

The Community Theatre of Howell
AUDITIONS NOTICE

DEARLY DEPARTED

A Comedy by: David Bottrell and Jessie Jones

*"When I die, don't tell **nobody**.
Just bury me in the back yard and tell everybody I left you."*
Ray-Bud Turpin

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| <p align="center">Saturday November 22, 2008 9:00 am paperwork 9:30 am begin (MUST BE SIGNED IN BY 11 AM) Barnard Center CLOSED AUDITIONS FOR CHILDREN'S ROLES</p> | <p align="center">Monday November 24, 2008 6:30 pm paperwork 7:00pm begin Barnard Center OPEN AUDITIONS</p> | <p align="center">Tuesday November 25, 2008 6:30 pm paperwork 7:00pm begin Barnard Center OPEN AUDITIONS</p> | <p align="center">ENJOY YOUR THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY!</p> | <p align="center">Saturday November 29 2008 CAST LIST POSTED 6 pm, on stage door & www.cththeatre.org</p> |
| <p align="center">Monday December 1 2008 6:30pm Barnard Center ACTOR ROUND UP</p> | <p align="center">Tuesday December 2 2008 6:30pm Barnard Center REHEARSALS BEGIN...</p> | <p align="center">FRIDAY FEBRUARY 6, 13 8PM PERFORMANCE</p> | <p align="center">SATURDAY FEBRUARY 7, 14 8PM PERFORMANCE</p> | <p align="center">SUNDAY FEBRUARY 8, 15 2PM PERFORMANCE</p> |

Synopsis:

Not since *Steel Magnolias* has a more colorful and dysfunctional group of eccentrics gathered somewhere near the Mason Dixon line. When the patriarch of the Turpin Family keels over dead, the struggle to get him buried involves the whole clan: his widow, Raynelle, sons, Ray-Bud and Junior, daughter, Delightful, sister Marguerite, daughters-in-law, Lucille and Suzanne, grandchildren, and extended family in encounters both bitter and sweet. Amidst the chaos, the Turpins turn to their friends and neighbors, who just manage to help them all pull it together and support each other through their hour of need. At the end of it all, we learn that coping with life's losses can turn out to be drop-dead funny!

- **STAFF:** Directed by Rebecca Dilworth, Produced by Linda Peasley, Assistant Director, Amy Wimbrow
- **AUDITION LOCATION:** Barnard Recreation Center – 415 N. Barnard Street, Howell, MI. The Barnard Center is located four blocks east of Grand River. The CTH entrance is in the back where there is plenty of parking.
- **AUDITION FORM:** CTH website (www.cththeatre.org), may be filled out ahead of time. Please bring a current photo, if available. We will be taking Polaroids and will have forms available at auditions.
- **CHILDREN:** Parents must accompany any child under age 18.
- **CONFLICTS:** Please bring your calendar and *all conflicts you have between December 1 and February 15th (conflicts are not accepted for the final week)*. Please be accurate and complete when listing your conflicts.
- **REHEARSALS:** Monday through Friday beginning December 1 starting promptly at 6:30 pm - 9:30 pm.
- **NOTE:** We will schedule rehearsals carefully so that children may be able to leave early. However, the final 2 weeks the children will be expected to stay.
- **SCRIPT REVIEW:** A script may be checked out with a \$10 deposit, by contacting Linda Peasley, Producer, at lpeasley@umich.edu or by calling 517-548-6577.

CHARACTER DESCRIPTIONS

Note: Age listed is a general range.

The Director reserves the right to cast outside this range.

This is an ensemble cast and actors may be doubled into other roles if necessary.

THE DECEASED:

Bud Turpin: (50+ -senior citizen) Dies in the opening scene. Will be played by one of the males.

THE FAMILY:

Raynelle Turpin: (50+ senior citizen) Bud's widow has no illusions about her husband and their 39 year marriage. She has kept her marriage and family together with gentle bands of "Steel Magnolia" determination.

Ray-Bud Turpin: (30-40's) The Turpin eldest son finds the responsibilities as "Man of the Family" overwhelming both emotionally and fiscally. He must fight the lure of his alcoholism to handle the pressure.

Lucille Turpin: (30-40's) Ray-Bud's wife is a sweet southern lady who stands by her troubled man, and carries the sadness of her childless state.

Junior Turpin: (20-30's) The youngest son is just trying to keep body and soul together after a disastrous business failure. He just never felt he measured up to the other Turpin men. He may lose everything including his family.

Suzanne Turpin: (20-30) Junior's wife had big dreams that turned into life with a struggling husband and 3 wild children. She is always ready to lament, emote and otherwise make sure everyone knows about her heavy burden (good singing voice a plus).

Buddy, Sissy, and TR Turpin: (6-12 years old) Junior and Suzanne's "busy" whiney offspring (small roles, nonspeaking).

Delightful Turpin: (teens) She is the "late in life blessing" of Raynelle and Bud's marriage; their one and only daughter. Delightful enjoys eating, sitting, eating...sitting...you get the idea.

Marguerite Turpin Bledsoe: (middle aged or older) A true Soldier of the Lord, Bud's sister is out to evangelize the world...do it "her way or you're on hell's highway!" (is NOT the "Mama's Family" caricature)

Royce Bledsoe: (teen to 40) Marguerite's son just hasn't been the same since he lost the job at the sewage plant. He hopes to make a living off welfare checks. His Mom is his biggest pain.

Juanita Vanderloon Turpin: (30-40's) Married to cousin, Teddy-Wayne. Juanita beat Lucille for Yam Queen and was Suzanne's rival for the wealthy Turpin cousin...An excellent politician's wife.

THE FRIENDS:

Norval and Veda Cripes: (Senior Citizens) Married forever. Norval has been through it all and despite his inability to hear or speak, walk on his own, or breathe without an oxygen mask, his loving Veda "feels just so lucky to have him".

Nadine Smith: (25-40) An eternal hopeless romantic. Unfortunately Nadine is unlucky in love, but she is amazingly proficient in the fertility department. She gave up her own dreams of Hollywood stardom but gave each of her 9 children a famous moniker. She is a true Beauty- Pageant-Stage-Mom.

Nadine's children: (5 girls 4 boys ages 6-12) decked out for the funeral in their pageant best (small roles, nonspeaking).

Clyde Speester: (20 and up) Owner of the family business: Clyde's Auto Repair and Body Shop, and is Ray-Bud's boss. He believes in "taking care of business" by whatever means necessary (blow up a hearse?!) Clyde's a true good ole boy.

The Reverend B.K. Hooker: (30 to 80) is a true Southern Radio Evangelist. He does his best to spread the balm of condolence on the collective grieving Turpin bosom with limited success (big strong voice a plus).

The Joy of Life Singers: (any) Looking for real singers who enjoy singing that good old gospel music. This group will entertain before the show, at intermission, have a song during the show and will sing us out at the end. A great opportunity to entertain!

CTH WELCOMES YOU! While experience is helpful, the Community Theatre of Howell does not require previous theatrical experience. We do, however, require that you have the desire and the drive to help us produce high quality shows that our audiences have come to expect. Please come join us for a wonderful theatrical experience! We look forward to seeing you at the auditions!

