

# Stupid Fucking Bird

Aaron Posner

Fall 2024

## Who?

Producer: Dhruv Bhalla '27  
Directors: Millie Liao '27 and Evie Kissinger '27  
Stage Manager: Alex Shadman '27  
Preferred Contact Email: [ex1@yaledramat.org](mailto:ex1@yaledramat.org)

## What?

Avant-garde playwright Con wrestles with both his own identity as a struggling, unsuccessful artist and his complex relationship with his mother Emma, a renowned soap opera actress whose work he finds shallow and meaningless, and her love for him nonexistent. He also harbors a deep love for his childhood friend Nina, but she instead pursues the affections of Trig, a wildly successful and talented writer and, most disastrously, Emma's lover. When the mother and son find themselves entangled in each other's lives in a way that they never have before, they are forced not only to confront the role that love plays in their lives, but also their purpose as artists, and how to make some sort of a meaning out of a world that is so clearly, painfully "unfair."

With numerous love triangles, affairs, betrayals, and intentional breakings of the fourth wall, this comedic modern rendition of Anton Chekhov's *The Seagull* asks the audience to question why we create art, and what the purpose of love truly is.

## When?

Info Session: August 29th, 4-5pm in the Dramat Green Room (222 York St, in the Drama School)

Auditions: August 30th - September 4th (details are below, sign up at [YCA page](#))

Tech Week: September 29th - October 9th

**Performances: October 10th - 12th**

## Time Commitment

Due to the short 1-month rehearsal process, around 12 hr/week for Con/Nina/Trig, 10hr/week for others, and up to 20 hrs/week during tech (the week leading up to the final performance).

## Content Warnings

Use of guns, mentions of suicide/death, sexual content, partial nudity, explicit language

## Audition Expectations

- All auditionees (whether self-tape or in-person) are required to fill out [this audition form](#) and are encouraged to fill out this [optional demographics form](#), which is only for Dramat Outreach purposes and has no bearing on casting whatsoever.
- Monologues from the play can be found [here](#). The script can be found [here](#). You can choose any 1.
- In-person auditionees can sign up for auditions here and should arrive 5 minutes early. Printouts will be provided (no need to carry your own) and monologues do not need to be memorized.
- You can also send a self-tape to [ex1@yaledramat.org](mailto:ex1@yaledramat.org) by 2pm on 9/1 (in lieu of in-person auditions).
- Selected auditionees will be given callback offers for specific roles on 9/1. All details/sides will be provided over email and the callbacks will be in-person.



# Stupid Fucking Bird Audition Packet

Fall-Ex 2024

Yale University Dramatic Association, Inc. · P.O. Box 209037 · New Haven, CT 06520 · (860) 531-8224

This is the Yale Dramatic Association’s (Dramat) Fall Experimental show, which means it is completely student run. The Dramat is the largest undergraduate theater production company at Yale that performs 6 shows in a season including an Ex and Mainstage each semester and a Froshow (a show done completely by first years) and Commencement Musical. Students can become members of the Dramat by working on 2 of their shows or being on the Associate Board. The Dramat Executive Board is here to support the team in the entire process and their [website](#) contains additional resources as well.

## **Audition process:** Sign up at the [YCA Page](#)

Optional Audition Info Session: 29th August, 4-5pm in the Dramat Green Room (222 York, Drama School). Attending or not attending this doesn’t affect casting, it is simply to help answer any questions you may have.

Audition form: Must be filled by all auditionees (in-person or self-tape)

### In-person audition slots:

Friday, 30th Aug	6-9pm	LC 317
Saturday, 31st Aug	1-3pm and 4-6pm	LC 317
Sunday, 1st Sept	12-2pm	LC 317

Self-tapes: You can also send a self tape of you reading one of the audition sides (instead of an in-person audition) to [ex1@yaledramat.org](mailto:ex1@yaledramat.org) by 1st Sept, 2pm.

Audition Sides (choose any 1, printouts provided, memorization not required); Script (for your reference)

Callbacks: offers made on 1st Sept., callbacks will be between 2nd-4th Sept, details will be sent by email

Casting Call: 8th September from 12-2pm

## **Character descriptions:**

**\*All roles are open to actors of all races/ethnicities, gender identities, and experience levels\***

**Time commitment:** 12hr/week for Con/Nina/Trig, 10 hr/week for others, up to 20 hrs during tech

We will be working with a professional fight & intimacy coordinator

**CON:** The protagonist, a struggling playwright. Cynical. Angry at the world. Wants to create “new forms” of theater, but has only achieved a mediocre level of success. There is something dark and deeply unsettling within him, but it’s just below the surface and he keeps it under control until he absolutely no longer can.

