

**ACT
OR'S
EXPRESS**

**ACTOR'S EXPRESS
2023-24 SEASON
CASTING BREAKDOWN**

EVERYBODY'S TALKING ABOUT JAMIE

Book and Lyrics by Tom MacRae, Music by Dan Gillespie Sells

From an idea by Jonathan Butterell

Directed by Freddie Ashley

Jamie New – Male, 16. A working class teenager who dreams of becoming a drag queen. He is flamboyantly and fearlessly out at school, and he does a pretty good job of hiding his hurt that comes at the hands of bullies.

Pritti – Female, teenager. Muslim. Jamie's best friend. She is very smart and wise beyond her years. The kind of friend you want in your corner.

Margaret New – Female, late 30s. Jamie's mom. She adores her son more than anything in the world and fully supports his dreams. Her devotion leads her to protect Jamie from certain tough realities, and she keeps some important secrets as a result.

Hugo/Loco Chanelle – Male, drag queen. 40s? It's hard to know, as he has an ageless timelessness. He has lived through some extraordinarily tough times, including the AIDS epidemic in the 1980s and 90s. Years of struggle and loss have stunted his zest for performing, though when he is back in drag, he is "fierce as fuck" and full of tough love. He undergoes a revival of spirit when he mentors Jamie.

Ray – Female, 30s. Margaret's best friend. She also adores Jamie. She is a spirited person who likes to have a good time, but at heart is an emotional rock. Like Pritti, she's the kind of friend you want in your corner.

Miss Hedge – Female, 30s. She is an overworked and exhausted teacher who may be on the brink of burning out. She was once idealistic but is now resigned to the grim realities of teaching at a working-class school in a working-class town, and she has temporarily lost her ability to see the possible.

Laika Virgin – Drag queen. 20s. Like any good drag queen, she can throw shade with the best of them, but she still stands up for her sisters.

Tray Sophisticay – Drag queen. Like her sisters, she can be sassy and brash, but she is also loyal and has a heart of gold.

Sandra Bollock – Drag queen. Like Laika and Tray, she is shady in the most fun ways, but also fiercely loyal and encouraging.

Dean Paxton – Male, teenager. A high school bully. Good looking. As with so many high school bullies, his cruelty comes from a place of hurt. Eventually, we discover that he has the capacity for compassion after all.

Becca – Female, teenager. Black. One of the prettiest and most popular girls in school, but is not mean. She is Bex's best friend.

Bex – Female, teenager. White. Becca's best friend and just as popular and pretty. Like Bex, she is also not a mean girl.

Vicki – Female, teenager. White. Classmate of Jamie's. Maybe a bit of rebellious streak.

Cy – Male, teenager. Asian. Classmate of Jamie's. Not one of the popular kids.

Sayid – Male, teenager. Muslim. Classmate of Jamie's. Likes designer clothes. He is very hetero but is one of the first students to stand up to Miss Hedge on behalf of Jamie.

Fatimah – Female, teenager. Iranian. Classmate of Jamie's. She is an observant Muslim who dresses modestly, but still appreciates some flashes of glitz and glamour.

Levi – Male, teenager. Black. Classmate of Jamie's. A popular boy.

Mickey – Male, teenager. White. Classmate of Jamie's. He doesn't take school too seriously. Like Sayid, he's very hetero, but is one of the first students to stand up to Miss Hedge on behalf of Jamie.

Jamie's Dad – Male, 30s. A working class man. He is full of regrets, but he drinks too much and can't bring himself to love his son fully. Embittered, he will resort to cruelty to those whom he doesn't love.

Young Loco – Drag queen. Loco's younger self who appears in flashback. This role may double.

The Other Woman – Woman. Appears in a flashback. Lover of Young Loco's man John. This role may double.

John – Man. Appears in a flashback. Young Loco's man who betrays him with The Other Woman. This role may double.

