

OPEN CALL

By: S. Richard Monaco

201-259-8994

CAST LIST

PAULA RANDALL	Actor auditioning for Carrie
SARA ATLAS	Actor auditioning for Jen
NICK SORIANO	Actor auditioning for Brad
TED DOUGHERTY	Actor auditioning for Brad
NANCY	Actor
LARRY	Assistant Director (AD)

SYNOPSIS

A non-union audition for an Off-Off Broadway play entitled “Kiss and Tell” is being held in a room in a New York office consisting of a table and a few chairs. A sign up log and sides are evident on the table. There is an entrance door and an inner office door. The time is 3PM on a Friday afternoon in July. There is one applicant seated as another enters through the entrance door.

ACT 1; SCENE 1

SARA: (Peeks through entrance door) Hi, is this the audition for “Kiss and Tell”?

PAULA: Yes it is but be prepared to wait awhile since they just took three other people into the inner office. I guess there are two waiting rooms.

SARA: No problem this is my third audition today and I’ve been going since 10 this morning. I just hope I can get out of here by 5 since I’m going away for the weekend. (She sits on a chair).

PAULA: I hope it’s on a beach somewhere the city is no place in this heat.

SARA: My boyfriend and I are going to AC. He likes the casino and I like the beach.

PAULA: Cool. By the way, before you forget, you’d better put your name on the sign-up sheet.

SARA: Oh, I completely forgot. Thanks. (She rises and goes to the table).

PAULA: What part are you trying out for if I may ask?

SARA: Jen. I understand 5 out of the eight roles have been already cast.

PAULA: You've got that right. Wow, the lead. No competition here, I'm auditioning for Carrie. If we both get the part it should be interesting since I'll have to have a knock down drag out with you over Brad.

SARA: Yeah, Ha, that's right. Watch out because I took combat training in the last acting class I took.

PAULA: Really? Who did you study with?

SARA: The Adler Group.

PAULA: That's cool. Stella Adler, look at you. Are you SAG?

SARA: Screen Actors Guild? No way. I did try out for the Actor's Studio but I wasn't up to that kind of intensity yet. Where did you get your training?

PAULA: I took Drama classes at NYU. You know the Method: Stanislavsky, Meissner. You'd better take one of those sides over there. I think there's only one left for Jen.

SARA: Oh yeah, thanks. (She walks back over to the table and picks up one of the sides and starts reading as she walks back to her chair).

NICK: (Peeks through the open door) Hi, I don't know if this is the right room. I'm looking for the audition for Kiss whatever.

PAULA: Kiss and Tell. You're in the right place. Put your name on the sign up, take one of the sides and have a seat.

NICK: Thanks. (He walks toward the table signs and picks up a side then walks toward Paula with his outstretched hand) My name is Nick. How long a wait is it? Do you know?

PAULA: Not really. I've been here for some time. (Extends her hand) I'm Paula and I did not get her name yet.

SARA: (Overhearing) Oh, I'm sorry. My name is Sara. You said your name is Nick?

NICK: That's right. I'm going to try out for Brad.

PAULA: No big surprise there since there's only one male role left in the play.

NICK: Yeah, Ha. I guess that was a little dumb of me. What roles are you girls here for?

PAULA: I'm here for Carrie and Sara over there is trying for Jen. Have you ever done Off-Off Broadway before?

NICK: More like way off. I've only done Community Theater over in Jersey. This is really a first for me here in New York.

SARA: (Looking up from her reading) have you had any training?

NICK: How do you mean like physical?

PAULA: No, dummy, actor training.

NICK: Not really. I was just in one play and I really didn't have any lines to speak of.

PAULA: (With a bit of sarcasm) Wow, I'm sure you're gonna knock 'em dead. You know you're trying out for the lead don't you?

NICK: Well, yeah.

SARA: (More empathetic) well just give it all you got and I'm sure you'll do fine.

NICK: Thanks Sara. Hey would you both like to run some lines?

PAULA: No thanks, I'm having enough trouble getting a bite on my own.

SARA: Sure Nick, Where do you want to start?

NICK: How about the top of page two. We both have a couple of lines there.

SARA: That sounds okay, Nick, but let's dance around the passionate kiss for now all right?

NICK: Yeah, sure, okay. Nuts, I was really hoping to show you how great a romantic actor I am. (Chuckle).

(Nick and Sara walk off to a corner of the room to read their lines as another actor comes in).

