2027 Indiana Thespians All State Production
Audition Packet

Written by Will Eno

Virtual Auditions Due:
August 21, 2026
Performance:
Indiana Thespian State Conference
Friday, January 22, 2027

Auditioners must fill out the performer application and submit your audition material using this link (https://forms.gle/4LUt7FLqqfo4SShx5) or by scanning this QR code

Questions? Email Amy Hayes (ahayes@indianathespians.org)

The complete play and audition materials are available on the Indiana Thespians website.

What is Middletown?

Middletown is anywhere and everywhere, the sort of place you'd expect to find Everymen and Everywomen on Every corner. Will Eno's beautiful, witty prose knits a series of vignettes together, weaving a story of a seemingly quaint town whose characters are quietly suffering huge crises.

John Dodge, cycling through hobbies and earning a living doing menial labor, finds the middle of his life without meaning. This naturally leads him to consider how his life will end, and, dangerously, if he should bring the end about himself. Mrs. Swanson, a newcomer in town, spends her time preparing for the arrival of her baby, handling it all on her own as Mr. Swanson is (always) out of town on business. When their trajectories cross paths, they must navigate how the other's story weaves into their own. The townspeople – Cop, Librarian, Mechanic, Doctors, Landscaper – rightfully carry out their duties while grappling with their own place in the tapestry of life.

The plot itself is simple; it is the journey to get there that becomes complex. The production team recommends that you read the script (a quick read!) in its entirety to best understand the what and the how of Middletown; the what is easily laid out, the how is harder to summarize here.

Consider these questions as you read: who is stuck in the middle, dwelling too much on their beginning or their end? Who relishes in the present? And how does the absence of something help a character (or the audience) to appreciate that something even more?

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CHARACTERS
(In Order of Appearance)

Public Speaker – sets the tone, welcomes the audience (any gender)

Cop – observes and reports to the audience, maintains the order in Middletown, though they can't in his own life. (any gender)

Mrs. Swanson – embraces the newness in her life: new town, new relationships, new baby on the way.

John Dodge – wallows in the in-between-ness, embracing everything and nothing simultaneously. Morbidly focuses on

Mechanic– excels at mediocrity and at fixing cars; cannot fix themselves. Dwells on what they could have been. (male presenting)

Librarian – Injects their own voice as they inform and advise the townspeople of Middletown. Softens the blow of reality. (female presenting)

Cop's Radio Voice – responds thoughtfully (any gender)

Tour Guide – learns to appreciate their job and their town (any gender)

Male Tourist – finds perspective, appreciates the present (male presenting)

Female Tourist – finds perspective, appreciates the present (female presenting)

Greg – the astronaut; appreciates Earth and Life from above (male presenting)

Ground Control – a grounding force for Greg (any gender)

Aunt – ponders the show with her niece/nephew, Sweetheart (female presenting)

Sweetheart – a young person, the "audience" with perhaps the clearest understanding of what's truly going on. (Role for a Junior Thespian)(any gender)

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Freelancer – ponders the show (and themselves) in the audience (any gender)

Woman – ponders the show from the audience (female presenting)

Man - ponders the show from the audience (male presenting)

Landscaper – considers new life (any gender)

Male Doctor – expeditiously performs his duty (male presenting)

Intercom Voice – no nonsense voice of the office (any gender)

Female Doctor – helps characters navigate the next step (female presenting)

Attendant 2 - soothes and assists (any gender)

Attendant 1 – soothes and assists (any gender)

Janitor – cleans up the mess (any gender)

CHARACTER NOTES

The cast will consist of 11 actors.
<u>If cast in the following roles, the actor will play only that role.</u>
Mrs. Swanson, John Dodge, Mechanic, Cop, Librarian, Sweetheart

<u>Five additional actors will be cast to cover the rest of the roles.</u> The distribution of which will be identified during the audition process.

Content warning:
The Mechanic - The script states that the Mechanic enters a scene with "ceremonial dress" in his arms. This is Native American dress which he puts on and does a dance. Some changes to this will be adopted as agreed upon by the playwright to avoid cultural appropriation. The dance will still take place but dance ability is not required. A willingness to move in dancelike fashion with the help of a choreographer is necessary. He drinks alcohol in the

show and sees a doctor about pain medicine. It is alluded to that he struggles with drugs but it is not conclusive.

