

WITCH

By Jen Silverman | Fall/Spring 2025

Who?

Producer: Dhruv Bhalla (dhruv.bhalla@yale.edu, +1(203)508-4328)

Director: Angelica Peruzzi (angelica.peruzzi@yale.edu, +1 (917) 562 1998)

Stage Manager: Talia Hsia

Assistant Stage Manager: Gabriela Ewart

Preferred Contact Email: dhruv.bhalla@yale.edu

About the Play

Witch, written by Jen Silverman, was adapted by the English Jacobean play *The Witch of Edmonton*. The devil Scratch arrives in the small English town of Edmonton looking for vulnerable souls to corrupt. While he has his way with some, when he knocks on the door of Elizabeth Sawyer, a woman ostracized and accused of being a witch and blamed for the town's misfortunes, he cannot break her. Intrigued, Scratch returns to visit her again and again, and an unexpected (yet sort of expected) relationship begins to bloom. Meanwhile, the powerful widower Sir Arthur Banks tries to decide who he should leave his fortunes and estate to his 'no-good' son Cuddy or the virtuous Frank Thorney, his adoptive son, who proved himself worthy by working his way to the top. A play about the human desire to be understood and the human unwillingness to understand.

When?

Tablework and Scene Workshopping: Fall Semester

Date of First Rehearsal: 1/13/2025

Tech Dates [tentative]*: Sunday, March 29th-Wednesday, April 1st

Performances: Thurs, April 2nd (8 PM) / Fri, April 3rd (8 PM) / Sat, April 4th (2PM, 8PM).

*Given that the show will be going up after Spring Break, we are unable to confirm the exact dates at this time (before we receive a venue and slot). Nonetheless, we are planning on and prioritizing the show going up on Thursday, April 2nd- Saturday April 4th, holding tech and load-in starting Sunday the 29th of March. The alternative (which we will try to avoid) would be the show going up on March 26th-March 28th, with load in and tech being the day we return from Spring Break, Sunday the 22nd.

Time Commitment + Rehearsals

Fall Semester: over the course of the fall semester we plan to only hold a read through, an initial tablework session with each actor (approximately one hour), and, more importantly, we will be holding weekly **Scene Workshops**. These hour-and-a-half long sessions will occur once or twice a week based on role and scene partners. **The goal of these sessions is to familiarize ourselves with each scene and think about the text with specificity, picking it apart by talking through it and thinking about the character's intentions, questions, and emotions before moving onto blocking next semester. Actors are expected to come to each workshop having read the scene in question and being familiar with it. The amount of scene workshops held is flexible based on actor availability.**

Spring Semester: regular rehearsals will begin as soon as we return from Winter Break and will last until before Spring Break. Time commitment will vary based on role, and actors should expect to be called more frequently as the date of the shows nears. Tech is tentatively set to be from March 29th to April 1st and we will need all hands on deck so please avoid any conflicts over the course of the week of tech/rehearsals!

High Commitment role (H): around 2 hours for 2-3 times a week, full availability during tech
Medium Commitment role (M): around 1-2 hours 2 times a week, full availability during tech.

Meet the Team (AKA: Who Will Be in the Audition Room?)



Angelica Peruzzi (Director, She/Her) is a junior in Saybrook majoring in English with a concentration in Creative Writing. She's in love with this play and hopes that you are just a fraction as excited about it as she is. At Yale she has mostly produced and stage managed, although she's secretly always wanted to direct. Outside of theater Angi surprisingly has a life— she's an editor for the Reflections and columnist for the Arts desk at the Yale Herald, she is a ravenous elm iced oat latte consumer, and she loves her friends more than anything in the world. She's so excited to see you in auditions!



Dhruv Bhalla (Producer, He/Him) is a junior in Morse College majoring in *Computer Science & Economics* and *Sociology*. He has loved producing *Urinetown* with the Yale Dramat and is excited to step into the CPA world. Outside of producing, Dhruv loves rigging and frolicking (especially when he has HW to do). He is incredibly excited to be part of this team and to put on a wonderful show together!



Talia Hsia (Stage Manager, She/Her) is a junior in Jonathan Edwards majoring in Economics with a certificate in CS and French. Since she was little, Talia has been on both sides of the theater world performing as a tap dancer from age five and doing lighting and sound design through high school. In Yale theater, she's done multiple designer roles and is particularly fond of stage management. Talia normally has some semblance of a life at Yale. This semester though, she is off on an adventure in Paris so will be meeting all your lovely faces virtually. Nevertheless, she is so excited to be working on *Witch* with such an amazing team!

Audition Expectations

*First round: Oct 5/6th. Callbacks: Oct 9th. Casting Day: Oct 12th. **Auditionees should arrive early.** We will have print outs of the audition materials. Memorization is not required.*

- 1) In the first round, auditionees must [SIGN UP FOR AN AUDITION SLOT](#) (through our YCA page) during which they will read a side from the show, which can be found under audition materials. The director may give you a note and ask you to repeat the side.
- 2) Auditionees may then be called back for monologue work / chemistry reads. Details about these auditions will be given at the time of callback.

Auditionees must also fill out this [AUDITION FORM](#) **before** arriving.

If you cannot make any of these slots, or if they are full, video auditions will be accepted until Monday, Oct 6th. Video auditions should include you performing a side from the audition materials. Self-tapes should be submitted via the form above. If you encounter any complications, please email dhruv.bhalla@yale.edu

Audition Times & Location(s)

- Sunday, October 5th from 6-9pm
 - Location: LC 211
- Monday, October 6th from 5:30-7:30pm
 - Location: Phelps Hall 207

If you have any trouble finding the location, please reach out to our producer Dhruv at 203-508-4328!

Audition Materials

- Sides can be found [HERE](#). We will have print outs of the audition materials.
- The required audition form can be found [HERE](#).

Character Descriptions can be found below for reference. *Don't worry – the side you choose will not limit what characters we consider you for!*

Character Descriptions

All roles are open to auditions from anyone. Regarding gender, anybody can play any role. Gender identities provided are in reference to the characters and not a requirement of the actor playing them. You will have the opportunity to indicate which roles you would like to be considered for on your audition form. Content warnings are indicated in italics.

(H) **ELIZABETH SAWYER** (female, forties/fifties): an outcast. Believed to be the town witch.

(H) **SCRATCH** (male, thirties): the devil. Charismatic, persuasive, lonely.

(H) **CUDDY BANKS** (male, twenties): Sir Arthur's son. Painfully shy, a Morris dancer. Secretly in love (and very not secretly in hate) with Frank. **This character is involved in an intense stage combat sequence with Frank. This character will have to learn a brief Morris dancing choreography. This character is involved in a moment of intimacy (near kiss) with Frank.*

(H) **FRANK THORNEY** (male, twenties): A confident and successful young man, charming and ruthless. His ambition knows no bounds. **This character is involved in an intense stage combat sequence with Cuddy. This character is involved in a moment of intimacy (near kiss) with Cuddy.*

(M) **SIR ARTHUR BANKS** (male, fifties): A wealthy and powerful man.

(M) **WINNIFRED** (female, twenties): Sir Arthur's servant, resigned and pragmatic, secretly married to Frank.