

## **“The Shadow Box” by Michael Cristofer--directed by Jakob G. Hofmann**

**Description:** “The Shadow Box” revolves around a trio of terminally ill patients, each of whom lives in a separate cottage at a hospice facility. Each is being interviewed about the process of dying. *\*For most of the play, the interviewer is unseen, which means that characters speak directly to the audience, as if they were the interviewer.*

The first dying person is Joe, a middle-aged, blue-collar family man. Joe seems well-adjusted and has accepted that he is dying. However, his wife Maggie is in denial and has not told their son Steve about his father's condition.

The second dying person is Brian, a bisexual English professor. He is being cared for by his lover, Mark. They receive a visit from Brian's flamboyant, trashy ex-wife Beverly. Beverly's presence lifts Brian's spirits but rankles Mark.

The final dying person is Felicity, an elderly, cantankerous, woman who is suffering from dementia. She is being cared for by her long-struggling, devoted daughter Agnes. Felicity is in great pain but refuses to die because she remains hopeful that her favorite daughter, Claire, will return to her soon.

### **Character Breakdown:**

Interviewer-- 30's-50's, male or female.

#### **Male roles:**

Joe - 30's -40's--a middle-aged, blue-collar family man.

Steve--Joe's teenage son/hip--with attitude--at one point he plays basic guitar on stage

Brian--30's-50's --after several years now openly gay

Mark--20's Brian's lover/partner

#### **Female roles:**

Maggie--30's Joe's wife/having difficult time accepting his cancer

Beverly--30's-40's-- Brian ex-wife, becoming a drunk, while accepting Brian & Mark's relationship still has problems with it.

Agnes--late 20's-30's spinster (lived with her mother--love/hate relationship)

Felicity--ideal in 60's/70's Agnes' mother but will consider actresses in their late 40's-50's as well

Please bring a brief monologue, appropriate to the style of the play, that best demonstrates your range. At callbacks actors will read from sides provided by the Playshop. Thank you!