

## **ABOUT THE SHOW**

*Heathers* is based on the cult classic 1980s movie of the same name starring Winona Ryder and Christian Slater.

*Heathers* is the darkly delicious story of Veronica Sawyer, a brainy, beautiful teenage misfit who hustles her way into the most powerful and ruthless clique at Westerberg High: the Heathers. But before she can get comfortable atop the high school food chain, Veronica falls in love with the dangerously sexy new kid JD. When Heather Chandler, the Almighty, kicks her out of the group, Veronica decides to bite the bullet and kiss Heather's aerobicized ass... but JD has another plan for that bullet.

*Heathers* premiered at New World Stages in New York City, under the direction of Andy Fickman.

The Academy of Performing Arts is proud to present the Cape Cod premiere of *Heathers*.

Please be advised that most of the characters in *Heathers* depict teenagers. However due to the style of the show and its vocal demands we anticipate that people older than teenagers will be cast.

### **Mental Health Notice and Content Warning**

*Heathers* is a dark comedy which deals frankly and sometimes comically with subjects such as sexuality, mental health, murder and suicide. We consider these are aspects of real life which should be represented in art however we acknowledge these subjects may be triggering for some people.

Please seriously, and honestly, consider your ability and comfort dealing with these issues before committing to your involvement in *Heathers*.

In particular, you should note the following:

- Veronica and JD are required to kiss and there may be a simulated sex scene
- Kurt, Ram, JD and Veronica are required to appear on stage in their underwear
- Martha, Heather McNamara and JD attempt suicide in the show
- Veronica fakes her own suicide
- Veronica, Kurt and Ram are involved in a scene where sexual assault is implied
- Heather Chandler, Kurt and Ram are murdered in the show
- Many characters sing about topics of a sexual nature
- Some scenes depict the use of alcohol and drugs
- Some scenes and songs include coarse language and adult themes

We have included this information not to put you off from auditioning but rather to be honest about what the show includes. To avoid difficulties later, we encourage all auditionees to read a full synopsis of the show and consider watching the movie prior to auditioning. You might also wish to discuss this with your family, friends or healthcare professional prior to making the decision to audition.

Please be assured that *Heathers* will be created in a safe and controlled manner and we will treat the material with sensitivity.

However, if you are auditioning for/offered one of these roles and have concerns about the above please discuss it with the production team before committing to the show.

## **CHARACTER BREAKDOWN**

**NOTE** the ages stated below are 'stage age', actors older than these ages may be cast

VERONICA SAWYER - 17. She burns to be both cool and kind but doesn't know yet how to be both at the same time. Fierce sense of right and wrong, keen sense of ironic humor. Thinks she's an old soul, but she's still innocent enough to be blindsided by love/ hormones (or shocked by cruelty). Voice: High belting required, up to A. Must have dynamic and stylistic range.

JD - 17. He is darkly charismatic, compelling, attractive, charming on the outside yet very damaged on the inside. Keen smarts and strong inventive comedy. Voice: Strong, confident belt to at least an Ab, A preferable; wide emotional range.

HEATHER CHANDLER (RED HEATHER)- 17. Richest, hottest, most magnetic, cruelest girl in town. Relishes power and wields it like a scalpel – no fear, no patience, no mercy. Voice: Strong belt to F or higher preferred. Mezzo for chorus. NOTE: In certain choral songs Chandler can switch parts with her other Heathers as needed.

HEATHER MCNAMARA (YELLOW HEATHER) - 17. Beautiful, innocent, stupid, can be mean on command if Heather Chandler orders it, but actually quite vulnerable and fearful. Voice: Strong belt to Db, D preferred. Soprano for chorus. NOTE: in certain choral songs Heather Mac and Duke can switch vocal parts as needed.

HEATHER DUKE (GREEN HEATHER)- 17. Whipping-girl of the 3 Heathers. When she finally becomes Queen Bee, she wields power like a bulldozer. Alto for chorus. Voice: Strong belt to C, D preferred. Alto for chorus. NOTE: in certain choral songs Heather Duke and Mac can switch vocal parts as needed.

MARTHA DUNNSTOCK - 17. Nicknamed "Martha Dumptruck", the opposite of hot, confident, or popular. Huge and beautiful soul, optimistic even in the face of rejection. Voice: Strong belt to E or F, wide vocal expression.

RAM SWEENEY - 17, Linebacker. Big, insensitive to the feelings of others, ruled by appetites. Voice: Strong Baritone, belt to G, some Falsetto useful.

KURT KELLY - 17. Quarterback and Captain. Big, chiseled, rude, entitled, cocky. Mean, thinks he's the brains in the friendship with Ram. Voice: Tenor, strong belt to Ab or A, some Falsetto. NOTE: in certain songs Ram and Kurt can switch choral assignment if, say, Ram sings higher than Kurt.

RAM'S DAD / BIG BUD DEAN / COACH RIPPER - 40 to 45. Ram's Dad: Former football player turned suburban Dad, has never outgrown his glory days in high school. Hates weakness, but capable of soul-searching when tragedy strikes. Also plays Big Bud Dean: JD's single Dad. Big jolly personality that barely conceals the enormous rage bubbling just below the surface. Quite possibly a serial bomber. Also plays Coach Ripper: Stalwart, man's man; quick to defend his players. Voice: Baritone/Tenor – power Country/Gospel belt to Ab, higher welcome. NOTE: Depending on the auditions, it is possible these characters may be played by a combination of actors cast in other roles.

MS. FLEMING / VERONICA'S MOM - 45 to 50. Ms. Fleming: Aging hippie teacher, still yearning for the day the Age of Aquarius reaches Ohio. Hungry for the spotlight, resentful of entitled youth. Also plays Veronica's Mom: easygoing, distant, yet capable of laying down the law. Voice: Great belt up to C, higher always welcome. NOTE: Depending on the auditions, it is possible these characters may be played by a combination of actors cast in other roles.

KURT'S DAD / VERONICA'S DAD / PRINCIPAL GOWAN - 30 to 45. Kurt's Dad: Straight-laced, very conservative, also former football player. A simple guy, not book smart, you'd be happy to share a beer with him. Also plays Veronica's Dad: Easygoing and distant. Voice: Strong Baritone/Tenor -- power Country/Gospel belt to G, even higher better. Also plays Principal Gowan: Rumpled, burned out, hates conflict. NOTE: Depending on the auditions, it is possible these characters may be played by a combination of actors cast in other roles.

BOY 1 - Bitter Geek 16-18. A put-upon, bitter geek. Voice: Bari (up to F#) or Tenor (up to A).

BOY 2 - Blowdried Preppy 16-18. A blowdried 80's preppy. Voice: Bass (up to E) or Bari (up to G#).

BOY 3 - Hipster Dork 16-18. Thinks he's Ducky from 'Pretty In Pink.' Voice: Bari (up to F#) or Tenor (up to A).

GIRL 1 - Goth Girl 16-18. A sullen goth girl. Voice: Belt to at least C# (a Soprano up to high A/B is also a plus).

GIRL 2 - Stoner Chick 16-18. A fuzzyheaded stoner chick. Voice: Belt to at least C# (a Soprano up to high A/B is also a plus).

GIRL 3 - Young Republicanette 16-18. A tennis-playing, uptight Student Council type. Voice: Belt to at least C# (Soprano up to high A/B is also a plus).

ADDITIONAL PARTS - The audition panel may decide to cast additional chorus/ ensemble parts and understudies.