

## The Color of Stars Audition Packet

Sunday, April 24 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm and Monday, April 25 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm

Thank you so much for your interest in auditioning for 'The Color of Stars'.

With all that is going on in the world today I find this historically set play to be very current. It contains a powerful message as it gives us a peek back to a time almost 80 years ago – a time that really isn't much different than the issues we face today.

Below is a short synopsis of the play and the list of characters and a bit of insight into each of them.

Set in Maine during World War 2, 'The Color of Stars' is a story of family, patriotism, fear and prejudice. 11 year old Eddie Winthrop has been sent to live with his grandparents, Alfred and Mabel Winthrop, on the family farm while his father fights in the Pacific and his mother works at a shipyard in a large city. Mabel sister, Isabel and her husband, Alfred, are the Winthrop's neighbors and the two couples are very close. When a stranger, Felix Stetler, arrives in town to survey the local woods for trees to use in building Navy minesweepers, events are set in motion that will challenge the ties of family and friendship and question the definitions of patriotism and civic duty. Eddie finds himself in the middle of it all and is faced with some difficult moral and ethical dilemmas.

### Characters:

Eddie Winthrop – a boy that can look 11 years old, - he is troubled, misses his parents terribly and is not happy about having to leave his mother to come live on the farm.

Luke Winthrop – a male actor that can look in his 50s or so – Eddie's grandfather, he is the definition of 'stolid' – calm, dependable but showing little emotion or animation

Mabel Winthrop – a female actress that can look in her 50s or so – Eddie's grandmother, life hasn't been easy but she does her best to maintain a positive frame in mind regarding the world in general

Isabel Perkins – a female actress that can look in her late 40s or so – Mabel's sister, she has a curt tongue, is judgmental and makes up her mind immediately about people

Albert Perkins – a male actor that can look in his 50s or so – Isabel's husband, he is haunted by his time fighting in World War 1, extremely suspicious of anyone who is not just like him

Felix Stetler – a male actor in late 20, early 30s – a government work, private about himself, a heart condition has kept him from fighting so he just wants to serve his country any way he can

### Audition pages:

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# Little Theatre of Owatonna

Audition Number

## AUDITION FORM

Show: \_\_\_\_\_

Dates: \_\_\_\_\_

Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Age: \_\_\_\_\_ Height: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (s): \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

### Recent Theatre Experience or Roles: Attach resume if you'd like.

_____	Theatre	_____	Year	_____
_____	Theatre	_____	Year	_____
_____	Theatre	_____	Year	_____
_____	Theatre	_____	Year	_____
_____	Theatre	_____	Year	_____

Role You're Auditioning for: \_\_\_\_\_

2<sup>nd</sup> Choice: \_\_\_\_\_ 3<sup>rd</sup> Choice: \_\_\_\_\_

Would you consider other roles? YES NO

Anything else you'd like us to know?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

### Other opportunities with us:

If not cast as a performer, are you interested in helping with the production in another area? YES NO

### Other Theatre Skills – Circle any that apply:

- SET PAINTING   ARTISTIC EFFECTS   MAKEUP   HAIR   SPECIAL EFFECTS   PROPS
- SEWING/COSTUMES   SET BUILDING   FRONT OF HOUSE   PHOTOGRAPHY   MUSIC   LIGHTBOARD
- SPOTLIGHT   SOUND BOARD   LIGHT/SOUND DESIGN   STAGE CREW   GENERAL AWESOMENESS

Your preferred contact info:

Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Text: YES NO

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Potential medical or other conditions to note:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Are you currently performing/ rehearsing anything now? If so, please note any possible scheduling conflicts below.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Are there any other potential scheduling conflicts you are currently aware of? Please list below.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

How did you hear about our auditions?

NEWSPAPER    FACEBOOK    INSTAGRAM    LTO WEBSITE    FRIEND    OTHER

EMERGENCY CONTACT:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent or Guardian info (If Under 18): \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship: \_\_\_\_\_

**Safety Volunteer Background Checks must be completed for all volunteers 18 years and older at no cost and will be completed every 3 years.**

*Thank you for auditioning!*

# The Color of Stars

## Audition Scenes

### Cast monologues

**MABEL.** Eddie came to us in late September. The poor boy. He didn't want to live with his grandparents, but we were glad to have him. It felt good havin' a boy in the house again, and he looks so much like his father, George. It's been two years since George joined the Marines and went off to fight the Japanese. That's been hard on Eddie - been hard on *all* of us. Then Eddie's mother went to work in the shipyard, and, well, she felt the boy needed more lookin' after. So she brought him up here to the farm. I guess this war demands sacrifices from everyone, even I I-year-old boys.

