



The Community Theatre of Howell  
announces

**AUDITIONS**  
for  
***Over the River and  
Through the Woods***

A comedy by Joe Di Pietro



**Performances: February 2, 3, 4, 9, 10, 11, 2007**

**Auditions: November 27, 28, 2006**

CTH is very excited to be presenting for the first time, the hilarious Joe Di Pietro comedy, *Over the River and through the Woods*. Written in 1993, this successful off-Broadway play is one of the most popular community theatre shows performed around the country.\*

When two sets of doting Italian-American grandparents and their grandson, Nick, all get together every Sunday for dinner, there's plenty of food and, of course, advice... "find a nice girl and get married!" It's 1984, the year of VCRs, answering machines, Trivial Pursuit... and problems. Nick has to announce that after 29 years of Sunday dinners, he's received a promotion and is moving across the country to Seattle. Hilarity ensues when his loving grandparents devise a plan to keep him from moving. This is a poignant and heartwarming tale of family love and relationships that everyone can relate to. You'll laugh, you'll cry, and you'll appreciate your family!

This show has a small cast of 6 members, and we're looking for adults at least 18 years of age.

**Rehearsals begin November 29.** All rehearsals will run Monday through Friday, 6:30-9:30 (excluding December 25, January 1, and January 26), plus 2-3 Saturdays

**Staff:** Director – Rebecca Dilworth, Producer – Mary Jo Del Vero, Asst. Director – Ann Dilworth

**Where?** First National Bank 101 E Grand River, Howell (Southeast corner of Grand River and Michigan Avenue. Enter from parking lot in rear.)

**How?** Audition forms are found on our website, [www.cththeatre.org](http://www.cththeatre.org), if you want to fill it out in advance. Please bring a small photo if you have one. Also bring your calendar and all conflicts from November 29, 2006 through February 11, 2007.

**Where can I get a copy of the script?** For a copy of the script, contact Rebecca Dilworth at 517-552-0955 or [dilworth@ismi.net](mailto:dilworth@ismi.net). Scripts may be kept for one week.

**How do I prepare?** Please be prepared to give one of the monologues available from the Director or from the web site.

**Who can audition?** All of our auditions are OPEN to everyone! You do not have to be a member to audition, but if you are cast, we do ask that you become a member. And while experience may be helpful, the Community Theatre of Howell does not require this. All we ask is your commitment to help make *Over the River and through the Woods* the same high-quality show that we strive to provide for the community with all of our productions.

**Audition Schedule:**

**Monday, November 27: All Roles**

**6:00-6:30** – Fill out paperwork.

**6:30-9:30** – Monologues/Readings

**Tuesday, November 28: Prior Arrangement**

**6:30-9:30** – Auditions by prior arrangement with director. Callbacks, if necessary.

**Wednesday, November 29: Cast List posted by noon on the backstage theatre door and the website [www.cththeatre.org](http://www.cththeatre.org).**

**7:00-9:30** – Actor roundup; pick up all materials and read-thru the script together.

**CHARACTER DESCRIPTIONS**

**NOTE:** Age ranges may be negotiable depending on the pool of auditionees. Every role has a significant number of lines and most have more than one monologue (speech directed at the audience). Memorization ability will be a strong consideration in casting this show. Detailed character descriptions and selected monologues are available on the website at [www.cththeatre.org](http://www.cththeatre.org). Or, contact: Rebecca Dilworth, Director, at 517-552-0955, or Mary Jo Del Vero, Producer, at [mjd511@hotmail.com](mailto:mjd511@hotmail.com).

\*Source: AACT report of top shows by member groups.

**NICK CRISTANO:** 18-40 *Should appear to be in his late twenties.* Nick leads us through his memories of his last few weeks with his grandparents in NJ. He is a single, up-and-coming marketing executive. He is earnest and self-conscious, excitable, and, okay, a tad self-centered as he relates to his very doting, very loud, very opinionated family. He has an important decision to make, and he feels the stress weighing on him.

**FRANK GIANELLI:** 50+ *Should appear to be in his late 60's to 80's.* Nick's maternal Grandfather, Frank, was sent to the U.S. alone at age 14. He worked hard and built a life as a carpenter. His motto is "tengo famiglia," which means much more than "I have a family." He firmly believes in the three F's...family, faith, and food. He is a rock. Traditional, solid, strong, he hates slowing down and hates the life changes that time brings. (Will need to learn to "play" the mandolin.)

**AIDA GIANELLI:** 50+ *Should appear to be in late 60's to 80's.* Nick's maternal Grandmother, Aida, also has a motto: "Mangia, Mangia!", which is "Eat Eat!" Love means food to Aida, who adores Frank, "her baby." Everything centers around veal, tiramisu, and the table. To Aida everyone is hungry when they enter her house, and every crisis can be soothed with food. Aida is very traditional in her faith, her devotion to family, her everyday warmth, and her simple wisdom.

**NUNZIO CRISTANO:** 50+ *Should appear to be in late 60's to 80's.* Nick's paternal Grandfather, Nunzio, is one of the "loudest people" Nick has ever met! Nunzio is not afraid of pizzazz in his wardrobe or his speech. In fact, he talked his way into a life-long job on the line at "Ford's". Nunzio is passionate about everything, but especially his wife Emma, whom he adores, and Nick of course! Nunzio must hide a serious illness from those he loves to protect them...or should he?

**EMMA CRISTANO:** 50+ *Should appear to be in 60's to 80's.* Nick's paternal Grandmother, Emma, is the OTHER loudest person Nick ever met. Emma is a groovy granny and a force of nature...she's no follower, in fact she leads Nunzio through nearly 50 years of marriage. She is an opportunist, and a "doer." She is an enthusiast and believes in the power of prayer as a way to guide her life. She concocts the plan to keep Nick in NJ by fixing him up with Caitlin O'Hare. She truly is the "fizz" in the Coca-Cola.

**CAITLIN O'HARE:** 18-40 *Should appear to be in her 20's.* Caitlin is a nice, young Registered Nurse and member of Emma's canasta club. Caitlin is convinced by Emma to get "fixed up" with Nick for a family Sunday dinner, where she is enchantingly direct and forthright in her intentions with him. She loves the grandparents' banter and has a great sense of humor about their confusion over her being a vegetarian. She challenges Nick's behavior toward his family and is a real attraction for him to stay.