Audition Information for *You Can't Take it With You*

Lakota East High School is holding auditions for the Moss Hart and George Kaufman comedy, *You Can't Take it With You*, on Monday, November 12, from 3-5pm in the Main Campus Auditorium. All auditionees need to be available for the first read-thru on Tuesday, November 13. This read-thru will be from 3:00-4:30pm, in the Main Campus auditorium. **If you cannot be available, this must be noted on your audition form.**

All Lakota East students, grades 9-12, are invited to audition. Auditions will be in small groups, but otherwise will be closed. Please prepare a 1-2 minute, contemporary, comic monologue. Monologues **must** be memorized.

Please sign up for an audition time on the sign-up sheet outside the main campus auditorium.

Please bring a completed audition form, **signed by your parents**, and a recent headshot photo to your scheduled audition. Photos will not be returned.

For questions, or to sign out a script for review, see Ms. Statt

**How else can I participate?**

If your interests lie more in the production side of theater, there are many opportunities for you. In addition to casting the show, we are looking for leaders to take on the following positions:

- **Student Director**
- **Stage Manager**
- **Dramaturgy Team**
- **Properties Manager**
- **Costume Coordinator**
- **Makeup and Hairstyling Manager**
- **Technical Designer—Lights and Sound**
- **Publicity and Playbill Coordinator/Assistants**
- **House Manager/Assistant House Manager**

If you have lots of interest, but little in the way of experience, there are crew options as well:

- **Running Crew**
- **Costume Crew**
- **Makeup Crew**
- **Technical Crew**
- **Publicity Crew**
- **House Crew**

If you need more information on the responsibilities associated with the above titles, please see Ms. Statt in room 181 (theater) or 147.

To apply for one of the technical positions for this show, please fill out a tech crew application—found on the bulletin board in room 181.
Show Description

Comedy, Full Length

One of the most popular and successful plays of modern times.

**THE STORY:** At first the Sycamores seem mad, but it is not long before we realize that if they are mad, the rest of the world is madder. In contrast to these delightful people are the unhappy Kirbys. The plot shows how Tony, attractive young son of the Kirbys, falls in love with Alice Sycamore and brings his parents to dine at the Sycamore home on the wrong evening. The shock sustained by the Kirbys, who are invited to eat cheap food, shows Alice that marriage with Tony is out of the question. The Sycamores, however, though sympathetic to Alice, find it hard to realize her point of view. Meantime, Tony, who knows the Sycamores are right and his own people wrong, will not give her up, and in the end Mr. Kirby is converted to the happy madness of the Sycamores, particularly since he happens in during a visit by an ex-Grand Duchess, earning her living as a waitress. No mention has as yet been made of the strange activities of certain members of the household engaged in the manufacture of fireworks; nor of the printing press set up in the parlor; nor of Rheba the maid and her friend Donald; nor of Grandpa's interview with the tax collector when he tells him he doesn't believe in the income tax.

9 men, 7 women (3 men extras): 16 total

**Penelope “Penny” Sycamore (246 lines)** Usually goes by Penny, Penelope is the mother of Essie and Alice, wife of Paul, and daughter of Martin. She writes plays and paints as hobbies because it makes her happy, but is terrible at both. Penny is a loving mother and wife and is constantly concerned with the welfare of her family. Her main goal is to make sure everyone is happy, particularly her daughter Alice. A huge part! On stage almost all the time.

**Martin “Grandpa” Vanderhof (207 lines)** Referred to mostly as Grandpa in the play. Father-in-law to Paul, father of Penny, grandfather of Alice and Essie. He is an eccentric happy old man who has never paid his income tax because he doesn't believe in it, as he feels that the government wouldn't know what to do with the money if he paid for it. He lives his life by the philosophy: "Don't do anything that you're not going to enjoy doing." He goes to circuses, commencements, throws darts, and collects stamps. A challenging role indeed, but most of your blocking is…sitting in a rocker.

**Alice Sycamore (181 lines)** Fiancé of Tony Kirby, daughter of Paul and Penny, Granddaughter of Martin, sister of Essie. She the only “normal” family member. She has an office job, and is rather embarrassed by the eccentricities of her family when she has Tony and his parents at her house, yet she still loves them. She tends to be a pessimist. The actress for Alice needs to show characteristics of love, embarrassment, worry…and many more.