TED: Hi, I hope I'm in the right place. It looks like someone tore the sign on the door. It says "Aud".

PAULA: You're in the right place. The sides for Brad are over at the table with the sign-up sheet.

TED: Oh, okay, thanks. By the way are there any other parts that are available?

PAULA: Sure, Jen or Carrie. Take your pick. As long as you're not gender sensitive you've got a shot.

TED: I'm sure the Director would have a problem with that.

PAULA: Don't be too sure.

TED: Hey, I like your repartee. Who are you?

PAULA: The name's Paula hoping to play Carrie. Those two in the corner trying to act romantic are Nick and Sara. And you?

TED: Ted. I think I've seen you before. Did you ever try out for a soap.

PAULA: You name it I've been there. I've had a couple of walk-ons but mostly background. You know, one of the blurry people.

TED: Yeah. Me too. Hey, you want to run some lines.

PAULA: Nah, I like to go in cold. More real for me.

TED: Yeah, maybe you're right. I hope they don't ask for a monologue. I'm a bit rusty on the one I used to have.

PAULA: Which one was that?

TED: Hamlet, You know the "Alas poor Yorick" one.

PAULA: Oh my God, that's really one you can't use here. Don't you have another?

TED: I had one other one but I'd need some time to brush up on it.

PAULA: I wouldn't worry about it, they'll probably just use sides anyway.

TED: Well, I'd better try to familiarize myself with some of these lines.

{There's a slight pause in the action as Ted and Paula are busy studying their lines. Ted looks up from the sheet of paper as if to memorize what he's read and looks over to Nick and Sara who are kissing in a passionate romantic embrace}.

TED: Whoa Nellie. Now that's putting some emphasis on the rehearsal.

PAULA: (Now looking up) Boy, I'll say. Hey you two, why don't you get a room. Sara, I'm telling your boyfriend to go to AC without you.

SARA: (Composing herself) Oh, sorry, I guess we got caught up in the moment.

PAULA: I'll say, the room suddenly got a lot warmer. I thought you said you were going to dance around the passion Sara. (With a chuckle) That dance looked more horizontal than vertical.

TED: (Seriously} Hey Sara, could I read some lines with you after Nick?

PAULA: And suddenly another voice is heard from.

(The inner door opens and a Nancy comes out and sits on one of the chairs. She's holding sides in her hand and is visibly excited).

NANCY: (Excited) I can't believe it, I can't believe it. I got a call back. How great is that, huh, how great is that?

PAULA: Good for you. Join the parade of underpaid stage actors. What role did you audition for?

NANCY: Carrie.

PAULA: Of course.

NANCY: Why did you say that?

PAULA: Oh, no reason, just that it gives me a little more competition than I needed.

NANCY: Oh, I see, you're also trying out for Carrie.

PAULA: Bingo!!

NANCY: Well, I'm not the only call back for that part. I overheard the Director tell the AD that they already have 5 or 6 call backs for that role.

PAULA: (Sarcastically) Well, that's hopeful. As long as Jennifer Lawrence isn't in there I might have a shot.

NANCY: Who's Jennifer Lawrence?

PAULA: (Eyes rolling) I've gotta get outta here. It's coming up on 4 o'clock when are they closing this place does anybody know?

SARA: (Sneaking a look at Nick and smiling) Well, I'm going to have to call my boyfriend and tell him I'm running late. (She picks up her cell phone to call).

PAULA: (To Ted) Yeah, I could see that comin'.

NANCY: (Bubbly) I have to be back here by 10 AM tomorrow so goodbye everyone. Break a leg.

PAULA: (Under her breath) I'd like to break her.....Yeah, goodbye honey, get home safe.

SARA: (Speaking on her cell phone) Well I'm sorry you feel that way Jeff but there's no way I'm going to leave here without my audition. (Pause, listening). (Angry) Jeff, just go by yourself if you're going to be that way. (Pause) Look, I'm not going to argue with you. (Pause, Listening). Have a good time, goodbye Jeff. (Hangs up and looks towards Nick with a shrug)

PAULA: (To Ted). Looks like trouble in paradise.

TED: I'm staying out of this.

(The Producer, Larry, peeks his head out the inner door)

LARRY: I'm really sorry its taking so long but we've had a huge turnout for this show. Please be a little more patient.

PAULA: Do you know how much longer....