MERCURY

By Steve Yockey

Directed by Melissa Foulger

Pamela – A married woman, definitely type A. She is used to getting her way in most things and is probably a little lonely. She is willing to go to extremes to seek revenge.

Heather – A married woman, charismatic and poised. She is used to relying on a friendly smile to smooth things over.

Alicia – A woman, she is the proprietor of an unusual curiosity shop. She is chatty with a “new age” vibe and vacillates between flighty and ominous. Steeped in the occult.

Olive – A woman, downstairs neighbor. She is a busybody who thinks of herself as good and correct, though she is myopic and may also resort to extremes to make sure bad things happen to those she believes have behaved badly.

Nick – A man. A solid communicator. He’s doing an okay job of holding it together in hard times; the strong one.

Brian – A man. Nick’s boyfriend. He is handsome and flippant, definitely an urbanite. He is still learning how to commit during hard times.

“Sam” – Alicia’s boyfriend. He’s not an angry guy, just very matter of fact, easily frustrated and usually bloody. He’s also the physical manifestation of vengeance. *Please note that this role requires nudity.

BLUES FOR AN ALABAMA SKY
By Pearl Cleage
Directed by Amanda Washington

Angel Allen – Black Woman, mid-30s. She is outspoken and at times self-centered. The Great Depression is knocking at her door in more ways than one. She is still clinging to the Roaring Twenties, the thrill of the improv found in jazz, and the life she was supposed to have. But deep down, she just may be okay. This role involves a kiss with the character Leland under the supervision of an Intimacy Director.

Guy Jacobs – Black Man, 30ish. Gay, costumer, truth teller, and loyal to a fault. He sees the world through swatches of vibrant colored fabrics. Which, in turn, allows him to see people for who they are and what they can be and accept them. But does the world accept him? He is tenacious in an almost unrealistic way. If anyone is going to make their dreams a reality, it just might be him.

Delia Patterson – Black Woman, mid-20s. Earnest. She works at the Margaret Sanger family planning clinic. She is finding her way. She is extraordinary, also read that is extra-ordinary. There is an intellectual revolutionary storm brewing inside of her. She is on the cusp of being someone her ancestors could only dream of if she could act. She is the future. This role involves a kiss with the character Sam under the supervision of an Intimacy Director.

Sam Thomas – Black Man, mid-40s. A doctor in Harlem. The friend you got to when your best friend is unavailable. Think of a savory memory, one wrapped up in lots of laughter. He can heal all things, whether it be a cold or a broken heart. He is the gentle smile at the end of a bad day. He is a doctor. He is wise. Most importantly, he is family. This role involves a kiss with the character Delia under the supervision of an Intimacy Director.

Leland Cunningham – Black Man, late-20s. Set in his ways, he stunned by and in awe of Angel's lifestyle. He is the classic man from the 1920s who fell in love deeply with a fiery passion. The Deep South baked into his soul. He is steady and true, even a little naïve. And he believes he is right; he really does and believes that is his right. This role involves a kiss with the character Angel under the supervision of an Intimacy Director.

CABARET

Music by John Kander, Lyrics by Fred Ebb, Book by Joe Masteroff

Directed by Freddie Ashley

Master of Ceremonies – The host at the Kit Kat Club. Seductive, outrageous and tempting. Sexually fluid. His strangeness can exude charisma in one moment and menace in the next. Throughout the course of the play, his darker side emerges more fully. (Vocal Range: C3-G4)

Sally Bowles – Woman, 20s. She is free-spirited and sexually liberated and though she has a big heart, her desperate commitment to hedonism overpowers her relationships and self-image. She has a burning need to keep the party going at all costs, even if it kills her. This role requires onstage intimacy under the supervision of an Intimacy Director. (Vocal Range: E3-C5)

Clifford Bradshaw – Man, 20s. Young American in Berlin for the first time. Extraordinarily curious about the excesses of Berlin, but would be perfectly content to return to his conventional middle class life in America. Looking for a great adventure but unnerved to his core by the underbelly of what he discovers. This role requires onstage intimacy under the supervision of an Intimacy Director. (Vocal Range: C#3-E4)

