



PROFESSIONAL ADULT ACTOR AUDITIONS

First Stage Milwaukee | 2026-2027 Season | Milwaukee, WI
AEA Equity Principal Auditions (EPA)

A NOTE from First Stage and our BEAD Committee (Belonging, Equity, Access, and Diversity):

At First Stage, we recognize that our audiences connect more deeply with our work when they see themselves on stage. We will list race/ethnicity/ability only when specific to the character and/or story, but are otherwise seeking actors of all races, ethnicities, genders, and abilities.

While many roles are written with binary pronouns, we welcome and encourage **gender non-conforming, genderqueer, transgender, and non-binary actors** to audition for the roles that most interest them.

Adapted from language created by Kevin Kantor and Emily Tarquin (Actors Theatre of Louisville)

HOW TO AUDITION

To request an audition appointment, please email auditions@firststage.org. Appointments will be scheduled on a first come, first served basis until full.

We will also accept video audition submissions through **April 1, 2026**, including dance reels for musical consideration. In-person callbacks will be held by invitation in **May/June 2026** in Milwaukee, WI.

Please prepare a monologue and a song in the style of our season (See Character Breakdown below). You can also choose to prepare two contrasting monologues instead. Your pieces, including your slate, should be 3-5 minutes in length. We will have an accompanist in the room.



First Stage Adult Equity Generals

Monday, February 16, 2026
10am-6pm

Milwaukee Youth Arts Center
325 W. Walnut St.
Milwaukee, WI 53212

First Stage Adult Non-Equity Generals

Sunday, February 15, 2026
10am-6pm

Milwaukee Youth Arts Center
325 W. Walnut St.
Milwaukee, WI 53212

2026-27 SEASON PRODUCTIONS & CASTING BREAKDOWNS

Our 2026-27 season will include the following titles, production dates and adult casting needs:

Goodman Theater

GO DOG GO! - VE PERRO VE!

Adapted for the stage by Allison Gregory and Steven Dietz

Based on the Classic Book "Go, Dog!" by PD Eastman

Music Composed by Michael Koerner

Spanish Translations by Ana Maria Campoy

"Do You Like My Hat?" Lyrics by Michael Koerner

Originally Commissioned by Seattle Children's Theatre

VE PERRO VE! Received its world premiere production at Chicago Children's Theatre under Jacqueline Russel, Artistic Director

Directed by Michelle LoRicco

PD Eastman's classic book lands onstage with roller-skating, bike-riding, and scoot-scooting dogs! Over here a dog plays baseball; over there a dog prance about in a funny hat; everywhere dogs swim underwater, drive racecars to fiestas in los arboles, and speak—in both Spanish and English!

Rehearsal Dates: Sept. 8 – Oct. 2, 2026

Tues-Fri 4-8:30pm

Sat 12:30-8:30pm

Sun 10-6pm

Performance Dates: Oct. 3 – Nov.1, 2026

* There will be two casts of young performers performing on alternating dates Tuesday through Sunday.

Casting Needs: 1 Adult

MC DOG/THEATRE PATRON: (20s+, Any gender) The ringmaster and narrator of the show's action. MC Dog sets the tone and interacts directly with the audience in both Spanish and English. Doubles as the eccentric, wide-eyed Theater Patron witnessing the magic of the dogs' world. Must be highly physical, playful, and comfortable leading audience engagement. Spanish language proficiency is a strong plus. This production is highly physical and comedic, rooted in clown technique, musicality, and ensemble storytelling. Must be able to roller-skate. An intermediate level of Spanish or higher is encouraged.

Todd Wehr Theater

DR. SEUSS'S HOW THE GRINCH WHO STOLE CHRISTMAS!

Book and Lyrics by Timothy Mason

Music by Mel Marvin

Additional Music and Lyrics by Albert Hague Theodore Geisel (Dr. Suess)

Directed by Jeff Frank

For decades, the story of the mean, green, Mister Grinch discovering the joy of Christmas has delighted both readers and viewers. With a heart “two sizes too small,” the Grinch despises the annual Christmas festivities of Who-ville from a solitary distance. Fed up, he carries out a plan to stop them once and for all, only to learn a lesson about opening his heart to the real meaning of Christmas. Mason and Marvin expand on the timeless story, adding new toe-tapping tunes.

Rehearsal Dates: Oct. 27 - Nov. 20, 2026

Tues-Fri 4-8:30pm

Sat 12:30-8:30pm

Sun 10-6pm

Performance Dates: Nov. 21 - Dec. 27, 2026

*There will be two casts of young performers performing on alternating dates Tuesday through Sunday.