(Larry closes the door before Paula can finish her question)

TED: I guess this audition turned into a "cattle call" huh?

PAULA: You got that right. If I knew this was an open call I would have never shown up. Wait 'til I speak to that so-called agent of mine.

TED: You've got an agent?

PAULA: Sure, don't you?

TED: No, I'm non-union. I just use some of the internet sites to send my resume and headshots.

PAULA: Hey, I'm also non-union but I do have a guy I use over at Wilfrey. Of course the only thing I usually get from him is background stuff but, what the hell, I still make a hundred plus and lunch for hanging out. In fact, last week I made 440 bucks and all I could eat for 3 and half days work.

TED: Not bad. The last background I did I only made 120 dollars for 16 hours of running between a holding area and the set. I swore I would never do that again.

PAULA: Wow, what show was that?

TED: It was a film. The Producers, with Nathan Lane and Matt Broderick. The set was at the Majestic Theater and holding was at the Marriott Hotel. They had SAG in one area and Non-Union in another. I got caught trying to eat in the SAG area and got thrown out. The food was much better over there. They weren't very nice to me. (Chuckle)

SARA: Hey you two, would you both like to go out for a bite with Nick and me after the audition?

PAULA: What about Jeff?

SARA: How did you know his name?

PAULA: C'mon Sara, It would be pretty difficult not hearing your heated phone conversation with your boyfriend.

SARA: Well he's going to have to chill a bit on his own this weekend.

PAULA: Poor Jeff.

SARA: Are you guys up for food later?

PAULA: (Looking at Ted) I guess that would be okay.

TED: I'm game.

(Larry peeks his head in the door)

LARRY: Paula Randall we're ready for you.

PAULA: (Gets up with raised arms as if cheering) Well whadaya know I've been selected. (She disappears behind the door).

TED: One down three to go. Where are you guys from anyway?

NICK: I live in Jersey

SARA: Me too. Montclair.

NICK: Hey, I'm your neighbor, I'm from Bloomfield.

TED: You two mean to tell me that after all the romantics you both didn't know you were neighbors?

SARA: (Smiling) Like I said before we were into the moment. By the way where are you from Ted?

TED: I'm right here in the city. Hell's Kitchen, off 10th avenue.

SARA: Wow, you're right where all the action is. I guess you go on a lot of auditions.

TED: Not really, I have a job. I do this for fun.

SARA: Oh really, what do you do?

TED: Waiter and sometimes Bartender at a local Pub.

SARA: Why don't we go there to eat? Do they have fish and chips?

TED: Nah, It's a little too far. We'd have to take a bus.

SARA: No we wouldn't. I have a car and driver.

TED/NICK: (Together} What??

SARA: Why, is there a law against it?

NICK: No but isn't that a bit expensive?

SARA: Not really. My dad owns Atlas Limousines in Cedar Grove so I get to use one of the cars when I have an audition in the city.

NICK: Lucky you. Your father is Stan Atlas?

SARA: Yeah. Do you know him Nick?

NICK: Who doesn't? He's the largest Limo service in the East.

SARA: I guess.

TED: Where is your driver now?

SARA: He's right down stairs by the front door.

TED: Won't he get a ticket?

SARA: No. Limo drivers double park all the time. As long as they stay with the car there's no problem.

(Paula enters the waiting area and sits down. Larry also comes in and picks up the sign in sheet.)

LARRY: I'm really sorry (looks down at the sheet). Sara Atlas, Nick Soriano and Ted Dougherty, we have no time left today. I'll put you all first in line tomorrow at 10 am if you still want to try out. (He disappears behind the door).

PAULA: Boy that was short and sweet. These people have no class at all. If I were you guys I wouldn't waste my time. This show is already cast.

SARA: Really, how do you know?

PAULA: Because they held over 5 people that are still in there and it looks like they have the remaining roles.

SARA: Then why are they having more auditions tomorrow?

PAULA: They still need background for a small crowd scene. They offered it to me and I turned it down.

NICK: Why?

PAULA: No pay. Is that a good reason? Let's go eat. Where are we going anyway?

TED: We're going where I work in Hell's Kitchen.

PAULA: What? That's way up town. How are we supposed to get there?

NICK: Sara's got a limousine.

PAULA: Oh, Now that's a first. Why am I not surprised? Maybe today didn't turn out so bad after all.

(They all leave through the entrance door).

CURTAIN

