

# Auditions for Race by David Mamet

Directed by Thomas-Whit Ellis

Contemporary drama.

4 Characters: 30's-40's

2WM

1BM

1BF

All actors interested in auditioning for this play must first participate in the department's general auditions scheduled for Sunday, [August 24th, 2014](#) in the John Wright Theatre/Speech Art's Building.

All actors must present a monologue, two minutes in length, drawn from material that best represents their skills and interests. Actors must make sure they do not wait until the last minute to find or rehearse their material. This reflects poorly on their personal discipline and work ethic.

Callbacks:

Callbacks for Race will be held on [Monday](#) the 25th, from 4 to 6:30 pm and [Tuesday](#) the 26th, from 7 to 9 pm. All Race callbacks will be held in the Woods theatre. Strong casting consideration will be given to actors who have prepared an alternative monologue drawn from any aspect of black or character appropriate dramatic literature or film. Actors will be required to present this alternative monologue during the callbacks, participate in drama exercises and possibly read from the script.

All actors interested in being cast in this show should read this play and have an understanding of its background. For more information on the script please click the link below or check with the department to check out a hard copy.

Also please consult the department's audition policy for more

information regarding the general auditions. If you have questions feel free to contact the director at [thomee2@att.net](mailto:thomee2@att.net).

Race is a legally based drama which played on Broadway 4 years ago with Kerry Washington, James Spader, David Allen Grier and Richard Thomas.

The story revolves a wealthy white businessman accused of raping a professional African American woman. He then hires a legal firm specifically hoping to have its black female or male lawyer defend him assuming such an image will sway a potential jury. The play also examines our court and jury system which often forgoes the pursuit of truth in exchange for jury and public opinion manipulation. Another theme presented suggests people inject their deep seeded racial bias onto the legal process often assuming guilt or innocence based on the "race" of the accused or victim. In other words, people make up their minds on guilt or innocence way before a case goes to trial. And in doing so they become emotionally vexed if the verdict doesn't follow their predetermined sense of justice.

As a research assignment, everyone should simply Google the statistics on black conviction rates for raping white females. Then compare these numbers with those of whites accused of raping an African American female. This is just one crime type. The same skewed rates apply to all major crime categories in this country. Many people assume those convicted of such crimes are automatically guilty. A deeper look at the legal system posits the notion that conviction rates can be mitigated depending on the best legal team money can buy. Or in the case of the prosecution, that leaking bits of information to the public can go a long way in pushing a jury toward conviction long before they are empanelled.

This play does a very good job of arguing both sides making for great theatre.