

# MERELY PLAYERS ANNOUNCES AUDITIONS

for

## A heartfelt musical about the pursuit of the American Dream ***HANDS ON A HARD BODY***

Wednesday and Thursday, July 26 and 27 from 6:00 – 9:00 p.m.

Merely Players is excited to offer the opportunity for community members aged college and older to work together once again as we produce this delightful musical. There are 15 people in the cast, and roles/tech positions are open to those aged 16 and above.

### **SYNOPSIS:**

For 10 hard-luck Texans, a new lease on life is so close they can touch it. Under a scorching sun for days on end, armed with nothing but hope, humor and ambition, they'll fight to keep at least one hand on a brand-new truck in order to win it. In the hilarious, hard-fought contest that is *Hands on a Hardbody* only one winner can drive away with the American Dream. Inspired by the true events of the acclaimed 1997 documentary of the same name by S.R. Bindler, produced by Kevin Morris and Bindler.

### **ROLES:**

All Roles are open. We seek a diverse cast to represent a slice of real American life.

J.D. Drew	Baritone	40-70; "good old boy" with a highwattage grin.
Benny Perkins	Tenor	30 – 50; weatherbeaten face, ingratiating grin and lots of homespun philosophy.
Greg Wilhote	Tenor	17 – 30; a kid in a baseball cap.
Jesus Pena	Tenor	20s; a driven Mexican kid
Chris Alvaro	Tenor	20s; a tough ex-soldier
Ronald McCowan	Tenor	30 – 40. Good natured
Mike Ferris	Tenor	30 – 50; Boyishly handsome, wears a cheap tie with a Nascar clip.
Don Curtis	Baritone	50s-70s; married to Janis

Frank Nugent good ole boy dressed in a Stetson.	Bari-Tenor	30s-60s; Disc Jockey, a diehard
Kelli Magnum ambition	Mezzo-Soprano	a young woman with steel
Heather Stovall hostess	Mezzo-Soprano	20 – 50; a flirtatious restaurant
Norma Valverde Christian in tennis shoes and a floral applique t-shirt.	Mezzo-Soprano	30s- 50s a fervent
Janis Curtis with sun-burnished skin and missing teeth.	Alto	50s- 70s a tough old bird
Virginia Drew into middle-age.	Mezzo-Soprano	40s – 50s a beauty settling
Cindy Barnes Gregg County, still fond of pageant hair and pastels.	Mezzo-Soprano	30s – 50s Former Miss

### **THEATRE TECHNICIANS**

We are also looking for fun and capable backstage technicians. No experience is necessary – we train. Those interested in tech are welcome to come on either December for a tech interview.

### **REHEARSALS AND PERFORMANCE:**

This musical will have a fun and lively 6 week rehearsal period from Oct 16 – Nov. 30. No rehearsal Nov. 17-26 for Thanksgiving

Rehearsals will typically be Mondays – Thursdays from 6:00-9:30. Rehearsals will last until 10:00 during the last week. There will be an evening rehearsal on Friday, Nov. 10

There will be an all day rehearsal on Saturday, Nov. 11, from 9:30- 7:00. The entire cast must be present at this rehearsal.

A rehearsal schedule will be provided to let everyone know specific times once the show has been cast.

If you have another theatrical conflict during this rehearsal time, it is possible that we can work around it. We are in discussions with other local directors to help make that possible.

### **PERFORMANCES:**

Dec. 1, 2, 5, 7, 8, 9, 2023 at 7:00 pm

Dec. 3 and 10 at 2:00 pm

You must be able to attend all performances.

Please be sure to write down or discuss any known conflicts with the director – sometimes, it's possible we can work around a conflict or 2 if we know in advance. You will not be considered if you cannot make it to ALL rehearsals in the last two weeks and all performances.

The show will be directed and choreographed by Dallas Padoven, with musical direction by Paula Millar, acting coaching by Mona Wood-Patterson, and tech direction by Charles Ford.

**AUDITION DETAILS:**

Wednesday and Thursday, July 26 and 27, 2023 from 6:00 – 10:00 p.m.  
Everyone auditioning can appear at 6:00 on either date.

If you are unable to attend either audition, you may submit your audition via video to [merelydirectors@gmail.com](mailto:merelydirectors@gmail.com) no later than Wednesday, July 26, 2023. You can also ask questions at that email address.

**AUDITION LOCATION:**

**MERELY UNDERGROUND – 789 Tech Center Drive**

**Singing**

At your audition, you should come prepared with 16- 32 bars of **any song from the show** or 16-32 bars of any song from musical theatre in the pop rock musical style. We are reaching for a high level of acting and singing. Choose a selection that shows us what you can do! We will have a live accompanist. You must bring your own sheet music if your song is not from the show or tell our accompanist what song and section you will be singing if the song is from the show.

**Dance**

There will also be a movement call, but you do not need to prepare specifically for that.

**Acting**

Additionally, you will have an acting audition.

Choose 2 of the following monologue sides for your audition. Memorization is required.

EVERYONE, even those who want to be in the singing or dancing ensemble, must complete an acting audition.

**AUDITION SIDES:**

***Choose two of these sides. Memorization is required.***

**Cindy:** (on the radio) Longview is a commercial hub here in East Texas, right near the Piney Woods. Originally, the town was called Earpville. But our founders, Mr. Methvin and Mr. Whaley, stood atop a hill one day and remarked to one another, "What a long view." Hence, our name today. Famous residents include Karen Silkwood, because they made a movie about her and Matthew

McConaughy; he was The Sexiest Man Alive in the year 2005 and don't say I told you so, but here at Floyd King Nissan, we got that People Magazine cover hanging up in the ladies' lounge.