Casting Needs: 6 Adults

GRINCH: (30s, 40s, Male-identifying) He has spent years living in seclusion. He is fed up with Christmas and ingeniously decides to steal it. A beastly, charming, often silly curmudgeon. He is hilariously scary but with a softy's heart underneath – think more Wile E. Coyote than Voldemort. He fancies himself a Vaudeville superstar with “champion-stock” DNA and has a personality that outsizes everybody else in Whoville. **Vocal range top: D4 | Vocal range bottom: D2**

PAPA WHO: (30s, 40s, Male-identifying) The Father of the central Who Family. He is the calm eye of the storm; goodness and confidence pour out of him. He accidentally indoctrinates the children of Whoville with the story of the boogeyman Grinch. **Vocal range top: E4 | Vocal range bottom: Bb2**

MAMA WHO: (30s, 40s, Female-identifying) The Mother of the central Who Family. She is overwhelmed by the Christmas hysteria, and she is unsuccessfully struggling to maintain control of both her children and Grandpa and Grandma Who. Adorably annoying, funny, and loving mother. **Vocal range top: E5 | Vocal range bottom: C4**

GRANPA WHO: (50s, 60s, Male-identifying) The eldest of the central Who family. He is gruff, comically grumpy, and enjoys antagonizing Mama Who and trying to scare the children with ghost stories. He loves Christmas and his grandchildren but is driven batty by both. **Vocal range top: E4 | Vocal range bottom: D3**

GRANDMA WHO: (50s, 60s, Female-identifying) The matriarch of the central Who family who can solve any problem, a peacemaker. She is loving and warm. The children respect and listen to her, and she has the patience to calm both them and Mama Who. **Vocal range top: E5 | Vocal range bottom: D4**

OLD MAX: (40s+, Male-identifying) Our storyteller who unexpectedly has a final memory that inspires him to celebrate the night of the Grinch's transformation with the audience. A wise and somewhat weary old soul on the last legs of a spectacular life. He is trustworthy and charming and can "spin a yarn" like the best of them. **Vocal range top: E4 | Vocal range bottom: Bb2**

Todd Wehr Theater

WINNIE-THE-POOH: FOREVER FRIENDS

Book by SCOTT SEIDL

Music by ALAN STEIN

Lyrics by SCOTT SEIDL, ALAN STEIN, and A.A. MILNE

Creative Development Associate: ROBERT PENOLA

Additional material by JEFF FRANK and MICHELLE LORICCO

From the stories of A.A. MILNE

Directed by Michelle LoRicco

WINNIE-THE-POOH: FOREVER FRIENDS is inspired by the beloved characters who, for generations, have helped us laugh, imagine, and grow. Rooted in the timeless stories of A. A. Milne and set in the heart of the Hundred Acre Wood, this new, playful, funny, and heart-warming musical invites audiences of all ages to rediscover Winnie-the-Pooh, Christopher Robin, and their favorite friends—through a fresh, intergenerational lens.

This adaptation follows a newly retired Christopher Robin, who has moved back into his childhood home to be closer to his family. While caring for his grandchild Alex, Christopher Robin must relearn how to "do nothing"—to pause, to play, and to imagine again. When an old box is opened, the Hundred Acre Wood springs back to life, and Pooh and his friends return, reminding Christopher Robin (and Alex) that imagination is not something we outgrow—it is something we carry forward.

Rehearsal Dates: Jan. 12 - 28, 2027

Tues-Fri 4-8:30pm

Sat 12:30-8:30pm

Sun 10-6pm

Performance Dates: Jan. 29 - Feb. 28, 2027 (TBA March 2-7, 2027)

*There will be two casts of young performers performing on alternating dates Wednesday through Sunday.

Casting Needs:

Winnie-the-Pooh (30s+, Male-identifying) is a lovable, carefree, childlike bear who lives in the Hundred Acre Wood. Pooh is always on the lookout for his favorite snack, honey, and has a special spot in his heart for his best friends Christopher Robin and Piglet. Pooh is optimistic, gentle, and kind-hearted, with a childlike sense of wonder and curiosity. He's a bit dim-witted at times, but his innocence and good intentions always shine through. **Vocal range top: D4 | Vocal range bottom: A2**

Christopher Robin aka Grandpa Chris (50s+, Male-identifying) is no longer the young boy of the Hundred Acre Wood—but he is still its heart. Now retired and returning to his childhood home, Grandpa Chris is thoughtful, gentle, and quietly searching for who he is beyond the roles he has carried for decades. He is intelligent and caring, with a deep sense of responsibility, but he has forgotten how to pause, how to play, and how to sit comfortably in “doing nothing.” **Vocal range top: D4 | Vocal range bottom: A2**