**EDDIE.** Before the war, my dad and I used to look at the stars at night. We'd lie on the grass. He would name a bunch of them. He taught me how to find the North Star. First you have to find the Big Dipper. This one time, he told me that the stars aren't really white. They're not. They are giant balls of fire, but they are so far away we can't see their colors. So far away. Just like my dad.

**ISABEL** It's not that I didn't like him - at first. I just got this feelin' there was somethin' not quite right about the man. And I wasn't the only one. Ev'ryone in town could see that there was somethin' odd about him. Ev'ryone except my sister. Mabel is the most stubborn woman you ever want to meet. She wouldn't hear anything bad about that Mr. Stetler. But I had this feeling. I just did.

**FELIX.** I don't make a lot of friends doing what I do. I can't. And besides, for every family like the Winthrops, there are IO like the Perkins. So I've had to learn how to get in, do my job and get out. That's my war. My battles aren't in Sicily or the South Pacific, they're in the villages and farmhouses of America. It's better- it's easier not to get attached to nice people like the Winthrops. So how did I end up spending all that time with Eddie?

**ALFRED.** That man was up to no good. He was s'posed to be lookin' at trees, wasn't he? So what was he doin' lookin' in barns and sheds? I saw him with my own two eyes down at the old Proctor place. He was snoopin' around, even lookin' in the windows of the house. Nobody 's lived there for years, but he didn't know that, did he? And then Eddie started to tag along with him. I didn't like it. I didn't like it one bit.

**LUKE.** My great-grandfather was one of the early settlers in these parts. His son, my grandfather, cleared all these fields. Took him years, takin' down the Trees, diggin' out the stumps, clearin' all the rock. He only had the use of one arm - he was wounded durin' the battle of Gettysburg- but he had so much strength in that one arm. I remember him lifting me over his head. Don't know how he did it, but I remember it like it was yesterday. This farm isn't much, but it's ours.

## Luke and Eddie

EDDIE. Do you come up here every night?

LUKE. When it's my turn.

EDDIE. How often is that?

LUKE. Oh 'bout once a week or so. Oh, we shouldn't use that flashlight, son.

EDDIE. Why do you have this book if you can't read it ?

LUKE. If I spot a plane, I can look it up to see what it is.

EDDIE. You don't have the shapes memorized?

LUKE. No.

EDDIE. I do. I know the shapes of all the American, German and Japanese planes. At school, my teacher holds up flash cards with the shapes and we have to say what they are. I know them all.

LUKE. That'll be good if we spot somethin'. Though I doubtwe'll see any Japanese planes flyin' over the state of Maine.

EDDIE. I bet the kids around here don't know all the shapes.

LUKE. Don't know.

EDDIE. In Bath, we have to be ready because of the shipyard.

LUKE. Ayuh.

EDDIE. There's nothing to bomb here - except a bunch of stupid cows.

LUKE. No. I don't s'pose there is.

EDDIE. Do you sleep up here?

LUKE. No.

EDDIE. So why's there a cot?

LUKE. It's just there if it's needed, I s'pose.

EDDIE. So you could come up here and just sleep, right?

LUKE. That would n't be doin' my job, would it?

EDDIE. There are lookouts in every town in Maine. Someone else will watch. You could come up here and sleep, and nobody would ever know.

LUKE. I would. My father always said to me, "Do what you say, say what you do." Now, what would happen if nobody kept watch when they said they would? Them Germans could get all the way to Bath without warnin'.

EDDIE. We have anti-aircraft guns in Bath. They'll shoot the planes down. You don't have any of them guns around here, do you?

LUKE. No.

EDDIE. So really, I'd be safer back there with my mom.

LUKE. Your mother is workin' long hours. She was worriedabout you.

EDDIE. I didn't do anything.

LUKE. I didn't ...

EDDIE. It's not fair. First we moved away from all of my friends in Portland, and went to Bath where I didn't know anybody. Then, just when I made some friends and started having fun, she sent me here.

LUKE. She wants you to go to school here in Norfield.

EDDIE. I was already in school in Bath!

LUKE. We're s'posed to be watchin' for German planes, not shoutin' at 'em.

EDDIE. There are no German planes anywhere near here anyway. Nothin's near here.

LUKE. That's true.

EDDIE. There isn't even a movie theater.

LUKE. Nope.

EDDIE. So I can't see the newsreels now.

LUKE. We read the news in the paper and listen to the radio

EDDIE. But- they show the war. In the newsreels. Sometimes they show Marines. They might show my dad and now I'll miss him.

## Luke, Felix and Eddie

FELIX. Mr. Winthrop ...

LUKE. Don't you speak to me. Don't you dare speak to any of my family again.

