Audition Call Information

*Out of the Fire: The Banned Books Monologues*

**About the play:**

*Out of the Fire: The Banned Books Monologues* is a series of monologues that celebrate our freedom to read. Written by playwrights from around the country, including Iowa State University, this collection explores the topic of banned books and censorship from a variety of viewpoints. The monologues range in length from 3-10 minutes, from comedy to drama, and provide roles for actors of varying ages, ethnicities and gender. ISU students, faculty, and staff are encouraged to audition.

**Roles available (listed by monologue). Ages flexible:**

**Harold.** “The Shapeshifter” by Doug Reed: A man pleads his innocence when caught red-handed with a purloined copy of Lolita.

**Young Mother.** “No Dying” by Amy White: A mother’s request for the banning of a particular subject matter.

**Librarian.** “Bad Librarian” by Sam D. White: A librarian comes to terms with his/her love of Catcher in the Rye and the effect it has on others.

**Man or Woman - age 30 or older.** “The New Technology” by Liz Duffy Adams: At a secret meeting of an underground organization a few decades in the future, a new technology is revealed.

**Vanessa – pre-teen/young teen.** “The Power” by Erica Berman: A young girl demands the only book that can help her.

**Old Man.** “Cuban Poetry” by Coleman: Based on the true story of a writer’s attempt to smuggle banned poetry over the border and into the United States.

**Reporter.** “On Toronto” by James DeVita: On tonight’s edition of a fictional news show, we learn of the movement to ban a popular children's book.

**Girl - African, Middle Eastern or South Asian.** “Where We Are” by Sandra Dietrick: A girl explains how censorship takes on different forms in different parts of the world.

**Mervyn Griffith-Jones – age 50-70.** “That Blasted Trial” by Marie Kohler: Based on the real-life British barrister, who recounts his role in the trial to ban a scandalous book.

**Actor.** “[redacted]” by Mike Lawler: A comic exploration of one of the unintended effects of book banning and censorship.

**Grace, a 50-something mother of two, wife of Ernie.** “Kurt Vonnegut Took a Grape From My Hand” by Lori Matthews: A woman travels through time to tell her tales of literary discovery and an encounter with an iconic author.

**Mr. Berman – 30s-40s.** “Singed” by Alison O'Reilly Poage: A man discovers that being a children's librarian isn’t such a nice, quiet job after all.
Sergio - a blue-collar young man trying to make it in a white-collar world. “Laffs with Two Fs” by Kimberly Megna Yarnall: A young teaching assistant defends his reasons for censorship.


Audition requirements:

* Prepare a monologue selection from the provided options or a one-minute selection from any monologue in the play.

Rehearsals for Out of the Fire will begin August 28. Actors can expect 1-2 rehearsals a week until September 20 when actors will rehearse each night through performances.

Performances will be September 29-October 8.

Questions? Contact Amanda Petefish-Schrag, production director (apschrag@iastate.edu).