



# Audition Info

For

## *A Doll's House*

By Henrik Ibsen

Translated by Rick Davis and Brian Johnston

Performance Dates: Jan. 30-Feb. 9

Audition Date: Sep. 30

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### About the Play:

Ibsen's *A Doll House* is a revolutionary classic. The play was integral in establishing realism as a theatrical form, and continues to be a provocative portrayal of a woman suffering in a man's world. Nora and Torvald Helmer have a seemingly traditional, settled nineteenth-century marriage. Torvald adores his wife, although he patronizes her and belittles her comprehension of the world. However, Nora has lived with a secret for several years. She forged her father's signature in order to borrow money to take her husband to Italy for recuperation after an illness. Her husband, Torvald, is now in a senior position working at the bank and Nora has been paying off the loan in installments. Yet her secret is about to be revealed when Torvald threatens to fire Nils Krogstad, the man Nora borrowed the money from. Nora's friend, Kristine Linde, offers to help Nora, revealing that she and Krogstad used to be in a relationship and she still loves him deeply. However, when Krogstad reveals Nora's actions in a letter, Torvald dismisses her sacrifice, worrying only about his own reputation. Although Torvald forgives his wife when he discovers that Krogstad will not publicly reveal her indiscretion, Nora realizes that Torvald does not value or truly know her as an individual. Nora decides to leave her husband and her children in an attempt to discover herself.

# The Characters:

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**Nora** (Female age 25-35)— Housewife and mother. Playful, smart, witty, bright and alive. Flighty and skittish at the beginning, but grows in strength, self-awareness and honesty as the play progresses.

**Torvald** (Male age 30-45)—Nora's husband. An ambitious and professional bank manager. A very traditional view of his wife, marriage and the world. Sees the world as black and white, with no room for grey. Adores his wife, his home and his life. Patronizing, controlling and very concerned with appearances. Plays piano.

**Kristine** (Female age 25-40)—Nora's school friend. A widow who returns to town to find work. Sensible, clear-thinking and able to make strong choices. Becomes Nora's confidante.

**Dr. Rank** (Male age 30-50)—Medical doctor who is an old family friend of Nora and Torvald. Visits often. Has an aggressive illness. Plays piano.

**Krogstad** (Male age 30-50)—One of Torvald's employees at the bank. Sketchy past. Desperate to re-establish himself as a respectable man. Willing to fight for what he wants, but not a bad man.

**Helene** (Female age 20-30)—Nora and Torvald's maid.

**Anne-Marie** (Female age 50-60)—Nora and Torvald's nanny. Was Nora's wet nurse when she was young.

**Porter**—Delivery person. Non-speaking.

**The Children**—Nora and Helmer's children.

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