FELIX. You can't believe ...

LUKE. Why? You, a man who comes here and lies about himself

FELIX. I didn't ...

LUKE. You take my wife's hospitality and spit it in her face. You treat the affections of my grandson as you would a piece of dirt ...

FELIX. I never ...

LUKE. And all right under the nose of a self-righteous old fool who couldn't see the devil smiling in his own face!

ALFRED. It's not your fault, Luke.

LUKE. Yes, it is! All of it! If I can't even protect my family and my property, what good am I?

EDDIE. Grampa ...

LUKE. Well, I'm too late to stop that fire-the fire that took away the one thing I could give to help my son and boys like him. You beat me there, Mr. Stetler.

EDDIE. Grampa, no ...

LUKE. I couldn't stop the fire that burned my son-my poor son!

LUKE. But I *will* stop this now. Get out of my house! I hope you rot in some jail! Get out of my house!

EDDIE. He didn't do it! I did. I started the fire.

MABEL. You ... ? Eddie, what are you sayin'?

EDDIE. I did it! It's my fault! I did it! I'm sorry, Grampa! I did it. I was cold, so I started a fire. Just a little one. Dad taught me all about fires. We would go hiking and we would build a fire. I was cold and it's what Dad would do. Build a fire. So I did. Then the wind started blowing it, so I tried to put it out, but it kept jumping and spreading. It got so big so fast. And I couldn't stop it. That's when I came to get you. I was going to tell you, but ... I didn't. It wasn't him, it was me. I did it. And now Dad is hurt! I did it. I'm sorry I'm sorry. I'm sorry.

## Mabel and Isabel

MABEL. Mr Stetler seems nice enough.

ISABEL. Don't look like he has a heart condition to me.

MABEL. Don't you start. If the man says he has heart trouble why should we doubt it?

ISABEL. All I'm sayin' is, he looks healthy to me.

MABEL. Well, thank you, Doctor Perkins.

ISABEL. It wouldn't hurt you to be more careful, you know. We are at war after all ...

MABEL. I'm very aware of that fact.

ISABEL. And we're s'posed to be mindful. You never knowabout people.

MABEL. People like Tom and Anna Hoffman?

ISABEL. Well, yes. Just like them. I am glad they moved away.

MABEL. It's shameful. They was nice, decent folk.

ISABEL. They was Germans. Alfred says never trust a German. You know the gov'hment moved all them Japanese to those camps. It's the same thing. We can't take chances. We can't be blinded by big soft hearts like yours.

MABEL. I don't see how bein' charitable to people you've known for 20 years makes you blind. To think how those poor folks were driven out of their own home. Paintin' a swastika on their barn. That weren't right. It was cruel.

ISABEL. Well, people went too far-I agree with you. But,they're gone now, and I, for one, am relieved. We don't need no Germans here. (stop..then) Mabel Winthrop are you goin' to stay mad at me forever?

MABEL. I'm not mad at you.

ISABEL. You are, too. You've been mad all week. You've barely spoken two words to Alfred or me, and we haven't had supper together once. Now, I know you, and I know how you can hold a grudge.

MABEL. I don't hold grudges.

ISABEL. Then what is it?

MABEL. Nothin'. It's not important.

ISABEL. What do you mean it's not important? What is it?

MABEL. Forget it.

ISABEL. I will not. What s it?

MABEL. I don't like the way Alfred talks to Luke. There. I said it.

ISABEL. How does he talk to Luke?

MABEL. He talks down to him. He makes Luke feel bad about hissself andI guess I finally had enough.

ISABEL. You've known Alfre for 25 years. He's always been a big talker. You know he means nothin' by it!

MABEL. That's just it, I don't know he means nothin' by it!

ISABEL. Luke don't seem to mind. He gives it right back to Alfred.

MABEL. It's not the same thing.

## Felix and Eddie

FELIX. Hello.

EDDIE. Hi.

FELIX. Practicing your spying skills?

EDDIE. No. I was just ... what are you doing?

FELIX. Working.

EDDIE. Looks like you're just standing there.

FELIX. I guess I am. The leaves are beautiful.

EDDIE. Grampa said before the war people used to drive around here all fall to look at the leaves.

FELIX. I can believe it.

EDDIE. They're just leaves.

FELIX. They're nice to look at.

EDDIE. I guess. Are these the right kind of trees?

FELIX. Yup. Red oak. These woods are full of them.

EDDIE. What's so special about red oak?

FELIX. It's strong and the trees grow straight and tall.

EDDIE. What are you writing in your book?

FELIX. Notes about the area and the trees. The size, shape and number.

EDDIE. Counting trees.

