

Special Considerations for Production Work

University of Idaho

Possession

By Millie R. Schacher

Directed by Molly H. Donahue

A draft of the script will be available to auditionees by January 10th, 2026. The playwright and director have compiled information below that might be helpful to review in advance of auditions or accepting a dramaturgical, design, tech, or management role. This is a living document and is subject to change.

SPECIAL NOTE: This play is semi-immersive, which means that actors will be in intimate quarters with their audience. In rehearsals, we may craft moments of audience interaction.

For more information, please contact:

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Play Synopsis

Charles, the pompous, often detested, oldest brother of the Byrne family, is murdered in the theatre where his latest play is having a reading. His two sisters, Maude and Virginia, and their brother, James, gather in the theatre to summon his ghost and uncover his murderer. Intimately involved in this affair are Charles' estranged wife, Elvira, and long-time family friend, George. Their seance not only allows them to commune with the spirit of Charles but also stirs the ire of another spectre who holds a terrible family secret.

Character Breakdowns

JAMES (he/him) Charles' brother, late 30's - stoic, angry and straightforward

VIRGINIA (she/her) Charles' sister, mid 30's - maternal, mystical and organized *This role has been pre-cast.

MAUDE (she/her) Charles' youngest sister, 18 - meek, sensitive and troubled

ELVIRA (she/her) Charles' wife, late 20's - mid 30's - feisty, sexy and blunt

GEORGE (he/him) Long-time friend of the family, early 40's - jocular, thoughtful and caring

Casting and Rehearsal Information

CONSIDERATIONS: Any UI student (major and non-major), faculty member, staff member, and members of the Moscow/Palouse community-at-large are welcome to audition for any role in this production.

GENDER-APPROPRIATE CASTING: We are interested in casting individuals in roles that they are comfortable playing, and that match their gender identity and/or expression.

AGE-APPROPRIATE CASTING: Every attempt will be made to cast the production with age-appropriate performers as called for in the author's character descriptions. Anywhere age fluidity is available, it absolutely will be considered.

Rehearsal Times and Locations

*This will be a very short rehearsal process, therefore actors are expected to come to the first rehearsal after the table read OFF BOOK.

- Monday-Thursday 6:00 -10:00pm
- Saturday 11:00am-3:00pm
- First Rehearsal: Monday 3/16 on Zoom
- Days off include: 3/22, 3/27, 3/29
- Performance Dates: April 2, 3, 4, & 5

PLEASE be as thorough and specific as possible when listing both regular and irregular conflicts above, as both final casting and rehearsal schedule decisions will be informed by the information provided.

All in person Rehearsals will be held in the Pocket Playhouse.
All Performances will be in the Pocket Playhouse.

Access-Related Considerations

CONSENT-BASED and TRAUMA-INFORMED PRACTICES: ***All collaboration on this production will originate from a place of consent*** – in all things – from intimacy, staging, dance choreography, costuming, and set/scenic safety, etc. YOUR VOICE WILL BE HEARD in this process; let it be heard.

- The production may use strobes or other bright lights, as well as atmospheric haze/fog/particulate.
- The production may include the use of loud sound effects/music or potentially jarring noises.
- The production may use fake blood.
- The production requires rehearsals that may extend to 10:30pm on weeknights as well as weekends.
- The production may require performers to move props and/or scenic elements while on stage.
- The production will require heightened physicality, intimacy, and fight choreography.

Intimacy/Violence Considerations

An intimacy/fight survey will be provided at the auditions so performers can share their comfort level with ALL potential instances of character intimacy and fight direction planned within the production.

Possible Intimacy:

All characters may hug at some point in the play.

JAMES and ELVIRA may kiss on the mouth and hold hands.

GEORGE and ELVIRA may kiss on the mouth.

GEORGE and VIRGINIA may kiss on the mouth and hold hands.

All characters in the play will have moments of violence/fighting. Possible fighting/violence might include:

- Falling out of chairs
- Being pushed backwards

- Grabbed from behind
- Being stabbed
- Being hit over the head
- Falling down stairs
- Being choked

*IF THERE ARE CONCERNS ABOUT INTIMACY OR VIOLENCE IN THE PRODUCTION,
PLEASE CONTACT THE DIRECTOR OR THE PRODUCTION STAGE MANAGER.*

Content Warnings

This play may contain material that some people may find objectionable. Below is a list of topics the play addresses:

- Child neglect
- Physical Violence
- Murder
- Domestic Abuse
- Ghosts
- The occult