

ABC PLAYERS PLAY PROPOSAL FORM
2026-2027

Play: Kurt Vonnegut's God Bless You, Mr. Rosewater

Author: Howard Ashman and Alan Menken

Director: Kevin Kunz

Check Preferred Time(s): Fall December Winter Spring

Cast Requirements: (provide number needed)

__10__ Men, __5__ Women, __Boys, __ Girls, ____ Any

Plot Synopsis:

Eliot Rosewater, the president of the Rosewater Foundation, the heir to the fourteenth largest family fortune in America, is insane. He wants to do more with his life than just writing checks to people looking for grants and donations, and sets off on a journey to find his purpose and meaning. This search takes him home to Rosewater, Indiana, a derelict and impoverished town that has lost all hope and respect. The colorful and bizarre residents immediately sing Eliot's praises, and he believes that he has finally found meaning in his life. However, Eliot's wife Sylvia--as devoted as can be--can't keep up with her husband's philanthropy. His father--a United States Senator--disapproves of Eliot's choices. And Norman Mushari--a greedy and unethical lawyer--hatches a plot to get his hands on the family fortune. If Mushari can make sure that Eliot is declared legally insane, then Eliot loses the fortune and inheritance, and all of his charitable works come to an end. Can Eliot--despite his neuroses and psychoses--confound Mushari's scheme? Can he get his hero Kilgore Trout--a prolific and unsuccessful science fiction writer--to justify why he devotes so much time and money to the destitute and derelict? And how will Eliot's legacy live on?

Based on Kurt Vonnegut's 1965 novel, *God Bless You, Mr. Rosewater*, pays homage to Vonnegut's witty humor and energetic dialogue, interspersed with fun and poignant music. This musical is the first collaboration between Alan Menken and Howard Ashman, and helped catapult their careers as one of the most recognizable musical writing duos of the twentieth century.

Unusual Technical Aspects (set, costuming, music, lighting, dialect, etc.):

Setting takes place in 1960s for consideration on costuming. Firefighter uniforms/hats needed for the number “Thank God For the Volunteer Fire Brigade”. Would request Gateway signs to be flown in to signify location changes (Locations include Rosewater, Indiana, New York, Pisquontuit, Rhode Island)

The Voice Not Unlike God’s that is heard narrating throughout the show will like be pre recorded but will need some additional work in advance with sound for the technical effect to actually sound larger than life.

Names/Positions of Committed Staff (Optional):

N/A

Other Comments:

The roles of Fred Rosewater and Caroline Rosewater are normally doubled but I believe these are potential castings that can be performed as stand-alone roles for increased participation in this show if need be.

If my artistic vision for this is allowed by the powers that be (MTI) my vision does potentially include the use of one of our older youth performers in a non-speaking capacity near the end of the climatic number of the show “A Firestorm over Indianapolis” as Eliot is suffering a complete mental breakdown and recounts his PTSD related trauma from WWII involving his guilt over the accidental slayings of 3 unarmed firemen, one of which was “no older than 14.”

Budget Estimates:

Costumes	\$500	Royalties	\$2,000-\$2,500
Lights	\$1250	Scripts	\$500
Programs	\$100	Set	\$1250
Props	\$250	Sound Effects/Video	\$0
Publicity	\$100	TOTAL	\$5,950-\$6,450

Characters/Roles:

Eliot Rosewater

A tall, bulky, slightly unkempt, often distracted sweetheart of a man. Heir to Rosewater fortune, and President of the Rosewater Foundation. Optimistic, quixotic, a bit insane - troubled by darker past.

Gender: male

Age: 35 to 45

Vocal range top: F4

Vocal range bottom: G2

Sylvia Rosewater

Eliot Rosewater's wife. Nervous, attractive, well-bred and well-intentioned.

Gender: female

Age: 35 to 45

Vocal range top: B4

Vocal range bottom: F3

Senator Rosewater

Eliot's father, an elderly, very wealthy, practical minded Senator from Indiana.

Gender: male

Age: 70 to 80

Mr. Mcallister

The Senator's lawyer. Old guard, practical, hardworking.

Gender: male

Age: 60 to 70

Norman Mushari

An oily, ever-watchful, young newcomer to McAllister's firm. Ambitious and cut-throat.

Gender: male

Age: 20 to 30

Vocal range top: E4

Vocal range bottom: G2

Mary Moody

The tired, battered, often-pregnant resident hooker of Rosewater County. Doubles as Blanche, Miss Swarthmore, Non, Telethon Hostess.

Gender: female

Age: 30 to 40

Vocal range top: B4

Vocal range bottom: B3

Dawn Leonard

A mousy, shy, washed-out middle-aged Rosewater County woman who dresses like a teenager. Double as Caroline Rosewater, File Clerk, Telephone Operator, Hostess.

Gender: female

Age: 45 to 60

Vocal range top: Eb5

Vocal range bottom: B3

Diana Moon Glampers

The dumbest, homeliest, and possibly most overweight woman in Rosewater County. Has a variety of ailments, both real and imagined. Has worked for the Rosewater family. Doubles as File Clerk, Telephone Operator.

Gender: female

Age: 60 to 70

Vocal range top: B4

Vocal range bottom: B3

Charley Warmergram

Lanky, goodnatured fire-chief of Rosewater County. Doubles as Applicant 1, Arthur Garvey Ulm, Fireman Ray.

Gender: male

Age: 45 to 60

Vocal range top: B3

Vocal range bottom: C2

Delbert Peach

An alcoholic derelict in Rosewater County. Double as Executive, Man in Suicide Parlor, Fireman Bill, Man in Bar.

Gender: male

Age: 20 to 40

Vocal range top: G3
Vocal range bottom: B2

Noyes Finnerty

Tough ex-convict in Rosewater County. Doubles as Mail-Boy, Fireman Al, Science Fiction Writer 1, Fred Rosewater, Bus Driver.

Gender: male
Age: 20 to 30
Vocal range top: Eb4
Vocal range bottom: C#3

Jerome Hayes

A not-too-bright young greaser from Rosewater County. Double as Applicant 2, Kid, Fireman Paul, Sgt. Boyle.

Gender: male
Age: 20 to 30
Vocal range top: G3
Vocal range bottom: G2

Psychiatrist

A nervous, serious, dead-pan professional. Doubles as Fireman John, The Alien, Science Fiction Writer 2, Man in Phone Booth, Passenger.

Gender: male
Age: 30 to 50

Kilgore Trout

The noted science fiction writer, a rumped, bearded, tennis-shoed visionary. (It is suggested that his voice be the Voice No Unlike God's which is heard from time to time in the show.)

Gender: male
Age: 40 to 50