

# Chickasaw Civic Theatre Audition Packet

Book by  
Connie Ray

Conceived by  
Alan Bailey



Music by  
Mike Craver and  
Mark Hardwick

This rollicking musical tells the story of a Saturday Night Gospel Sing at a rural church in North Carolina's Smoky Mountains in 1938. The show features over a dozen old time gospel songs performed by the five members of the Sanders Family Singers plus uncle Stanley and Pastor Oglethorpe.

## AUDITIONS:

Auditions for CCT's production of *Smoke on the Mountain* will be held at **Chickasaw Civic Theatre, 801 Iroquois Street, Chickasaw, Alabama**, on the following dates:

**Tuesday, November 13 • 6:30pm**  
**Thursday, November 15 • 6:30pm**

Auditions are open call, no advance registration required. All auditionees should be prepared to sing a 16 bar cut of a song in the style of the show (preferably gospel music). An accompanist will be available; please bring your sheet music. Actors may accompany themselves on an instrument and should bring the instrument(s) they play and be prepared to show proficiency. Actors may be asked to read cold from the script.

Please print out and bring your audition form (included in this packet) with you to auditions. If you have a resume and headshot you may bring it as well.

**SHOW DATES: January 25 –  
February 3, 2019**

(Friday & Saturday @ 7:30pm  
and Sunday Matinee @ 2:00pm)

## REHEARSALS:

A few music rehearsals begin in December. Rehearsals, in earnest, will begin in January. (*Rehearsals will be Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and MAY include some Friday evenings and Sunday afternoons*)

For more information please contact the Stage Director, Stacey Driskell: [staceybd@gmail.com](mailto:staceybd@gmail.com)

## A NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Welcome to the *Smoke on the Mountain* Audition Packet! I hope you all are as excited about this production as I am. This packet will provide you with all of the necessary material you will need in order to carry out a professional, prepared, and strong audition. Auditioning can be a very nerve-wracking experience. So, become as familiar with the material in this packet as much as possible. In the attached pages you will find a synopsis and a character breakdown. The more educated you are regarding this production, the more capable you will be in making strong and relevant choices in your audition.

Throughout the audition process I will be looking for actors who are hard-working, positive, focused, and ready to work on a team. Do your best, take risks, and have FUN!

If you have ANY questions prior to or during the auditions, please do not hesitate to ask...I am here to help! Just email me at [staceybd@gmail.com](mailto:staceybd@gmail.com).

Stacey B. Driskell  
Stage Director

## SYNOPSIS

*Smoke on the Mountain* tells the story of a Saturday Night Gospel Sing at a country church in North Carolina's Smoky Mountains in 1938. The show features two dozen rousing bluegrass songs played and sung by the Sanders Family, a traveling group making its return to performing after a five-year hiatus. Pastor Oglethorpe, the young and enthusiastic minister of Mount Pleasant Baptist Church, has enlisted the Sanders Family in his efforts to bring his tiny congregation into "the modern world." Between songs, each family member "witnesses" – telling a story about an important event in their life. Though they try to appear perfect in the eyes of a congregation who wants to be inspired by their songs, one thing after another goes awry and they reveal their true – and hilariously imperfect – natures. By the evening's end, the Sanders Family have endeared themselves to us by revealing their weaknesses and allowing us to share in their triumphs.

## CHARACTERS

Rev. Mervin Oglethorpe - He is a very enthusiastic southern Baptist preacher of a small church in Mt Pleasant, NC. He's mighty proud of his knowledge of scripture verses and likes to be in complete control of the services. No matter how hard he tries, he can never seem to please the older folks of the church. Actor must sing some (any range) and the ability to play piano is a plus.

Burl Sanders –Burl is genuinely thrilled to be performing gospel music again with his family after the loss of his mother. He is an outgoing patriarch and thinks he is the leader of the Sanders family. He cannot help but say more than he should during his “witness” and his wife, Vera constantly has to reel him in. Burl is a strong singer. Preferably can play piano, guitar or mandolin very well (bluegrass gospel style) and will be asked to learn to play bass for a couple of numbers. Other bluegrass instruments will also be considered.

Vera Sanders –She is the true leader of the family. She's more knowledgeable of the scriptures than anyone, and is determined to prove so by using a scripture for every point. Vera loves children and is set in her ways. In the script, Vera plays piano for the family. Actress must be able to sing well (any range). Other instruments will be considered once the talents of the other members of the family are determined.

Stanley Sanders –He is much slower to speak than the rest of the family and for good reason. He has a dark past that he would prefer to keep secret. He doesn't see eye to eye with the other members of the family. The actor is usually a bass/ baritone, but any part will be considered. He needs a good voice and must be a strong musician. Must be able to play the bass fiddle or be willing to learn, and other instruments are a plus.

Denise Sanders – is to play 17 years of age. She is the oldest of the twins and is very naïve. She is attractive and has a bubbly personality. Actress must have good comic timing and strong vocals (any range). She must be a good musician and play one or more of the bluegrass instruments (guitar, mandolin, banjo, fiddle, autoharp, etc).

Dennis Sanders – is to play 17 years of age. He is the younger of the twins and seems willing to follow the lead of others. As many teenagers do, he sometimes still acts like a boy but desires to be treated like an adult. Actor must be a good musician with strong vocals (tenor or baritone) and play one or more of the bluegrass instruments (guitar, mandolin, banjo, fiddle, autoharp, etc).

June Sanders – She is slightly more awkward than the rest of the family. She takes pride in the percussion and sign language, which gives her a part in the family band. She does not sing much in the play; but she does play a variety of percussion instruments and will be asked to learn sign language. A musical background for rhythm purposes is a plus.

# Audition Form

Please complete and hand in with your resume (if you have one).

This space for production team use  
# \_\_\_\_\_

## Smoke on the Mountain

### General Info

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

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

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

Your Home #: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_

Your Cell #: \_\_\_\_\_

Your Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**Voice Type (circle one):** Soprano, Mezzo,  
Alto, Tenor, Baritone, Bass, unknown  
**Vocal Range:** \_\_\_\_\_

### Previous Acting/Dancing/Singing/Theater Experience (feel free to use the back of the form if you need more space):

- Resume Attached
- Theater Experience. *If you do not have a resume, you may list most relevant or recent experience and if more space is needed, please use the back:*

Date/Year of Show	Play/Show Name	Role	Theater/School

- Special Talents (e.g. singing, dance experience, gymnastics, juggling, play an instrument, magic):  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

- Do you have any experience with speaking or singing in Chinese?  Yes  No

### Just a Few More Things

In the event you do not get a part, would you still be interested in remaining involved with the production in any of the following areas? (Please check all that interest you.)

- Stage Management  Stage Crew  Set Construction  Costumes  Lighting  Sound  Make-up

 Please list all conflicts you have between December 1 and the performance dates and whether they are flexible or not. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

On weekdays, what is the earliest you can be at a rehearsal?      6:00pm    6:30pm    7:00pm

List any parts/roles you are particularly interested in: \_\_\_\_\_

Are you willing to accept a different role?  Yes  No

**Thank You**