John Dodge - The character struggles with suicidal ideation and attempts suicide at one point. This attempt is offstage but he does discuss this with the Female Doctor character onstage. He later has a reaction to drugs administered in the hospital and dies on stage. Please consider this when auditioning for the role.

Cop and Landscaper - The character discusses participation in "rough" behavior and "bad moods" which implies some level of aggression in their behavior as a cop. The character also mimes shooting the Landscaper in the head using finger guns. Please consider this when auditioning for these roles.

Content to consider:

- Romantic relationships
- Mild profanity
- Staged violence
- Discussions or portrayals of murder, suicide, religion, and God
- Depictions of alcohol consumption
- References to pregnancy and childbirth
- Scenes involving death or grief

For all roles, your level of comfort and boundaries will be taken into consideration through a collaborative rehearsal process. Communicating openly and honestly will not affect your casting and participation in this show.

AUDITION PROCESS

WHO CAN AUDITION?

The All State Thespian Production is open to audition for all Thespian and Future Thespians grades 9th-12th for all roles. The role of Sweetheart is open to audition for all Junior Thespians.

REHEARSALS

Due to the nature of this show's rehearsal process, students are encouraged to participate in the all state production as well as their local high school productions. The production team will be utilizing both in person and virtual rehearsals to accommodate best for thespians and their schools. Rehearsals are mainly on Saturdays to avoid school day conflicts.The current rehearsal schedule is currently set at this link
(https://docs.google.com/document/d/11eJEkvD7p3_6uXgsbZh98o5JDSG-vamzstze8A93Xt0/edit?usp=sharing)
and will be solidified once a cast is set. Please list any conflicts on your performer application so we may best schedule rehearsals.

LOCATIONS

Because the continuation of the All-State Thespian Production was approved in early July and because many schools are still on break, we have not yet secured rehearsal sites for all our dates but we will be doing so shortly. ALL rehearsals will take place at middle and high schools in and around the Indianapolis area. Sites will go no further north than Noblesville High School and no further south than Franklin Community High School.

Indiana Thespians

All-State Thespians Calendar

The current schedule has many TBD dates and locations. Indiana Thespians has a location for each day of in-person rehearsal but it is our plan to include more schools on our calendar. Locations, therefore, are TBD, not the dates.

Looking through the schedule, you will see that there are many rehearsals where we are asking for your availability and will choose the best date for the cast and crew. Please communicate your most open availability.

If we change the schedule, we will only shorten rehearsal times or cut rehearsals. We will never add them.

Audition Submissions Due Application and materials Recommendations Liability & Medical Waiver	by 11:59pm CST on Friday, August 21, 2026 (12:59am EST on Saturday, August 22, 2026)	Virtual - Through Google Forms
Casting and Technical Position Offers Students will be sent an official invitation through email and/or phone	by August 23, 2026 9pm	Virtual - Through email and phone
Casting and Technical Positions Accepted Students must fill out the Role Acceptance Form	by August 24, 2026 9pm	Virtual - Through Google Forms
Casting and Technical Positions Announced The cast and crew will be announced through email and on social media	by August 26, 2026 at 9am	Virtual - Through email and social media
First cast and crew rehearsal Students will fill out the Sign up for Sept 19/26 day	Saturday, August 29, 2026	In person Lawrence Central High School 7300 E. 56th Street Indianapolis, IN 46226

The complete play and audition materials are available on the Indiana Thespians website.

Rehearsal – Group 1 Students will work on the needs of the production based on role (both cast and crew)	Saturday, September 19, 2026	Virtual Check In This will be a check in with one of the directors online. Students will communicate their electronic and internet needs.
Rehearsal – Group 2 Students will work on the needs of the production based on role (both cast and crew)	Saturday, September 26, 2026	Virtual Check In This will be a check in with one of the directors online. Students will communicate their electronic and internet needs.
Rehearsal	Saturday, October 17 or 24, 2026	In person Location: TBD
Rehearsal	Saturday November 7, 2026	In person Location: TBD
Rehearsal	The week of November 15-22	Virtual Check In This will be a check in with one of the directors online. Students will communicate their electronic and internet needs.
Rehearsal	Saturday, December 12, 2026	In person Location: TBD
Rehearsal	Saturday, January 2 or 9, 2027	In person Location: TBD
Technical Rehearsal	Saturday, January 16, 2027	In person Lawrence Central High School 7300 E. 56th Street Indianapolis, IN 46226
Final Rehearsal and Performance	Friday, January 22, 2027 4:30pm	In person Lawrence Central High School 7300 E. 56th Street Indianapolis, IN 46226

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PERFORMER APPLICATION

Auditioners must fill out the performer application and submit your audition material using this link (https://forms.gle/4LUt7FLqqfo4SShx5)

The application is in 5 parts which are each explained below

Section 1 - Basic Information

This section collects your personal and contact information so the production team can identify and communicate with you.

