



Easthampton Theater Company



Auditions: Easthampton Theater Company presents Harvey Fierstein's *Torch Song*.

Directed by Jason Rose-Langston, Produced by Michael O. Budnick and Jason Rose-Langston

Contact/Questions: info@easthamptontheater.com

When: By appointment only, sign up info below.. Tuesday Sept.19th and Wednesday Sept.20th from 6pm to 9pm with callbacks Sept. 27th 6-9PM.

Location: St. Philips Church Parish Hall, 126 Main Street, Easthampton, MA

All roles are open with no pre-casting. Actors must be 18+ prior to first rehearsal or 17+ with parent permission.

Script/Version: This is the 2-act 2018 Broadway revival titled simply ***Torch Song*** (not the Trilogy) and the script is available from Concord Theatricals as well as other on-line sources. The two act version is very faithful to the original.

Description:

The life of Arnold Beckoff, a torch song-singing, Jewish drag queen living in New York City, is dramatized over the span of the late 1970s and 1980s. Told with a likable, human voice and considerable humor, *Torch Song* follows Arnold's odyssey to find happiness in New York. All he wants is a husband, a child, and a pair of bunny slippers that fit, but a visit from his overbearing mother reminds him that he needs one thing more: respect.

History

Torch Song premiered at the Tony Kieser Theatre in a Second Stage Theater Production on October 19, 2017 under the direction of Moisés Kaufman. Under the same direction, the play transferred to Broadway in November 1, 2018 at The Hayes Theater as a Second Stage Theater production.

Torch Song Trilogy premiered at La Mama ETC over the course of two years from February 1978 - October 1979 under the direction of Eric Concklin. The play transferred to Broadway in June 1982 under the direction of Peter Pope.

Rehearsals and Performance Dates

Rehearsals are scheduled to begin in early November with a possible table read beforehand. Not all actors will be called for all rehearsals. Rehearsals of ~3 hours in length will take place on two weekday evenings and one weekend day or evening TBD by actors' and production team's schedules following casting. Please list all availability dates and conflicts as requested on the audition form.

Performances are currently scheduled to take place in Easthampton the last weekend in January and the first weekend in February, Friday and Saturday evenings and Sunday matinee. There will be a mandatory tech week the week prior to Friday opening likely including at least a portion of the previous weekend for move-in.

Sign Up for Auditions:

Please go to THIS LINK <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0949ABAD28A1FAC16-etctorch> on Sign-up Genius to reserve your slot. Please CANCEL your sign up if you are unable to attend. You can also change the time if you need to via this site. If all slots are full, or you cannot make the available times or dates, please contact us to see if we can extend audition times.

Preparation: Please prepare a 2-to-3-minute contemporary monologue (not from this show) reflective of the character(s) for which you are auditioning and the style of the play. We suggest choosing a piece that shows your range as an actor and that leans towards comedy/dark comedy or comi-tragedy. Please be prepared to discuss your specific reason(s) that you have chosen this selection. Bring yourself to it and make it your own. If you have an alternative, creative idea for your audition, we encourage you to try it. However, you should definitely be prepared to share specific reasons why you chose this approach. Memorization of your monologue is not required, but often makes a better audition.

Arrival: Please arrive 10 minutes prior to your audition and **no earlier**. There may be limited space at the site. Expect your audition to last approximately 5 minutes and we will try our best to remain on time.

Materials: You will be asked to fill out an audition form when you arrive. Alternatively, you can download and pre-fill the audition form at this link <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1sXw1w87-VAJCKM62cImfhle-B8Do4uvU/edit?usp=sharing&oid=103574144218826502613&rtpof=true&sd=true> Bring a resume or a CV sheet if you have one, but this is not required. A head shot or photograph of you is required and may be taken on site if you don't have one with you.

