

CHARACTERS

DELBERT, African-American, 60. A seminary dropout, radical and poet. His whole personality is like an old soul song: smooth, mellow and with an underlying rhythm that never lets up. Actors playing Delbert should take care to find his substantial sense of humor, in addition to his obvious depth.

SUNNY, white, 50. A bright, pixie-ish yoga teacher from California; her lightness and positivity contrast with moments of great depth and clarity.

ROBERT, African-American, 30s. A former horse groomer from the deep South; hardened but not lacking a sense of humor. Deep rural Mississippi accent.

GEORGIA/FEMALE ENSEMBLE 1, African-American, 30s. Robert's wife, also Southern; opinionated, outspoken and extremely warm. She and Robert have a lovingly contentious relationship. Loves to speak her mind.

GARY, white, 45. A Midwestern hippie and an organic farmer. Clearly was in his element in the late 60s and early 70s. He is generally good-natured, friendly and quite smart.

KERRY, white, 45. A 19-year-old trapped in a 45-year-old's body, born and bred in Texas. Kerry was imprisoned for 22 of his 45 years and is eager to rediscover the world. Always wants to make sure he connects with whomever he is talking to. Strong Texas accent.

DAVID, African-American, 40. A gentle, sad man, born and raised in northern Florida (otherwise known as southern Alabama). Has a very strong spiritual sense and had aspirations to the ministry before being put on death row at 18. He is continually engaged in a battle between resignation and hope.

SANDRA/SUE/FEMALE ENSEMBLE 2, white, 40. Sandra is married to Kerry. Sweet, nurturing, loves Kerry dearly and has a great sense of humor about him. She has a strong Texas accent. Sue is married to Gary. Salt of the earth; she is also an organic farmer. She has a *strong* upper Midwestern accent — think *Fargo*.

MALE ENSEMBLE 1 and 2, both white, 35–50. Male Ensemble 1 and 2 play police officers, attorneys, suspects and other supporting characters. Both actors should be good with dialects and characterization, and different from each other in build and appearance. Both roles require highly versatile, commanding actors. Character assignments for ensemble actors appear on the following page.

MALE ENSEMBLE 1 plays WHITE COP 1, KERRY'S DEFENSE, SHERIFF CARROLL, JESSE, COURT ATTORNEY, DAVID'S PROSECUTOR, VOICEOVER/INMATE, WHITE GUARD, JEFF, CELLMATE, EX-BOYFRIEND and FARMER.

MALE ENSEMBLE 2 plays WHITE COP 2, KERRY'S PROSECUTION, RHODES, DEPUTY, SOUTHERN WHITE GUY, ROBERT'S JUDGE, DAVID'S DEFENSE, DOYLE and THE PROSECUTION.

FEMALE ENSEMBLE 1 (GEORGIA) also plays STATE ATTORNEY, KERRY'S JUDGE and DARLA.

FEMALE ENSEMBLE 2 (SANDRA/SUE) also plays FEMALE LAWYER.

The roles of BLACK COP, BLACK GUY 1 and BLACK INMATE are played by the actor who plays DAVID.

The role of BLACK GUY 2 is played by the actor who plays ROBERT.

SETTING

Bare stage; minimal set with several chairs and multiple entrances and exits. Can be performed in proscenium, in the round, or by seated actors.