FELIX. Yep.

EDDIE. It's like you're the spy.

FELIX. Yeah. A spy. A tree spy. That's my job.

EDDIE. Because you have a bad heart.

FELIX. That's what the doctors say.

EDDIE. Can't you get it fixed?

FELIX. No. They say there's nothing they can do. It just is what it is.

EDDIE. Really?

FELIX. Yes, really. I look healthy so nobody believes it. Sometimes I think I should just wear a sign that says, '4F. Bad heart. Really.'

EDDIE. Oh.

FELIX. Any other questions?

EDDIE. No.

FELIX. Sorry. I just get tired of explaining myself. People here ... other than your grand parents, these people are ... well, they don't make you feel very welcome, if you know what I mean.

EDDIE. Yeah. The kids are like that, too.

FELIX. Yeah?

EDDIE. Yeah.

FELIX. So we're both in the same boat.

## Luke and Alfred

ALFRED. Clarence Worth says that the Pennsylvania Dutch are actually German.

LUKE. What?

ALFRED. He says that German word for German sounds like Dutch, so there was a mix up when they first came over here, and they were called Pennsylvania Dutch.

LUKE. So Mr. Stetler...

ALFRED....is a German!

LUKE. What difference does it make?

ALFRED. What difference? The man lied!

LUKE. He didn't lie.

ALFRED. He most certainly did. He didn't want us to know he was German, so he says, "Pennsylvania Dutch." He was countin' on us ignorant country folk not knowin' what that meant.

LUKE. So that makes him a spy for Hitler?

ALFRED. Maybe.

LUKE. Well, that is just plain ridiculous.

ALFRED. Laugh if you like, but I think I have a little more experience with Germans than you. It's all fine for you to go along thinkin' everybody is just as nice and honest as you and Mabel, but I'm here to tell you that the world outthere ain't a Sunday picnic. He rubbed me the wrong way from the moment he got here. And not just me-the whole town, 'cept you. Ev'rybody's been talkin' 'bout how he snoops and sneaksaround, like he's lookin' for somethin'.

LUKE. He is! He's lookin' for trees!

ALFRED. I didn't like it one bit seein' Eddie with him. But, I bit my tongue, Luke. I did. I told Isabel, too. I said, 'tweren't our place to say anthin' 'bout you lettin' Eddie spend so much time with the man. But now we know he is a liar. And if you're a liar, there is no sin you fear to commit.

LUKE. What are you sayin'?

Did you ever think that maybe the man was tired of folks like you jumpin all over him because he was German?

Maybe he figured it was easier to just not bring up the subject.

ALFRED. Easier? Do you hear what you just said? Since when is doin' what's easier the right thing to do? If he had nothin' to hide, he should have just stated the fact and moved on.

LUKE. But you wouldn't have let him move on..

ALFRED. That's neither here nor there! Face it! He duped you plain and simple. Now, I don't blame you and Mabel, Germans are a connivin' bunch. They're clever. That's why they are so dangerous.

## Alfred and Felix

ALFRED. Where have you been this past week? Huh? We called your office. They said you'd taken a leave of absence. So where'd you go - all innocent and the like?

FELIX. Moosehead Lake, if you must know.

ALFRED. Oh. Decided to just go fishin', did you?

FELIX. That's right. I decided I needed a break - some time alone. Eddie had told me about Moosehead Lake, so I went there.

ALFRED. Just like that.

FELIX. Just like that. Your sheriff is verifying all this. He's contacting the fishing camp where I stayed.

ALFRED. Prob'ly all part of your connivin'.

FELIX. There was no "connivin'." I am an employee of the United States government. I was sent here to do a job. I did it. You've created a whole fantasy life for me, but *I* guess that's your prerogative.

ALFRED. You think you can stand here and insult me? You think you can make fun of my ignorant speech, and throw around a bunch of ten-dollar words? You think that is goin' to shut me up? You are somethin'. I see what you're up to. You're plan- nin' and connivin'. That's how you people operate.

FELIX. What do you mean, "you people?"

ALFRED. You know what I mean.

FELIX. I'm an American just like you!

ALFRED. No, sir! You're not!

FELIX. I was born here! My parents were born here!

ALFRED. I fought you people ..

FELIX. I'm not from Germany!

ALFRED. And I didn't find some sorry excuse to get out of it! I didn't stay home! I went overseas and put my life on the line.

FELIX. Mr. Perkins, my father also fought in France - for America. And if you know some way to get me into the army, please tell me. I've tried every way I could. I want to fight. I want to fight like you did. If you know how to fix my heart, please do! I've been to doctors in four states and they all tell me there's nothing they can do, it's just how it is, but maybe you know better!