

OVER THE RIVER AND THROUGH THE WOODS

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.

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 single and an 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 a very big 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 US 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 for her. To Aida everyone is hungry when they enter her house and every crisis can be smoothed 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.* Emma, Nick's paternal Grandmother, is the OTHER loudest person Nick ever met. Emma is a groovy granny and a force of nature...she's no follower but 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.

CAITLYN O'HARE: 18-40 *Should appear to be in her 20's.* Caitlyn is a nice young Registered Nurse and member of Emma's canasta club. Caitlyn 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 in NJ.

