

# **RSVP: The Most Interesting Dinner Party that Never Really Happened.**

By Shannon Piper, Three Rivers, MI

Ella, an aspiring writer up against a deadline, checks herself into the Algonquin Hotel one evening with the lofty goal of writing a play before morning. George, her bellhop, takes a shine to her and it isn't long before he's serving her up with as many ideas as he is pasta dishes. Despite many distractions, Ella manages to eke out some pages here and there as she begins to depict a story about a dinner party being held at the Algonquin Hotel circa 1920's. Soon, the audience isn't just watching Ella write a play, but they are seeing it played out simultaneously...and then played out again as Ella changes her mind on characters, dialogue and plot points. But, it isn't until Ella indulges in an extended writing break that things really begin to unravel and Ella's characters seize the moment and begin to write themselves! Don't miss this funny, heartwarming story that will leave you scratching your head til the very end.

**Auditions: December 16th & 17th at 7pm at TRCP**

**Performance Dates:  
February 14-16 & 21-23, 2014**

Character list for "RSVP: The Most Interesting Dinner Party That Never Really Happened"

ELLA- (20-35) Ella, a writer, decides to check herself into the Algonquin Hotel for a night, and write an entire play before morning. Ella is very creative and sporadic with her thoughts, but doesn't know her own strength as a writer.

GEORGE- (20-35)- George is part of the staff at the Algonquin and checks Ella into her room. Very intrigued by Ella and her writing, he becomes her muse and source for ideas, though he plays it all off as casual suggestions.

Characters in the the play Ella is writing entitled "The Beginning of the End"

HECTOR- (40-50)- An Actor who is married to Peony and long time friends with Talbot. His marriage has seen better days.

PEONY- (40-50)- Sharp tongued wife of Hector. Long time friends with Talbot's wife Sandrine.

TALBOT- (40's)- Formerally a stage actor, he has now transitioned into screen acting in the up in coming film town now known as "Hollywood". He's sort of the Brat Pitt of the 20's. He's married to Sandrine who is half his age. Possibly has a romantic past with Mabel.

SANDRINE- (20's)- Trophy wife of Talbot.

MABEL- (30's)- Mabel is a sophisticated columnist for the New Yorker. She's very matter of fact, though from time to time you see glimpses of a softer side that she successfully hides.

HUGO- (60'S)- Claims to be Mabel's uncle, though she presumed him to be dead.

JOSEPHINE- (40-60's)- Well known novelist who is now a theatre critic. Very eccentric. She has some kind of romantic past with Dewey Delmar which causes them to have a very love/hate relationship.

DEWEY DELMAR- (50-60)- Successful Broadway Producer who is in the middle of writing his memoirs with the help of his young ghostwriter, Cybill.

CYBILL- (20-30)- Young up and coming writer who follows Dewey around, taking notes on everything he says and does.

AGATHA- (60-80)- Very, very old, Agatha still gets around, albeit slowly. She was a famous poet in her day.

WAITER- Male waiter who frequently pops in and out of the lobby, waiting on everyone at the dinner party.

MARCUS- (40-50) Talbot's Agent. Kind of a know it all.

MURRAY- (50-60) Guest at Talbot's dinner party. Always the voice of reason.

HAZEL- (30-40) Guest at Talbot's dinner party. She is there with her older and slightly smarter sister Helen. She likes to eat.

HELEN- (30-40)- Hazel's older and presumably wiser sister.

VIOLA- (30-40's) - Guest at dinner party. She is a bit of a socialite and doesn't go far without a drink in her hand.

SYLVIA- (40-50's)- Guest at dinner party who suffers from some sort of OCD, so much so that she frequently takes baths no matter where she is.

DANCING WAITERS

**Director:** Shannon Piper

**Assistant Director / Stage Manager:** Melissa Major

**Lights/Sound:** Zack Miller

## CAST & CREW

Ella	Emilie Tole
George	Richard Johnson
Hector	Gary Nofsinger
Peony	Lisa Harrison
Talbot	Patrick Nugent
Sandrine	Mary Ellen Jefferies
Hugo	Peter Matthew
Mabel	Margy Eickhoff
Josephine	Leeanne Seaver
Dewey	Philip Borkholder
Cybill	Megan Tesman
Agatha	Alana Hulse
Waiter	David Barton
Marcus	Graham Gooden
Murray (now Minerva)	Regina Mains
Helen	Sharon Weissmann
Hazel	Nancy Miller
Viola	Wendy Ludwig
Sylvia	Jan Matthew
Dancing Waiters	Isabella and Savannah Piper, Riley Ludwig, Sydney Harrison, Jalesa Malone, Matie James

