

## **The Sunshine Boys - Audition Information**

Performance Dates 5<sup>th</sup> September 2026 – 12<sup>th</sup> September 2026

This audition will be done in pairs. In the room will be the director, the casting committee and your audition partner(s).

The play is firmly rooted in the vaudeville world of Broadway. It is important for the characters to have that sharp, New York “drawl”. There are many online guides to pronunciation, I suggest you review these as a guide.

### **Character Breakdowns:**

- **Willie Clark** – Male. 70’s. Willie is a man who knows how to hold a grudge! He is New York Jewish and then some. He is a curmudgeonly so and so. He is in his 70’s, short and stout in stature with an unkempt appearance. The actor must have a command to comic timing. Willie is two different characters. One is everyday Willie, the other is the stage performer who is much more exaggerated -think Groucho Marx.
- **Ben Silverman** – Male. 30’s – 40’s. Willie’s long-suffering nephew and agent. He has an inner strength (he must have to put up with Willie”). At different time though, he is diffident to the TV producer.
- **Al Lewis** – Male. 70’s. The other half of The Sunshine Boys. Al is a lot nicer than Willie but still stands his ground. He knows how to drive Willie’s gears with his spitting and poking! Again, the actor must have good comic timing. Physically opposite to Willie, Al should be tallish and thin, again in his 70’s. His stage persona is much the same as his every day.
- **Patient** – Male. 30’s-50’s. A small part, but the actor must be able to play off Willie in their scenes.
- **Eddie** – Male. 20’s A studio floor manager. He is being given the run around by Willie and Al and is exasperated by them.
- **Nurse** – Female. 20’s. The actor playing the nurse is distinct from the registered nurse!! We must be politically incorrect with this casting. The whole point in her being in the doctor sketch is because she is physically attractive in the “Hollywood” kind of way. Blonde, large breasts and a pert bottom. In other words, an American Barbara Windsor!!
- **Registered nurse** – Female. 30’s – 50’s. A glorious part. In just one scene and with a few lines she must match Willie, word for word, sarcastic comment for sarcastic comment. Comic timing is a must.

I could be persuaded to cast the same actor as “nurse” and “registered nurse” if the physicality is possible to achieve.

## **Audition pieces:**

The characters of Willie and Al are heavily reliant on the New York “drawl”. There is an excellent article on Wikipedia you might find useful. Unless of course you are from New York!!

You may not read all of the below auditions pieces, as it depends on how many auditionees we have attend, but you could be asked to read one or all of the below:

### **Willie Clark**

- Page 3 “Hello Sandy? Let me have Sandy....” – Page 10 “Who could live that long....”)
- Page 39 (Willie)“You know I think you went crazy in the country” – Page 43 (Al) – “Am I Doris, she’ll tell you”
- Page 47 (Willie) – “Oh nurse, nurse” - 50 (Nurse) “Well if I can help doctor, that’s what the nurse is for”

### **Ben Silverman**

- Page 3 “Uncle Willie, it’s me Ben...” – Page 10 Willie - “Who could live that long....”)
- Page 24 “Mr Lewis, how do you do, I’m Ben Silverman” – Page 26 “Right”

### **Al Lewis**

- Page 24 (Ben -“Mr Lewis, how do you do, I’m Ben Silverman”) - Page 26 (Ben - “Right”)
- Page 39 (Willie)“You know I think you went crazy in the country” – Page 43 (Al) – “Am I Doris, she’ll tell you”
- Page 79 (Al) – “Bernie Eisenstein was the house doctor....” – Page 80 “Big John hated his guts because of the time when
- Harry Richman.....”

### **Registered nurse**

- Page 62 (start of scene) – 67 “Thank you, I could use some fresh air...”

### **Eddie, the TV assistant**

- Page 45 (start of scene) – 47 “Let’s have the curtains”
- Also, the announcer speech on page 47

### **Patient**

- Page 47 (Willie – “open wider and say Ahhh”) – 48 “No, no, I’ll pay. Take the stick out”
- Nurse
- Page 47 (Willie – “Oh nurse, nurse”) - 50 “Well if I can help doctor, that’s what the nurse is for”