarify our plans for this scene. Leena and Tom also share two kisses, but as a figment of Henry's imagination.*

***HENRY** (Chinese American, male, thirties) is constantly pensive, tenacious and unrelenting throughout the play. He takes us on a journey of discovery and reflection as he narrates and re-experiences the events leading up to his father's death, slowly uncovering the mystery behind it. *Role has been pre-cast.*

****GEORGE** (Chinese, male, twenties and forties) is Henry's father. Having first come to America as a poor immigrant from China, he dies one day, leaving the details of his death shrouded in mystery and convolution. He's passive and gentle, but is firm in his beliefs and principles of what a good husband and father should look like, even if that means keeping a terrible secret from Henry. *(Actor must be able to speak and read some Mandarin. At the very least, is able to read and pronounce pinyin.)*

****LEENA** (Chinese American, female, twenties and forties) is Henry's mother. She came from old money and in her youth, was the belle of the ball. To her father's dismay and ultimate disapproval, she ended up marrying George. A loving, loyal wife, she ends up sacrificing far more than she is willing to in the name of love. *(Actor must be able to speak and read some Mandarin. At the very least, is able to read and pronounce pinyin.)*

JESS (female, thirties) is Henry's partner. She stays by Henry's side as he becomes obsessed with investigating his father's death, but eventually she becomes tired of his antics.

PAT/LEENA (older) (Chinese, female, seventies). Pat is a friend of Leena's.

WALTER/DETECTIVE (imagined as male, fifties). Walter was George's business partner, before they had to cut ties. Detective was the detective working on the case.

****TOM** (Chinese American, male, twenties and forties) is our mystery man. He turns out to be George and Leena's (illegitimate?) child, whom they end up abandoning. Why is he suddenly back in the equation?