

ROADSIDE ASSISTANCE

Audition Materials

a Yale College Short Film
by Annelise Ratner

SHOOT DATES: Apr. 29 - May 1, 2022
(dates to be finalized, but they will fall within this window)

PLEASE NOTE: According to the official Yale College Public Health Policy, you must be **FULLY VACCINATED** against COVID-19 to participate in any in-person productions, including this one.

If you have any questions about any information in this packet,
please email annelise.ratner@yale.edu

ABOUT THE FILM

When his car breaks down on the way to his mother's funeral, a young pastor wrestles with his grief when confronted by a teenager who possesses a strange otherworldly wisdom.

AUDITION INFORMATION

To schedule an audition, visit: <https://calendly.com/annelise-ratner/roadside-assistance>

If none of the available audition times work for you, please contact annelise.ratner@yale.edu as soon as possible.

HOW TO PREPARE FOR YOUR AUDITION

- After reviewing the character profiles and sides on the following pages, please prepare both sides for the character you wish to audition for.
- Memorization is not required or expected!
- No previous acting experience is required.
- Please note that we will request that you take off your COVID-19 protective mask during your audition.
- Please be at your audition location 5 minutes before your slot so you have time to find the audition room.

CHARACTERS PROFILES

“CHRIS” (male, mid-20s to mid-30s) - a young pastor and a Nirvana fan, struggling to project calm while confronting a crisis of faith as he prepares to deliver his mother's eulogy

“STRANGER” (any gender, around 16 y/o) - an idiosyncratic teenager whose snarky, carefree attitude masks a surprising degree of wisdom and empathy

SIDE A

The Stranger offers a cigarette to Chris.

CHRIS

Those are going to kill you, you know.

STRANGER

What? These? No! Why has no one ever told me!?

(beat)

A priest that fears death, huh?

CHRIS

I don't fear death. I just think smoking isn't good for you.

STRANGER

But only because it'll kill me, right?

Chris moves to try to start the car once more.

CHRIS

There's a difference between not fearing death and beckoning it. We shouldn't fear because God doesn't abandon us at death. In fact, He raises us to new life. But that doesn't mean the life we have right now isn't worth living.

He turns the key in the ignition over and over again.

CHRIS

It just means that when death inevitably arrives, we approach it with the same degree of faith and trust in— GODDAMMIT!

SIDE B

Chris looks at his broken car.

CHRIS

You know, my mom would steal a fork from every city she visited. I don't know why — they're not particularly cultural or whatever. I mean half of them looked like they belong to the same one IKEA set, so. But it was her thing and she would gift me one these forks every birthday of hers. To eat my cake with. Not sure why she was giving me stuff on her birthday but, I don't know, now I just have like 50 forks that I— I mean I live alone so...

STRANGER

You could throw a bring-your-own-knife dinner party.

CHRIS

Yeah. Yeah she'd think that's great.

(beat)

Sorry, I don't know I'm telling you this.

(beat)

So, you're not afraid of death then?

STRANGER

Oh me? I'm not gonna die.

CHRIS

Right. That wild sense of immortality held only by the youthful.

STRANGER

And the faithful.

They are still for a moment.

CHRIS

I visited her a couple weeks ago. And she had lost— she always had these really plump cheeks. But when I saw her that last time, she looked... sunken. Unfamiliar.

(MORE)

CHRIS (CONT'D)

Crazy thing is that in the moment, I remember thinking I could get used to this. I could get used to finding my mom in those eyes, in that body, if it meant that I didn't have to get used to *this*.

STRANGER

Christ finds a place in our wounds, not as a rescuer, but as a companion who himself knows the fullness of bearing human pain and loss.

Confused, Chris turns to the Stranger. For the briefest moment, the Stranger appears to possess an otherworldly wisdom.

CHRIS

Where is that from?

The Stranger's mischievous grin returns.

STRANGER

Some podcast. Maybe a YouTube ad. You all really try to indoctrinate us, don't you?