

***Sanctuary City* Audition Packet**

by Martyna Majok

February 8-10th, 2024 | Theater, Dance, & Performance Studies Black Box

Who?

A senior thesis in Directing for David DeRuiter and Acting for Lauren Marut

Producers: Victoria Pikel & Jason Kisare

Stage Manager: Zahra Virani

Preferred contact: jason.kisare@yale.edu

What?

Two high school seniors, G and B, have been fast friends since 3rd grade, united in their uphill battle for citizenship and belonging in the United States. When G is suddenly naturalized, the two devise a plan to achieve the same for B that sees their friendship, dreams, and loyalties stretched to their limits over the course of several years.

When?

Auditions are Aug. 31 + Sep. 1

Rehearsals begin Sep. 16, tech begins Feb. 3, performances run Feb. 8-10

Time Commitment

~4-5 hours/week for B; ~2 hours/week for Henry. Subject to change as we approach the show.

Content Warnings

Discussions of domestic violence and deportation (no depictions). One stage kiss (specified in character descriptions).

Audition Expectations

Fill out the Google Form [here](#) and sign up for an in-person slot [here](#).

Please prepare one [side](#) provided for the role of your choosing.

Audition Location

220 York St. Ballroom

Hello and thank you for your interest in *Sanctuary City*. Below you will find information about the play, our rehearsal timeline, the characters we're looking for, and how to audition.

SYNOPSIS

Newark, NJ. Post-9/11. Two high school seniors, G and B, have been fast friends since 3rd grade, united in their uphill battle for citizenship and belonging in the United States. Everything between them is shared.

So when G is suddenly naturalized, it isn't a question of if but when B can be too. It'll be a years-long process that they must plan meticulously or risk deportation. When she departs for college, their perfect plan to ensure his citizenship status is in motion until 3 years later...it isn't.

Written by Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright Martyna Majok (*Cost of Living*, *Ironbound*), *Sanctuary City* asks us the lengths we're willing to go for the people we love and what we're willing to risk when everything is on the line.

When your whole life has been about belonging, what happens when you realize your home is a person, not a place?

The first half of *Sanctuary City* is a series of mini-scenes between G and B; the second half is a single uninterrupted scene set 3 years later between G, B, and Henry. All characters are considered leads. It is not required, but if you're interested in perusing the full script, it is available [here](#).

content warnings: this play contains discussions of domestic violence and deportation (no depictions) and includes one staged moment of intimacy (see last page).

TIMELINE

Casting:

- Auditions will be held **August 31st - September 1st** at 220 York St. in the Ballroom. You will hear from us by **September 2nd** regarding your callback status.
- Callbacks will be **September 3rd** from 2pm-5pm.
- Casting decisions will be issued on **September 10th**. You are at liberty to accept or decline a role if it is offered to you.

Rehearsal:

- Rehearsals will begin in early October and be scheduled around actors' availability.
- Our residency (when we move rehearsals into the theater) begins January 22nd, 2024.
- Tech week is Feb 3rd-7th.
- Performances will be **February 8th-10th, 2024** in the Theater Studies Black Box.

SEEKING

B: to play late teens-early 20s; he/him. B was brought to the U.S. as a young child, raised working class and speaks with an Americanized mouth. He has a youthful vulnerability. Determined, protective, sensitive, and gentle. Frustrated by his circumstances but relentless. His relationship with G feels familial. His country of origin is unknown, but he **identifies as a person of color**. LEAD. *please note: script includes a brief kiss with Henry. Not compulsory – this moment will be shaped w/ actors cast. See last page for scripted context*

HENRY: to play mid-20s; he/him. A first-generation American, born to immigrant parents. He's studying to be a lawyer. Henry is revealed as B's boyfriend in the second half of the show; he distrusts G. Stable, smart, kind-hearted, and strong-willed. His family's country of origin is unknown, but he **identifies as a person of color**. LEAD. *please note: script includes a brief kiss with B. Not compulsory – this moment will be shaped w/ actors cast. See last page for scripted context*

ALREADY CAST

G: to play late teens-early 20s; she/her. G was brought to the U.S. as a young child, raised working class and speaks with an Americanized mouth. She and her mother are victims of domestic violence. Generous, earnest, sassy, and devoted. She depends on B and their relationship feels familial. Her country of origin is unknown, but she **identifies as a person of color**. LEAD.

AUDITION PREPARATION

1. Fill out this [google form](#).
2. [Sign up](#) for an in-person audition slot on August 31st or September 1st.
3. Prepare **one side per role you'd like to be considered for**. Sides can be [found here](#).
 - a. If you'd like to be considered for both roles, please prepare Henry's side *and* one of B's sides.
4. Auditions will be held at 220 York St. in the Ballroom – we will also email you with a reminder and specific directions!
5. Auditions will be held in 15 minute slots. There is 1 monologue option and 3 scenes – if you are reading a scene you will be reading with Lauren (playing G). You will not have to perform any blocking – she will read with you from behind a table!

Memorization is not expected! We're looking for actors who are excited to take risks and make choices. During the audition you will likely read your scene(s) once and then David will give you an adjustment.

STAGED INTIMACY SCRIPT DISCLOSURE

G May 22nd
 What's your favorite aspect of your
 partner.

B His kindness.

HENRY ...

B *(moving to him)* His ambition. His intellect.
 His body. His mouth. His kindness.
 First kiss: First day. June. In the city. I
 missed my train. Last one of the night.
 On purpose. How many lies have you
 had to tell for me. How much have I
 asked of you—

HENRY It's okay.

B How late would I call and how quick
 would you pick up—

(Henry kisses B. 'It's okay.')

(p. 132 of the [full script](#))