*Content warnings: Talks about suicide, Holds a gun, consensual intimacy (kiss) with Nina*

**NINA:** Con’s love interest. Wants to become an actress. Had a difficult childhood with abusive, controlling parents, and is thus obsessed with the idea of fame and widespread love. Our modern, more realistic rendition of the muse or manic pixie girl.

*Content warnings: Consensual intimacy with Con and Trig, partial nudity (stripping down to bra)*

**EMMA:** Con's mother. A famous actress. Jaded, jealous, and overbearing. Had Con when she was 19, and struggled with being a good parent. Seems to lack love for everyone but herself, but in reality has developed a tough shell because of the hardship she's had. Boss bitch, creates and runs the energy of every room she enters.  
*Content warnings: Consensual intimacy (kiss) with Trig*

**TRIG:** Emma's lover. A narcissistic, selfish, hedonistic, and extremely famous novelist. A true romantic, and a somewhat pseudo-intellectual. Most of all, dedicated to his craft; he is that author that keeps a little notepad and pen on him just in case inspiration strikes at random.  
*Content warnings: Consensual intimacy (kiss) with Nina and Emma*

**DEV:** Con's best friend. In love with Mash. At his core, a true loser, and he knows it, but he doesn't fight it. Unintentionally funny, and perhaps the most honest of the ensemble.

**MASH:** At heart a musician, but professionally Emma's cook. Manipulative. Emo. Hates the world, but can't help but love Conrad.

**SORN:** Emma's brother. A doctor. Old, and slowly dying, but aware of the fact. In many ways, Con's protector and spiritual guide.

### **Meet the Team:**



**Millie Liao (co-director, she/her)** is a sophomore in Silliman, majoring in Cognitive Science. Five years ago, she played Sorn in her high school production of *Stupid Fucking Bird*, and after taking a class on Chekhov with Evie last year, she knew that it was time to bring her own vision of her favorite play to life. She is a member of both a sketch comedy group, Red Hot Poker, and an improv group, the Viola Question, and a generally fun and funny person. She hopes you'll audition for this awesome play!

**Evie Kissinger (she/her, co-director)** is a sophomore in Davenport College. She first read *Stupid Fucking Bird* in her high school theater class, and knew she wanted to revisit the play after taking a class on Chekhov with Millie. She is involved in a lot of music and theater at Yale, and is a business manager of her folk music group, Tangled up in Blue, as well as a signed artist in Yale's record label, 17o1. She is quite silly AND incredibly excited to see you all!



**Alex Shadman (stage manager, he/him)** is a sophomore in Trumbull, majoring in Theater, Dance, and Performance Studies. Outside of stage managing, you might find him performing with Millie and the rest of his improv group, the Viola Question or playing saxophone in the Davenport Pops Orchestra. He is super excited to be the stage manager for *Stupid Fucking Bird* and is looking forward to working with everyone on the team!



**Dhruv Bhalla (producer, he/him)** is a sophomore in Morse majoring in Computer Science and Economics as well as pursuing a certificate in Education Studies. Outside of class, he spends most (all) of his time doing theater and working as a UP Peer Mentor. Having done all 6 Dramat shows last year, SFB is Dhruv's Producorial debut, and he cannot wait!

Apart from the 4 of us, we have a talented team of designers and crew heads: Allison Calkins (lighting design), Sarah Feng (set design), Emily Currie (costumes design), Emiliano Cáceres Manzano (props design), Mateo Balbarin (head electrician), & Sophia Perez (technical director). + **we're still accepting more prod team members. Reach out to Dhruv at [ex1@yaledramat.org](mailto:ex1@yaledramat.org) to find out!**

### **In the audition room:**

Millie, Evie, Alex, and Dhruv will be in the audition room and will make casting decisions. Alongside them will be one member of the Dramat's policy team (the Outreach Coordinator Robert Gao, the Policy Director Maya Evans, or the Vice President Meridian Monthly) who are there to be an advocate for all auditionees and to make sure the audition process is equitable / follows Dramat guidelines and goals. They are not responsible for any creative decisions.

### **Accessibility:**

The Dramat and The Stupid Fucking Bird Team is committed to accommodating any and all access needs; please do not hesitate to contact us at [ex1@yaledramat.org](mailto:ex1@yaledramat.org) with any questions or concerns.

### **Cast expectations:**

This show has a quick turnaround time from auditions to performances, so we'll be getting started right away. The rehearsal room is a collaborative and improvisational space, where company members respect each other and the work they take part in. Our stage manager Alex will work his Google Calendar magic to schedule rehearsals based on everyone's availability, and actors will be called as needed by scene. Great vibes, I promise.

### **Contact Us:**

Millie Liao, director, [millie.liao@yale.edu](mailto:millie.liao@yale.edu)

Evie Kissinger, director, [evie.kissinger@yale.edu](mailto:evie.kissinger@yale.edu)

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