Callbacks: Sept. 27th, same location 6-9PM. If you are called back you will be provided with sides from the show in advance. There may be both solo work and partner work for some roles. Other roles may have just one type of scene. There may also be group work or even improv

games, so come in comfy clothes and be prepared to play and have fun. Scripts will be used at the call backs so memorization is not required.

***Note:** Due to adult content, all actors must be at least 18 years of age as of November 1, 2023 (17+ with parental permission) to be in this production.

Other considerations

Easthampton Theater Company is currently an all-volunteer company and no monetary compensation is provided for actors. We may request a small contribution for membership fee if you are cast in the show. Comp tickets will be made available for actors. As ETC is a volunteer-dependent community theater, all actors are expected to help out in some other aspects of the production. Please note on your audition form if you bring any specific skills. Also note that ETC is committed to providing a safe and inclusive environment. All actors will be required to agree to our code-of-conduct and submit to a background check.

Character Breakdown: ages noted are character ages, with the exception of Arnold, noted below. Genders are also listed as played on stage. Actors of any race will be considered for the roles of Ed, Laurel, Alan and David. Arnold and Mrs. Beckoff should be believable as a biological mother and son as well as representative of New York's Jewish community.

Arnold Beckoff

Male identifying. The character ages from 25 (going on 40) in Act I to somewhere in his thirties in Act II. **The author specifies in the script and license agreement that the actor playing Arnold MUST be 35 years of age or under.** Arnold is a Jewish, homosexual, New York city drag queen. He is unconventionally attractive and is written in a distinctly human voice that makes him relatable and lovable. He is very smart with great wit and want. His cynical outlook and constant complaining are used to hide his real pain and fears. He is proud of his queer identity while pining for a more traditional life and family. He is young and experiencing love for the first time.

***Note** This character may be interpreted in many ways. We are seeking an actor who can bring themselves to the role and make it their own. We are not looking for a replica of any other actor's interpretation of the character. To give Arnold his human voice and authenticity, an extraordinarily strong actor is needed. An actor with drag performance experience is a plus.

Ed Reiss

Male identifying Act 1- 35 Act II- forties. An exceptionally good-looking guy. Ed is bisexual, masculine, and full of boyish charm. He can be emotionally unavailable and has a great deal of inner conflict. He is a teacher in Brooklyn and is renovating an old Victorian home upstate.

Laurel

Female identifying 30-40. She is plain and unassuming but pleasing to the eye. Laurel is thoughtful, and bright. She shows a great deal of girlish enthusiasm and considers herself a forward thinker. She is naïve in her optimism and is Ed's girlfriend and later his estranged wife.

Alan

Male identifying 18-20. He is shamefully beautiful and knows it. He is a hustler and model who uses his looks to get what he wants. He has been on his own since he was 14 but remains a frightened child underneath it all.

David

Male identifying 15 (going on 30) Actor must be 18+ (17+ with parent permission) and able to play younger. David is wonderfully bright and handsome with a hint of danger for a boy his age. He is honest, sarcastic and has had a rough childhood and has learned to make the best of his situation. He is a confident survivor and is unapologetic about who he is.

Mrs. Beckoff (Ma)

Female identifying 50's- 60s. Arnold's mother. She is a feisty Jewish mother, a force of comedy and is Arnold's loving yet formidable opponent. Mrs. Beckoff loves her son but is very traditional and does not understand her son's lifestyle "choice." She certainly is not able to see a family in Arnold's future and disagrees with his desire to be a parent.

About Easthampton Theater Company

Easthampton Theater Company is a production group created by Easthampton and nearby residents to bring quality community and regional theater productions to the City. Its founding board and members are dedicated to establishing community-based live theater productions as a premier venue and destination for the Valley. We currently perform in the newly renovated CitySpace Blue Room located in the historic and beautiful Old Town Hall. With newly installed lighting, sound and a wonderful stage, this flexible 80-seat "black box" venue is perfect for small and intimate theatrical productions. We are also looking forward to the renovation of the grand upstairs performance space, currently passing from design to execution. Website:

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