You'll typically provide:

- Full legal name
- Preferred name (if applicable)
- Gender
- Pronouns
- High school name
- Thespian troupe number
- Thespian director name and email
- Current grade level
- Age
- Birthday
- Height
- Ethnicity
- Languages spoken
- Contact information
- Parent/guardian contact information
- Emergency contacts

Section 2: Casting Preferences

This section helps the directors understand the types of roles you're interested in and your performance boundaries. The directors use this information to cast responsibly while respecting performers' boundaries

You will be asked about:

• Preferred roles
• Characters you would not be comfortable portraying
• Comfort playing characters of different ages or genders
• Willingness to accept other/any role
	• Comfort with:
	  ○ Playing a character who has a romantic relationship with another character.
	  ○ Performing a stage kiss.
	  ○ Mild profanity
	  ○ Emotional or intense scenes
	  ○ Fight choreography or staged violence
	  ○ Discussions or portrayals involving murder, suicide, religion, and God
	  ○ Depictions of alcohol consumption
	  ○ References to pregnancy and childbirth
	  ○ Scenes involving death or grief

Note: An intimacy coordinator will be employed for our production. Intimacy coordination includes romantic and sexual scenarios but is not limited to this. There are no sexual scenes in this show. Intimacy coordinators are skilled in strategies to help actors and directors talk about physical and emotional boundaries. This includes the obvious stage kisses and hugs but might also include violence or emotional honesty. It is the directors' view that the experience for both cast, crew and audience will be better when the working environment is one that allows everyone to communicate openly and honestly.

Section 3: Conflicts

This is one of the most important sections of the application.

You should report only conflicts that absolutely cannot be changed.

The application explains that:

- Minimal or no conflicts are strongly preferred.
- Missing more than one full rehearsal may make you ineligible.
- The rehearsal schedule is built around the conflicts reported here.
- New conflicts added later generally will not be excused except for emergencies or serious illness.
- Unexcused absences may result in removal from the production.

You should list:

- School-required events
- Previously scheduled family commitments
- Medical appointments that cannot be rescheduled
- Religious obligations
- College visits
- Athletic commitments that are mandatory and unavoidable

Rehearsals will be held at middle and high schools throughout the Indianapolis area, generally ranging from Franklin Community High School in the south to Noblesville High School in the north.

The current rehearsal schedule is set at this link (https://docs.google.com/document/d/11eJEkvD7p3_6uXgsbZh98o5JDSG-vamzstze8A93Xt0/edit?usp=sharing) and will be solidified once a cast is set.

Section 4: Application Materials

This section is where you submit all required materials.

Required uploads include:

• Professional or school photo/headshot • Performance/theatre résumé • Statement of Interest	• Monologue video • Dialogue Video 1 • Dialogue Video 2

Monologue Requirements

Every performer performs the same opening Prologue by the Public Speaker. Applicants may perform the beginning, middle, end, or their own edited three minute cut of the monologue. This choice will not affect casting.Camera should show your upper torso and face

Dialogue Videos

Applicants record one of the provided scenes.Another person reads the other character's lines off camera.(The partner does not need acting experience). The upper torso and face should remain visible. Perform the same dialogue twice using two distinctly different acting choices and upload both videos.

Additional Materials

Your troupe director must submit a recommendation before the deadline. This is found on the Indiana Thespians Website.You may also submit an optional recommendation from a former director or theater teacher.

Section 5: Commitment and Parent Permission

The final section confirms that you understand the responsibilities of participating in the All-State Thespians Program.

By signing, you acknowledge that:

- You have read all the audition requirements.
- You agree to attend rehearsals and performances.
- You understand the attendance policy.
- You accept the responsibilities of being selected.
- You will perform the role assigned to you unless restrictions were noted in your casting preferences.
- Your parent or guardian also acknowledges the rehearsal schedule, attendance expectations, transportation responsibilities, and commitment required if you are selected.

This section ends with digital signatures from both the applicant and a parent or guardian, confirming acceptance of the program's expectations and commitment.

Thank you for your interest in the Indiana Thespians All State production of Middletown and we look forward to your audition.

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