**Heather:** (to another contestant) These gloves are 'sposed to be cotton, aren't they? Cotton don't bother me, but this glove – do you think it's a poly-blend? Feels like somebody poured ground glass into it! Oh, God help me, it's making me crazy! It's itchin' so bad! Trying to distract herself. Puppies and rainbows! Puppies and rainbows! Puppies and rainbows. It's not working. Nothing's working! Ow ow ow!

**Janis:** (to a judge) Mr. Ferris! She's done it, second time today. Had her lipstick in her right hand, and lifted up her left hand to take take the top off so she could screw it outta the tube. I'm two feet away, how far are you? I saw it! She was screwing it outta the tube – both hands off the truck, ten seconds or more. Just look at her lips. Red as roses! You think she did that single-handed?

**Kelli:** (to another contestant) I'm Kelli Mangrum. You see that guy there? He already won two years ago! It's somebody else's turn. I'll drop on the floor and die before I let him win.

**Norma:** (to another contestant) Oh, I'm not alone. I don't got people with me, but I got their prayers. Over at our church, they made a prayer chain for me. About a hundred families asking God to let me win. My brother in San Antonio, he started a chain at his church, too, so that's another six hundred or so. And my cousin in Waco, she goes to one of them Mega-Churches, they call 'em "Prayer Warriors" down there, must be two thousand. So every day, the Lord's got almost three thousand people prayin' "Give Norma that truck!" So I feel real blessed.

**Virginia:** (to her husband, as she tends his leg) You might as well drive to Shreveport, play the casinos. A blackjack table, at least you'd be sittin' down. You're supposed to stay off this, so the bones can fuse. All those months flat on your back, woozy from the meds, talking like a crazy person. .... I can't do it again, never mind you. Here, baby, here's your juice box. You sit pretty. I'm goin' to the K Mart , get you more sunscreen.

**Benny:** (to another contestant) Crazy? I'll tell you what's crazy. Vanity. Vanity that says, "I can get through this alone." Oh, you're fine six hours in, but by day three, you're gonna want somebody in the foxhole with you. Who's it gonna be? V.W. Bug Boy? Church Lady? Little missus on the sidelines, givin' you the juice boxes and the sorrowful looks? Me, I'd want the one man who could be my brother. What do you say?"

**Chris:** (to the other contestants) Ahh! Shut the fuck up! She's got no right shoving her goddamn Bible in my face. And you – you want talk about your son? I know about your son, asshole!

**Don:** (to another contestant) I told her, "Janis, you got to get used to long hours in the heat. You been sittin' under the air conditioner." She's spoiled on accounta

I got a twenty-ton unit on my home. Most people's is three tons at the most. But me? I got a twenty. Twenty tons of air!

**Frank:** (entertaining those watching the contest) Whoop -whee! It's hot! Kinda hot where your thighs stick together like rubber. Don't they, ma'am? And, mister, that hair gel you put in this morning to look slick for the ladies, it's slidin' down your neck, am I right? So why don't ya'll go cool off in the show room? Prices as low as the temperature's high! Speaking of scorchers, we got a treat for you now with a song I wrote especially for this contest. Download this baby offa dubya dubya dubya Floyd King dot com!

**Greg:** (to another contestant, Kelli) I always had this dream, since I was thirteen to be a stuntman on the screen. Yeah, I bet I'd do pretty good. Least I think I could. If I could get to Hollywood. Hey! Come with me! Dangerous driving all by yourself. I need somebody to keep me awake, change the channel on that Satellite radio. Don't you want to see palm trees once before you die? Gas and grub, 50/50 split. You sleep in the cabin. I sleep in back.

**J.D.:** (to another contestant) Sun goes up and comes down, but that K-Mart sign across the way? It stays lit. Feels like I spend my whole damn life right here on this sorry pitch o' concrete. Funny, ain't it? American dream, a Japanese car? Other night, I went to see that house where I was born. Got lost. Wound up on a dead-end road, back of a recycling plant. Scared the crap out of me.

**Jesus:** (to a judge) Do you have a dog? Because if I win this game, I get my diploma. Maybe one day in the future, your dog, he gets sick. You drive a long way, through neighborhoods you don't know. The Animal Clinic. Open all night. I'm there, in my white coat. You're surprised. You give your dog to me, and what do I do? I take his life in my hands. Comprendre?

**Mike:** (to a co-worker) Hell yes. Looks in his sunglasses as a mirror. That teeth bleach paid off. Heehee! Dan Frankel in Tennessee, he says to me, "What the hell kinda Big Ass order is this? Last six months, you ain't made quota." And I told him. "You don't understand, Dan, my man. Last summer, Hands on a Hardbody, I moved twelve Maximas, eight Pathfinders, and six Altima Coupes. You tell me one dealership in East Texas that had a better July. Now I want the same units this year. "We'll be watching," he says to me, "from Tennessee all the way to Tokyo. We'll be watching." "You'll be watching," I tell him, "to see how it's done." You give 'em a circus, they buy souvenirs.

**Ronald:** (to another contestant) Hey, hey, hey. You from Longview? I'm from Marshall. Longview got three post offices; Marshall got one. Longview got a twelve story building; Marshall got none. But that don't matter today. I'm goin' the distance here today. His phone rings and he answers. Hello? Hey, Peaches, no, no, I'm YOUR boo, Baby. Don't go around believing all the tattoos you read. Look, I'm in the middle of something. I'll check you later.