Ernst Ludwig – Man, 20s. He is charming and affable, and he makes friends easily. But he also reveals himself to be a Nazi with deep-seated sympathies to that terrible cause. (Vocal Range: D3-F#4)

Fraulein Schneider – Woman, older. She has been on her own for so long that she has devoted herself to pragmatism as a means of survival. She must make a heartbreaking decision when faced with the choice between opening her heart and choosing survival. (Vocal Range: Eb3-B4)

Fraulein Kost – Woman. She is a sex worker who is struggling to make a living. She is a survivor. She is a lot of fun at parties and forms friendships easily, but even she reveals darker tendencies. (Vocal Range: F#3-Eb5)

Herr Schultz – Man, older. Jewish. He has a sweet spirit, though his optimism and belief in the goodness of others cannot stop the insidious pressures from the outside world from affecting his life. (Vocal Range: C3-G4)

Max – Man. German. Part-owner of the Kit Kat Club. Sometime lover of Sally Bowles. This role requires onstage intimacy under the direction of an Intimacy Coordinator.

Rudy – Man, 20s. A young sailor and client of Fraulein Kost's.

Rosie – Woman, 20s. A Kit Kat Girl. She is a singer and dancer.

Lulu – Woman, 20s. A Kit Kat Girl. She is a singer and dancer.

Frenchie – Woman, 20s. A Kit Kat Girl. She is a singer and dancer.

Texas – Woman, 20s. A Kit Kat Girl. She is a singer and dancer.

Fritzie – Woman, 20s. A Kit Kat Girl. She is a singer and dancer.

Helga – Woman, 20s. A Kit Kat Girl. She is a singer and dancer.

Bobby – Man, 20s. A Kit Kat Boy. He is a singer and dancer. In London, he had a brief fling with Cliff Bradshaw. This role requires onstage intimacy under the supervision of an Intimacy Director.

Victor – Man, 20s. A Kit Kat Boy. Bobby's boyfriend. He gets pretty jealous when Cliff shows up on the scene.

Hans – Man 20s. A Kit Kat Boy. He is a singer and dancer. This role may double with Rudy.

Herman – Man, 20s. A Kit Kat Boy. He is a singer and dancer. This role may double with Customs Official and/or Max.

Customs Official – Man. A taciturn person who checks passports on the train to and from Berlin.

A THIRD WAY

By Lee Osorio

Directed by Lauren Morris

Nico – Man, Latine, mid-30s. Queer and reads as such in a subtle but undeniable way. Nico perpetually lives in a hurricane, sometimes in the eye, sometimes beautifully in the wind and waves, sometimes he's just messy – a natural disaster and an awesome force of nature. (Please note that this role requires onstage intimacy, which will be conducted under the supervision of an Intimacy Director.)

Matt – Man, white, mid-30s. Nico's husband. He's gay (as opposed to queer) – and there's something *quote unquote All-American* about him, in the truest sense of American – white supremacy and all – at once cocky and insecure. There's something at once conservative (not politically, but literally) and yet always learning for some approval he isn't getting. (Please note that this role requires onstage intimacy, which will be conducted under the supervision of an Intimacy Director.)

Erica – Woman, Latina, mid-30s. Highly successful, highly driven, highly discontent with how her life, identity and time have become almost completely built around her work. Best friends with Nico since college. Once a year they take epic vacations that Judd Apatow could make a movie out of.

Haamid – Femme queer Man, Middle Eastern, 30s. Born in the states, son of immigrants, has had a lot of therapy to become comfortable with who he is. His therapy has imbued him with the zeal of a new convert who thinks he's got things figured out, but is actually still very much a work in progress. (Please note that this role requires onstage intimacy, which will be conducted under the supervision of an Intimacy Director.)