

THE CURIOUS SAVAGE  
By John Patrick

**AUDITION PACKET**



**Auditions:**

Monday, September 9<sup>th</sup> – 5 PM to 7 PM  
Wednesday, September 11<sup>th</sup> – 3 PM to 5 PM

**Callbacks:**

Thursday, September 12<sup>th</sup> – 5 PM – 8 PM

**Production:**

Thursday, November 14<sup>th</sup> to Saturday, November 16<sup>th</sup>

## THE CURIOUS SAVAGE

By John Patrick

### **Synopsis:**

The Curious Savage is the story of an elderly widow named Mrs. Savage, whose husband has left her \$10 million dollars. She intends to give the entire fortune away to people who need it, but her stepchildren strongly object.

### **Characters:**

#### *The Family:*

Ethel Savage (f) – Ethel Savage is an eccentric woman who desires to fulfill the dreams of others. She has a small and youthful face with bright, expressive eyes, making her always seem amused and cheerful. Her hair has a blue tint, and she always carries around a large teddy bear. She is kind and accepting, not judging any of the inmates despite their obvious quirks. In contrast with the other inmates, Mrs. Savage is peculiar yet still maintains an accurate perception of herself and of the world around her.

Titus (m)– Titus, one of the Savage stepchildren, is a wealthy and successful businessman. He is aristocratic, stuck-up, and greedy, just like his siblings. He looks upon the inmates in The Cloisters with scorn and disgust, and he always acts very pompously. He is disrespectful to everyone around him, including his brother and sister.

Samuel (m) – Samuel, the third Savage sibling, is less pretentious than the other two. He is short, awkward, and undistinguished, seeming to follow whatever his siblings do and say. He seems to have the least power among the Savage stepchildren.

Lily Belle (f) – Lily Belle, the sister of Titus and Samuel, is tall, thin, and very chic. She is self-confident and assured, but she has a quick temper. She has been romantically involved with many men in the past, and her various past relationships are often ridiculed by her siblings and stepmother. Lily Belle is stubborn, stuck-up, and very materialistic. She is rumored to sleep wearing a tiara.

#### *The Guests:*

Florence (f) – Florence, a woman in her late twenties, is an inmate at The Cloisters. She is naturally elegant and maternal, and her warm smile always lightens the mood. She believes that the doll she carries around is in fact her five-year-old son, John Thomas. She is polite and kind to everyone, making sure to always have proper etiquette.

Hannibal (m) – Hannibal, a man in his thirties, is an inmate at The Cloisters. He is described as “pink, plump, and cherubic.” He is gifted at mathematics, and he used to be a statistician for the government; he uses math constantly and often muses on such things as the placement of body parts. He believes he is a master at the violin, but in reality he cannot play.

Fairy May (f) – Fairy May, a woman in her early twenties, is another inmate at the Cloisters. She believes she is beautiful despite her unkempt appearance: she is pale and slender with frazzled hair,

unflattering dresses, and wide-rimmed glasses. Her energy and light-hearted attitude are always amusing but sometimes annoying. She is a compulsive liar, inventing fantastical stories about her childhood that are clearly not veracious.

Jeffrey (m) – Jeff, one of the inmates at the Cloisters, is a handsome man of about twenty-five. He is more quiet and reserved than some of the other inmates, but he possesses a maturity that surpasses his age. He fought in World War II, but he quit before his plane was shot down. He believes this has left him with physical scars on his face, when really he possesses only emotional scars.

Mrs. Paddy (f) – Mrs. Paddy, the final inmate at The Cloisters, is a stout, middle-aged woman of “awesome ferocity.” She is hostile and detached from the other inmates. When her husband told her to shut up, she decided never to talk again; now, she merely lists the countless things she hates. She frequently paints “seascapes,” which consist of one undulating line.

*The Staff:*

Miss Wilhelmina – Miss Willie is the nurse at The Cloisters. She is very compassionate, treating the inmates with warmth and respect despite her occasional frustration. She enjoys her job and has never let any inmate pay her to escape.

Dr. Emmett (f/m) – Dr. Emmett is the doctor at The Cloisters. S/he is rational and calm, treating every situation with composure and sensibility and providing an authority figure to the inmates. S/he acts as the voice of reason in the sanitarium, genuinely caring about the inmates and wanting them to enjoy their stay at The Cloisters.

## AUDITION MONOLOGUES

All those who are auditioning will read 3 monologues.

### EVERYONE must read DR. EMMETT:

DR EMMETT:

Jeffrey sees only what he wants to see—an excuse for not facing the future. Does Florence see that her child was taken from her? Does Fairy see what the mirror should tell her? No. They've found refuge in an egg-shell world where you don't belong. For you see yourself clearly, I'm sure. You belong in the world you can best serve. The impulse to live your life with courage was right. Go ahead with your Memorial. And don't be betrayed by the illusion of contentment. The door is open for you. Make your peace with loneliness.

