**Grandpa Martin Vanderhof***Lead / Male / Age range: Mid 60s – Mid 70s / All ethnicities*

Thirty­five years ago Grandpa walked away from a successful business career in order to be able to do whatever he wanted, whenever he wanted. Clearly the patriarch of his clan, Grandpa has imparted this infectious philosophy of

personal happiness above all else, not only to his own family, but to numerous others, who have happened to cross his path. Warm, wise, eccentric, loveable.

**Penelope (Penny) Vanderhof Sycamore** *Lead / Female / Age Range: Mid 40s – Late 50s / All ethnicities*  Penelope (Penny) Vanderhof Sycamore, a mother in her mid-fifties, the matriarch of a comic household, carefree and easygoing. Penny clearly loves her family and life itself. After a typewriter is mistakenly delivered to her, she drops her old hobby of painting and begins to write plays. She does both very badly, but with style and good humor. Quirky, gentle, nurturing, absent-minded, spontaneous.

**Paul Sycamore** *Supporting / Male / Age Range: Mid 40s – Late 50s / All ethnicities* Paul Sycamore, Penny’s husband and father of the Sycamore brood. Paul has given up ordinary work to construct fireworks in his basement. He often tries them out in the center of the living room. He intends to market them, but his plans never quite work out. Paul is less involved than his wife in the lives of the children because he spends so much time in the basement. Handy, playful, kind, aloof.

**Essie Sycamore**

*Supporting / Female / Age Range: Early 20s – Early 30s / All ethnicities*

Essie Sycamore, the elder daughter, who is married to Ed. Essie splits her time between making new kinds of candy (successfully) and practicing to become a ballerina (unsuccessfully). Sweet natured, pixie, kooky, whimsical, dreamer. No ballet experience necessary.

**Ed Carmichael**

*Supporting / Male / Age Range: Early 20s – Early 30s / All ethnicities*

Husband of Essie, son-in-law of Paul and Penny. He is a xylophone player, and distributes Essie's candies. Ed is an amateur printer who prints anything that sounds good to him. He prints up dinner menus for his family and little quotes that he places in the boxes of Essie's candy. He also likes to make masks. Awkward, youthful, fanciful, musician, quirky. . **Big plus if actor can play the xylophone.**

**Alice Sycamore**

*Lead / Female / Age Range: Late teens – Late 20s / All ethnicities*

The youngest daughter, Alice is the only member of the family to be employed outside the house and in regular contact with outside society, working for Mr. Kirby at Kirby & Co. Although she loves her family dearly, she is also sometimes frustrated or embarrassed by their absent­mindedness and unconventionality. The ingénue, Juliet to Tony’s Romeo. Sincere, bright, loving, worried, sensitive.

**Anthony (Tony) Kirby, Jr.**

*Supporting / Male / Age Range: Early 20s – Late 20s / All ethnicities*

Tony is the Vice President of Kirby & Co. (his father’s company), a position that he has only held for a short while, as he is young and a recent college graduate. Madly in love with Alice, he clearly chafes against the boredom of the life his father has scripted for him. He is our Romeo. Alice’s boyfriend but also the son of her employer. In love, well educated, passionate, upper class & proper (but in the most delightful way).

**Boris Kolenkhov**

*Supporting / Male / Age Range: Mid 30s – late 60s / All ethnicities*

Essie’s ballet instructor and an intimate friend of Grandpa Vanderhof, Kolenkhov still keeps in touch with friends in his native Russia. Through his friendships with displaced Russian nobility, he demonstrates his nostalgia for pre­Revolutionary czarist Russia. A larger than life character. Loud, opinionated, tough, big heart. Russian accent required.

**Anthony Kirby, Sr. -** ***(Could also double as Wilbur C. Henderson. Actor should be prepared to read both roles).***

*Supporting / Male / Age Range: Mid 40s – Late 50s / All ethnicities*

Mr. Kirby runs a successful business on Wall Street. Conservative in his views, and a member of numerous social clubs, Mr. Kirby values his position and his social status. As a young man, however, he had other dreams. Overly conservative, old fashioned, rich, snobbish but polite and well mannered.

**Wilbur C. Henderson** - ***(Could also double as Anthony Kirby. Actor should be prepared to read both roles).***

*Featured / Male / Age Range: Mid 40s – Late 50s / All ethnicities*

A staunch government employee from the Internal Revenue Department, Henderson has been dispatched to collect twenty­four years worth of back income taxes from Grandpa Vanderhof. A very serious, stern person, whose strict demeanor is a huge contrast to the family.

**Miriam Kirby -** ***(Could also double as Grand Duchess Olga Katrina. Actor should be prepared to read both roles).***

*Featured / Female / Age Range: Mid 40s – Late 50s / All ethnicities*

Outwardly conservative like her husband, Mrs. Kirby also seems to conceal a discontent with the monotony of her life. The female counterpart to Kirby Sr. Uptight, glamorous, elegant, upper class, unsatisfied.

**Grand Duchess Olga Katrina** **- *(Could also double as Miriam Kirby. Actor should be prepared to read both roles).***

*Featured / Female / Age Range: Mid 40s – Mid 60s / All ethnicities*

The former Grand Duchess and cousin to the former Russian Czar, Olga Katrina now waits tables at Childs’ Restaurant in Times Square and reminisces with Kolenkhov about pre­Revolutionary Russia. Proud, royal, glamorous (but tattered), a survivor. Russian accent required.

**Mr. De Pinna**

*Supporting / Male / Age Range: Mid 30s – Late 40s / All ethnicities*

Mr. De Pinna came to the Vanderhof house eight years ago to deliver ice and has been there ever since. He assists Paul with his firework experiments and generally assists Grandpa and his family as needed. Paul’s side kick. Nutty, kind, handy, simple mind, simple pleasures.

**Rheba**

*Supporting / Female / Age Range: Mid 20s – Late 50s / African American*

The Vanderhof family’s maid, most of the time Rheba is treated by the Sycamore’s more as a member of the family or a trusted confidant. She is dating Donald. Maid, loyal, witty, jealous, caring.

**Donald**

*Supporting / Male / Age Range: Mid 20s – Late 50s / African American*

Rheba’s boyfriend, Donald is also an intimate member of the Vanderhof family’s inner circle. Although he is on government relief, he also does odd jobs for the family. Very genuine and a very good person, would do anything for the family without much complaint.

**Gay Wellington**

*Featured / Female / Age Range: Late 20s – Late 50s / All ethnicities*

An actress whom Mrs. Sycamore meets on a bus and invites home to read one of her plays. She is an alcoholic, gets very drunk and passes out shortly after arriving at the Sycamore's home. Comic, drunk, actress, out spoken.

**Three agents from the Department of Justice**

*Featured / Any Gender / Age Range: Mid 20s – Early 40s / All ethnicities*

#1 “The Man”

#2 “Jim”

#3 “Mac”

Three agents who come to investigate Ed because of the suspiciously communist things he prints.