**Tony Kirby (136 lines)** Fiancé of Alice, Son of Mr. and Mrs. Kirby. He sees how, even though the Sycamores appear odd, they are really the perfect family because they love and care about each other. His own family is very proper and has many issues none of them will admit. He is vice president of Kirby and Co. This actor will need to have an adorable properness to him. The audience will need to be on Tony's side right from the start.

**Anthony W. Kirby (107 lines)** Husband of Mrs. Kirby, father of Tony. He is a very proper man who is president of Kirby and Co. and secretly despises his job. His hobby is raising expensive orchids. He is also a member of the Harvard Society, the Union Club, the National Geographic Society, and the Racquet Club. Being rich and borderline snobby is a good start for an actor to experiment with for this role. Whoever has this role will also need to not laugh when hilarity ensues.

**Essie Carmichael (87 lines)** Wife of Ed, daughter of Penny and Paul Sycamore, Granddaughter of Martin, sister of Alice. She is childish. As a hobby she makes candy that Ed sells. Essie dreams of being a ballerina. She has spent 8 years studying with Boris Kolenkhov, but is a terrible dancer. Actresses who perform these embarrassing, bad dances need to keep a very straight face, and is willing to dance intermingled with Kolenkhov. Hilarity will ensue.

**Boris Kolenkhov (83 lines)** A Russian who escaped to America shortly before the Russian Revolution. He is very concerned with world politics, and the deterioration of Russia. He is the ballet instructor of Essie, aware that she is untalented at dancing, but knows that she enjoys dancing so he keeps working with her. He likes the Greeks and the Romans, questions society, and is interested in world affairs. He is opinionated and often loudly declares that something "stinks"! This actor can be either very large and boisterous, or small and flamboyant. Will need to be able to support Essie physically, and keep a straight face.
Paul Sycamore (68 lines) Father of Essie and Alice, husband of Penny, Son-in-law of Martin. He is a Tinker who manufactures fireworks in the basement with the help of his assistant Mr. De Pinna. His hobby is playing with erector sets. It will help to have an age appropriate actor for this role. A common, fatherly character is all Paul needs.

Ed Carmichael (65 lines) 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. The actor will need to be confident in all his crafts, but show meekness when he is later confronted with a visit from the feds.

Mr. De Pinna (55 lines) The iceman who came inside to speak to Paul five years before, and never left. He helps Mr. Sycamore build fireworks, and moonlights as a model in Mrs. Sycamore's paintings. He is a nutty guy. This is kind of a side-kick role to Paul. Witty, random jokes. A perfect role for someone who can have a lot of fun designing a uniquely written character.

Donald (46 lines) The boyfriend of Rheba, who seems to serve as volunteer handyman for the Sycamores. In the words of Mrs. Sycamore, "The two of them are really cute together, something like Porgy and Bess." The characters of Donald and Rheba, according to the script, are African-American. These roles, and their dialogues, can be altered freely.

Rheba (44 lines) The maid and cook to the Sycamore family. She is dating Donald. She is onstage a lot, but doesn't necessarily say anything. The characters of Donald and Rheba, according to the script, are African-American. These roles, and their dialogues, can be altered freely.

Wilbur C. Henderson (34 lines) An employee of the IRS. He comes to collect the tax money owed by Grandpa, and can't understand why the latter won't pay income tax. A one-scene role that has brought out tons of laughs and stomach cramps from audience all over. Perfect for someone who wants to act, but may not have a lot of time to commit.

Miriam Kirby (33 lines) Wife of Mr. Kirby, mother of Tony. She is an extremely prim and proper woman and is horrified by the goings-on in the Sycamore household. Her hobby is spiritualism. A small, female role, but one that shows a great deal of emotion.

The Grand Duchess Olga Katrina (20 lines) She was one of the Grand Duchesses of Russia before the Revolution, another being her sister, the Grand Duchess Natasha. Since then she has been forced to flee to America where she has found work as a waitress in Child's Restaurant. The rest of her family has had a similar fate, such as her Uncle Sergei, the Grand Duke, who is now an elevator man. She loves to cook as a hobby. This character will appear later in the play, and the actress needs to be able to be a bit over-the-top, but not over do it. A memorable, not necessarily overwhelming, Russian accent is desired.