Mom / Owl (30s+, Female-identifying) Alex's Mom is thoughtful, capable, and grounded—balancing care, work, and family with quiet determination. Like her father, she is dependable and observant, though she rarely slows down long enough to rest in uncertainty. Owl is a wise old bird who lives in an enormous tree in the Hundred Acre Wood. Known for telling the same stories over and over. Also known for a perceived knowledge and insight. Owl can be quiet and contemplative. **Vocal range top: E5 | Vocal range bottom: G4**

Rabbit (20s+, Any gender) is a responsible and organized rabbit who appreciates order and loves to be in charge. Rabbit is always tidying up the Hundred Acre Wood and keeping everyone on schedule. Rabbit can be a bit bossy at times. Rabbit can be quite grumpy when things don't go according to plan. **Vocal range top: D5 | Vocal range bottom: D4**

Eeyore (20s+, Any gender) is a melancholy donkey who lives in the Hundred Acre Wood. Eeyore is a lovable pessimist always having things go wrong in general. Eeyore can be quite gloomy at times, expecting the worst-case scenario in every situation. Despite this, Eeyore has a dry humor and can be quite witty when talking about misfortunes. Eeyore has a loyal heart beneath a gruff exterior. **Vocal range top: E4 | Vocal range bottom: F2**

Wilson Theater at Vogel Hall

THE LION, THE WITCH, AND THE WARDROBE

From the story by CS Lewis

Dramatized by LE CLANCHÉ DU RAND

Updates by Jeff Frank

Directed by Jeff Frank

Step through the wardrobe and into the magical world of Narnia in this inventive and theatrical retelling of C.S. Lewis' beloved classic. With the White Witch's icy grip keeping the land in eternal winter, Lucy, Peter, Susan, and Edmund must join forces with the great lion Aslan and the creatures of Narnia to restore warmth and hope. This imaginative small cast adaptation invites you into the adventure as the actors utilize quick changes, puppetry, masks and more to bring the epic battle of good versus evil to life with creativity, heart and the enduring themes of courage, faith, and friendship. An epic journey for audiences of all ages, this production proves that even the smallest among us can change the world.

Rehearsal Dates: March 8 - April 1, 2027

Note: The first week of rehearsal will run Mon-Thurs 4-8:30pm

Tues-Fri 4-8:30pm

Sat 12:30-8:30pm

Sun 10-6pm

Performance Dates: April 2 - May 2, 2027 (TBA May 4-8, 2027)

*There will be two casts of young performers performing on alternating dates Wednesday through Sunday.



Casting Needs: 2 Adults

ADULT LUCY/WITCH/WOLF/STATUES: (30s+, Female-identifying) Highly active and energetic role. Will change characters in the middle of scenes. Stage combat.

ADULT PETER/EDMUND/MR.TUMNYS/MR.BEAVER/FATHER CHRISTMAS/ASLAN: (30s+, Male-identifying) Highly energetic role. Stage combat.

CASTING PERSONNEL

Executive Artistic Director: Jeff Frank

Associate Artistic Director: Michelle LoRicco

Artistic Inclusion & Community Engagement Director: Samantha Montgomery

Education Director: Brinn Hill

Audition Accompanist and Music Director: Paul Helm

Additional casting input will be made by First Stage's Artistic Team and the Creative Teams from each production.

ADDITIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

UNDERSTUDIES

- All adult roles are understudied by non-union local actors.
- Understudies attend 8 hours/week of rehearsal and one performance/week.
- \$150/week + additional performance pay.
- Email auditions@firststage.org if interested.

AEA STAGE MANAGERS

Submit resume to Director of Production, Sammy Brown: production@firststage.org

TEACHING ARTISTS

- Academy & in-school programs seek actor-educators.
- Contact: academy@firststage.org or education@firststage.org



ABOUT FIRST STAGE

First Stage is one of the nation's largest professional theaters for young audiences, producing both classic and new works. Our casts frequently combine professional adult actors and young performers. We also engage artists as teaching artists, workshop leaders, and mentors.

We employ AEA and non-AEA artists under TYA and LOA contracts. Roles typically run 6-10 weeks, with strong preference for Milwaukee-local hires.

More Info:

Executive Artistic Director: Jeff Frank (jfrank@firststage.org)

Associate Artistic Director: Michelle LoRicco (mloricco@firststage.org)

General Auditions Contact: auditions@firststage.org | (414) 267-2963