

# Character descriptions for “The Foreigner”

*In a fishing lodge in rural Tilghman County, Georgia, two English men, Froggy and Charlie, arrive as guests. After pleadings from his sick wife, the shy Charlie agreed to accompany Froggy on the trip. Froggy then claims that Charlie cannot talk because he is from an exotic country and does not understand English. Residents at the lodge try to talk to Charlie, anyway. Due to his supposed lack of ability to understand English, Charlie soon discovers scandals amongst some of the residents of the lodge.*

This is a very funny play and every character has very funny lines. This play has a bit of everything: comedy, drama, emotion and it gets a little intense at a couple of points. Although, Charlie is considered the lead, not one character would be considered insignificant. Every character is important in this play, they all feed off each other.

The character descriptions below are guidelines based on what I see in each character. They are not hard and fast rules. For example, the age of each character does not have to be your age some range it is how I see the character.

Thank you for your interest. I look forward to seeing you at the audition.

John Bass, Director

Auditions: November 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> with callbacks on the 29<sup>th</sup>.

Rehearsals: Monday, Tuesday and Thursdays December, January, and February.

Performances: February 15, 16, 17, 21, 22, 23

## **Charlie Baker**

- **Age range: 30's to early 40's**
- **Should be able to speak with an British accent as well as other foreign accents (possibly Slovak or other)**
- **Should be willing to be fairly physical**

Charlie Baker is the "foreigner" of the play's title, an Englishman. Initially, Charlie is extremely shy, dull, and morose as he worries about the apparently imminent death of his philandering wife. A proofreader for an English science fiction magazine, Charlie considers himself "boring" and wonders what it would be like to have a vibrant personality. At the beginning of the play, Charlie is so sad and shy that he doesn't want to speak to anyone. When Froggy introduces him as a "foreigner" who can't speak or understand English however, Charlie reluctantly takes on the role. He gradually discovers his hidden potential: leadership skills, love, and the vibrant personality he has always craved.

## **Reverend David Marshall Lee**

- **Age range: late 20' to early 40's**
- **Should be able to speak with a Southern accent**

The Reverend David Marshall Lee is a good-looking man, the fiancé of Catherine, and one of the main villains in the play, along with Owen Musser. Pretending to be concerned about Betty and her struggling business, David secretly attempts to gain control of her lodge so he can turn it into the Tilghman County headquarters for the Ku Klux Klan. David appears to be friendly, sincere, genuinely decent, kind, and patient, and he is quite canny in carrying out his devious plot.

## **Staff Sergeant Froggy LeSueur**

- **Age range: mid 30's to 50's**
- **Should be able to speak with a heavy British accent**
- **Confident and sure of himself**

Froggy is a demolitions expert from the British Army who brings his friend, Charlie Baker, to Georgia for a three-day weekend. In his annual visits to the United States, Froggy has become good friends with Betty Meeks and is genuinely concerned about her welfare. When Charlie pleads for solitude during his brief stay, Froggy is caught between his loyalties to both Betty and Charlie, so he hatches the plan to pass Charlie off as a "foreigner." Froggy's plan is for Betty to be charmed by the exotic visitor, while Charlie gets his needed peace and quiet. Froggy speaks with a Cockney accent, is dressed in his army fatigues, and is extremely cheerful and very sure of himself. He is loud and leads a very exciting life, almost the exact opposite of Charlie.

## **Betty Meeks**

- **Age range: 50's to 60's**
- **Should be able to speak with a thick Southern accent.**
- **Not afraid of a good days labor**

Betty Meeks is an older woman, a widow, and the owner and operator of the fishing lodge and resort in which the play takes place. Betty has always dreamed of traveling outside of Georgia and is quite thrilled with the prospect of having a "real, live foreigner" as her guest. Since the death of her husband, Betty has been struggling to keep her resort business alive, unaware of David and Owen's underhanded plot to gain control of it. Betty speaks with a strong Georgia accent, and talks to Charlie, "the foreigner," as if he were deaf, as if speaking louder and slower will facilitate Charlie's understanding.

## **Owen Musser**

- **Age range: mid 30's to 50's**
- **Should be able to speak with a thick Southern accent.**
- **Neanderthal in nature and a very angry person.**

Owen Musser is a local Georgia man who serves as the henchman for the main villain, the Reverend David Lee. After being named the property inspector for Tilghman County, Georgia, Owen takes full advantage of his new authority to help himself as well as cause harm to others. To call Owen "crude" is to indulge in understatement: he is mean-spirited, ignorant, volatile, and extremely prejudiced against anyone who doesn't fit his ideal of "Christian, white America." A character you love to hate and a very fun role.

## **Catherine Simms**

- **Age range: mid 20's to 30's**
- **Should be able to speak with a Southern accent**
- **Attractive younger woman**

Catherine is staying with Betty at the lodge. She is engaged to the Reverend David Lee, unaware of his true, villainous character. A former debutante and the heiress of a huge fortune, Catherine is bored with life, restless, and unsure of what she wants. In the beginning, she is a bit of a whiner and somewhat sarcastic. When she discovers in Charlie a man who is genuinely kind and really enjoys listening, she believes she has found her ideal romantic mate. Catherine is small in stature and pretty.

## **Ellard Simms**

- **Age range: 20's**
- **Should be able to speak with a Southern accent**
- **Overgrown, backward youth**

Ellard is the youngest of the cast, and Catherine's younger brother, an extremely insecure young man who is considered by others to be mentally defective. An overgrown, backward youth, who spends much of his time kneading something tiny and invisible in front of his chest. Catherine has promised to give Ellard half of their very large inheritance if he shows any signs of mental and social competence. During the course of the play Ellard proves to have both moderate intelligence and considerable courage.