Gay Wellington (9 lines) 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. A very small role, but onstage for several scenes. The actress mustn't be afraid to be physically carried by another actor, and can act "passed out", in hilarious positions, without breaking character.

G-Man 1 “The Man” (18 lines), G-Man 2 “Jim” (3 lines), G-Man 3 “Mac” (2 lines) Three agents who come to investigate Ed because of the communist things he prints up, such as "God is the State – the State is God". These actors must be okay having a very small role in the show. Perfect for anyone new to acting!
Audition Form/Production Application for You Can’t Take it With You
Please complete ALL information below, and hand in at audition with headshot photo attached.

General Info:

Name: ___________________________ Parents’ Names: ___________________________

Address: _________________________________________________________________

City/State/Zip: _____________________________________________________________

School: _______________ Grade: _____ Homeroom: _______________ Locker # ________

Home phone: ___________________________ Parents’ Cell: ___________________________

Student e-mail: ___________________________ Parent e-mail: ___________________________

Birth-date: _______________ Age: ______ Height: _________ Weight: __________ Sex: M  F

Previous Acting / Theatre Experience and Formal Training

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Formal Training: Please specify type, years, instructor, and school.

List any parts/roles you are particularly interested in: __________________________

List any parts/roles you do NOT want: __________________________
Rehearsals
Rehearsals will start with a cast meeting and script read-through on Tuesday, November 13 from 3:00-4:30 pm. Rehearsals from November through mid-January will run on a varying schedule, Monday through Friday from 3:00-4:30 p.m. During the last two weeks of rehearsal, Jan. 22-Jan. 31, rehearsals will run until at least 6:00 p.m.

Performances
Performances will be Feb. 1, 2, and 3. The director for You Can’t Take it With You is Ms. Kristen Statt.

In the event you do not get a role on stage, would you still be interested in being part of the Thunderhawk Theater production team? Please check all that interest you. Please also note that interest alone does not guarantee you a position. Students who fill these roles will be selected by Ms. Statt.

_____ Properties Manager
_____ Costume Coordinator
_____ Makeup and Hairstyling Manager
_____ Technical Designer—Lights and Sound
_____ Publicity and Playbill Coordinator/Assistant
_____ House Manager
_____ Running Crew (Stage Crew)
_____ Tech Crew
_____ Costume/Makeup Crew
_____ T-shirt artist
_____ Usher

_____ Stage Manager *
_____ Student Director *

*If interested in these two positions, please describe experience/indicate reason for interest:

PLEASE LIST ALL EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES AND MEETING TIMES BELOW.

Work: Lessons:

Sports: Other:

PLEASE LIST ALL INFLEXIBLE CONFLICTS YOU HAVE BETWEEN NOW AND THE PERFORMANCE DATE.

PLEASE BE HONEST ABOUT YOUR CONFLICTS. CASTING DECISIONS WILL BE MADE BASED ON THE INFORMATION YOU GIVE.
*This section is for your parents:

What are the participation fees?
Performers fall under Lakota’s “pay to participate” system. Participation fees for the 2012-2013 school year for Thunderhawk Theater are $140 per student, per show. This fee applies to all actors and all technical leaders. Once selected for the cast and technical team, students can pay their fees upfront or through patron/ad sales. No student should be discouraged from participation due to the fees. Many local businesses are happy to buy ads for our program, and teachers, staff, neighbors, and family members are also willing to sponsor actors through our patron program.

I give permission for my son/daughter to audition/be part of the production team for the LEHS Theater production of You Can't Take it With You. I understand and am willing to support the extensive time commitment that he/she will be making if he/she is involved with this show. I am also aware that there is a $140 fee associated with participation in this show and that my son/daughter will have the opportunity to sell Patron sponsorships and/or ads to offset this expense.

Parent / Guardian Signature  Date

Photo Release

I hereby grant the LEHS Theater department the absolute right and permission to photograph my below named dependent and use such photos in its promotional materials and publicity efforts. I understand that the photos may be used in a publication, print ad, direct mail piece, electronic media (eg. Video, CD ROM, DVD, Internet, World Wide Web), or other form of promotion. I hereby release the LEHS Theater department and their designees from liability for any violation of any personal or proprietary right I may have in connection with such use.

Dependent’s name

Parent / Guardian name

Parent / Guardian signature  Date