### EVERONE must read TITUS/LILY BELLE/SAMUEL:

TITUS/LILY BELLE/SAMUEL:

She planned on using this Memorial fund to give away the entire Savage estate. The newspapers called it her happiness fund. She's always given money to foolish causes. There was an Italian farmer who wanted a box of soil from Italy. Just dirt! Mother spent two hundred dollars to get it for her. And there was a flower peddler who asked for a tombstone for his horse. He got it. After Father died, this obsession got progressively worse. Last summer she chartered a ship to send a thousand children around the world. She said they ought to go around the world while there was still a world around.

### Everyone must pick one additional monologue from below:

HANNIBAL:

Fairy knows that I used to be a statistician. My last position was with the government, charting trends. I was supposed to keep my finger on the pulse of the public and my ear to the ground. It was a very vulnerable position. I was fired and replaced by an electronic calculator. I don't hate electricity like Mrs. Paddy—but I did want to make money with my brains. So, I spent the next two years trying to think of something that could be made for a dime—sold for a dollar—and was habit-forming. I'm afraid my education was wasted.

JEFF:

Can you keep a secret? Dr. Emmett is not a doctor at all. He's a patient -- just like Ms. Paddy. For five years now he's promised to give me a new face. Do you believe a man is what he claims to be? It's best to believe the worst of people. If you believe the worst, then the worst is only half bad at best. And the best is no worst than expected. So it's best to believe the worst. It's simple. When a man says he is wise, you say he is a fool. But if he's a fool, you believe him. Dr. Emmett is a fool. He claims he's a doctor. The war was over five years ago – and where's his miracle?

MRS. SAVAGE:

Oh, I've never had a better time in my life. The *Times* said my play set the theatre back fifty years. It couldn't possibly— because I stole the plot from "Madame X," and that's only forty years old. But the *Wall Street Journal* was wonderful. It said I brought something new to the theatre. It said I had a "tenacious mediocrity unhampered by taste." It was perfect. In our ads we simply said "Tenacious" and "Unhampered." We'd have been running yet if my daughter hadn't come home and stopped me. Oh, I know I was bad and audiences only came to laugh at me. But we both had a good time. What more can you ask? I do miss it. Oh, well. My turn is coming.

FAIRY MAY:

I'm sorry, Florence. I was watching the fireflies. What did you say? I wish I'd been born a cat so I could see in the dark. I wonder what she's like? Miss Willie says they are one of the wealthiest families in America. Please don't play gypsy music, Hannibal it frightens me. Terrifies me. I was stolen by gypsies when I was a child and rescued just as they were about to dye my skin with walnut juice. Well, I was. I hope she likes music. Maybe she plays some instrument herself. The harp! Oh - I hope she plays the harp! I was raised on a harp. My father (raises hands harpist-fashion) like an angel!

MISS WILLIE:

I have something to give you too. It's your bonds. Except for the corner of one that I had to burn with the newspapers to look convincing. I stole them when the lights went out. What bothers me is that after I took them, I toyed with the idea of keeping them. But I stopped because of what Jeff might think. But, you knew Jeff was my husband, didn't you? Well, he is. I want to be here when he recovers. And do you know why I wouldn't keep any of that money? Pure selfishness. I want to do everything for him myself. Surely you understand that?

FLORENCE:

Oh, Fairy, don't peek. It's so degrading to get on your knees. This is the last time I'm going to be a party to peeking, Fairy. Kneeling simply ruins my nylons. Perhaps we should introduce ourselves. You must be Mrs. Savage. I'm Florence Williams. We've been expecting you all afternoon. We're so glad to have you with us. May I introduce Fairy May? And this is Hannibal. And this is our Mrs. Paddy. And, well he was here a few moments ago. John Thomas! John Thomas! Oh, look! Asleep on the floor. My husband warned me I'd be a bad mother. Mrs. Savage, this is my son.

MRS. PADDY:

I hate everything in the world, but most of all I hate cold cream, hot dogs, codfish, crawfish, catnip, sheepdip, sawdust, subways, skewers, buttermilk, caterpillars, frictions, fractions, pins, puns, pens, policemen, and electricity.

Audition Score Sheet

Characterization	1	2	3	4	5	
Stage Presence	1	2	3	4	5	
Projection & Volume	1	2	3	4	5	
Facial Expression	1	2	3	4	5	
Pacing	1	2	3	4	5	
Voice/Diction	1	2	3	4	5	