

***The Crucible***  
Balally Players  
Directed by Geoff O'Keeffe  
Designed by Gerard Bourke

***The Crucible*** is widely regarded as one of the finest plays of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century. This parable of social paranoia remains as relevant now as it was then. The story of how the small community of Salem is stirred into madness by superstition, paranoia and malice, culminating in a violent climax, is a savage attack on the evils of mindless persecution and the terrifying power of false accusations. The Salem Witch Trials of 1692 serve as an allegory for the communist witch hunts of the early 1950's in which any number of writers, actors, directors and others had their careers ruined by the extreme behavior of the House Un-American Activities Committee. Throughout his life, Miller expressed frequent amazement that events similar to those he depicted in his play were being repeated around the world. Even today, the play's themes still resonate, as religious beliefs are cited by certain individuals as reasons to promote discrimination and deny basic rights. It is a powerful story of the personal and the political.

**1. Reverend Parris:** Minister in Salem. He believes a faction plans to force him to leave Salem, so he attempts to strengthen his authority through the witch trial proceedings. He delivers fire and brimstone sermons. He is inattentive and quick to get angry as a father and Master (40s+)

**2. Betty Parris:** Parris' daughter. Her father discovers her dancing in the woods, and she later accuses individuals of practicing witchcraft. (10)

**3. Tituba:** Parris' black slave. Parris discovers her casting spells and making potions with the girls in the woods. She is terrified of Parris who blames for everything. (30s+)

**4. Abigail Williams:** Parris' niece. She instigates the witch trials by falsely accusing others of witchcraft. She pretends to see spirits and instructs the other girls to pretend as well. She is manipulative, resolute and extremely self-aware. She is a skillful liar. (late teens- early 20s)

**5. Susanna Walcott:** Friend to Abigail. She also takes part in the trials by falsely accusing others of witchcraft. Works for the town doctor (late teens-early 20s)

**6. Mrs. Ann Putnam:** Very bitter. She believes that a witch is responsible for the deaths of her seven infant children. Her jealousy of Rebecca Nurse leads her to accuse Goody Nurse of being a witch. She is irrational, accusatory, harsh. (40s)

**7. Thomas Putnam:** One of the richest farmers and landowners in Salem. Bitter as he believes he does not get the respect his position deserves.

He systematically accuses his neighbours of witchcraft so that he might purchase their lands after they hang. He is motivated by land.(40s+)

**8. Mercy Lewis:** Servant to the Putnams and best friend to Abigail. She participates in the witch trials by pretending to see spirits and falsely accusing individuals of witchcraft. (Teens- early 20s)

**9. Mary Warren:** Servant to the Proctors. She goes along with Abigail and the girls by falsely accusing others of witchcraft; however, she later admits that she was lying. She is generally a good person, afraid of wrong doing but more afraid of Abigail. (Teens-early 20s)

**10. John Proctor:** Salem farmer and former lover of Abigail's when she worked in his house. Proctor refuses to be led by hypocrisy. He openly denounces Parris and does not attend church. He is a powerful individual. He has a strong sense of personal integrity and his affair with Abigail makes him see and hate his own hypocrisy. (late 30s-early 40s)

**11. Rebecca Nurse:** She is one of the most respected individuals in Salem because of her kindness and charity. She argues against the witch trial investigations. Mrs. Putnam accuses her of witchcraft. She has served as a midwife at many births. She never loses her integrity. (60s+)

**12. Giles Corey:** Elderly inhabitant of Salem. He is very brave and moral. Has been involved in various court cases and is very aware of the law. He is pressed to death as a result. He challenges the court in an attempt to defend his wife who has been convicted of witchcraft. (60s+)

**13. Reverend Hale:** Minister in Beverly. The people of Salem summon him to investigate Betty's condition and determine if witchcraft is responsible. He is seen as an expert in this field. He supports the witch trials, but later denounces them when he learns that Abigail is lying. He undergoes a big shift in his outlook as the play progresses. (late 30s-early 40s)

**14. Elizabeth Proctor:** Wife of John Proctor. She is a decent and honest woman, who dismissed Abigail because of her affair with John Proctor. She is deeply in love with her husband, but his affair has left her finding it hard to trust him. She feels she is not good enough for him and as a result, sometimes appears cold towards him. (Late 20's- 30's)

**15. Francis Nurse:** Farmer and landowner in Salem. He is a respected member of the community often called upon to settle disagreements between individuals. (60s+)

**16. Ezekial Cheever:** Appointed by the court to assist in arresting accused individuals. He is upright and determined to do his part for justice. (30s+)

**17. Marshall Herrick:** Appointed by the court to arrest the accused individuals. He is a sympathetic character. Becomes friendly with the accused witches he guards (20s+)

**18. Judge Hathorne:** A judge in the Salem court. He is an arrogant and unpleasant man. Considers the Puritan government as being absolutely just and right and will not let anything change that. (40s+)

**19. Deputy Governor Danforth:** A special judge serving in the Salem court during the witch trials. He signs the death sentences for those individuals who refuse to confess their crimes. Intelligent and open minded, he does however believe resolutely in his ability to distinguish fact from fiction. He refuses to delay any execution for fear that he will appear weak and irresolute. (50s-60s)

**20. Sarah Good:** Beggar in Salem. She is the first individual accused of witchcraft.

**21. Hopkins:** Jailer. (20s+)

Martha Corey's Voice.

### **Audition Schedule:**

Auditions take place on **Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup>** and **Thursday 9<sup>th</sup>** of **January, 2014** at **7.30 pm, Mill Theatre Dundrum.**

Call backs on **Sunday 12<sup>th</sup>** at **2.00 pm.**

Audition sides will be provided in advance and actors will be called in pairs or more for audition.

Call backs on **Sunday 12<sup>th</sup>** at **2.00 pm.**

### **Rehearsal Schedule:**

Rehearsals will take place over a 10 week period from Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> January and run every **Wednesday** and **Thursday evening** from **7.30 — 10.30 pm** and **Sunday** afternoons from **2.00 pm — 6.00 PM.**

**The production runs the week beginning Monday 24 March, 2014.**

A detailed rehearsal schedule will be provided at the beginning of the rehearsal process.

The script is available online at:

<http://ebookbrowse.net/the-crucible-full-play-pdf-d361324353>