



Presents

You Can't Take it With You
By Moss Hart & George Kaufman

Tuesday 10th – Saturday 14th April 2018
The Bridewell Theatre

Production team

Director	Nick Mouton
Production Manager	Andrew Laidlaw
Set Design	Peter Foster
Lighting Design	Laurence Tuerk
Committee Liaison	Kim Barker

Synopsis

'You Can't Take it With You' is a comedy set in New York in the late 1930's.

The play takes place in the living room of a very unusual family - the Vanderhof-Sycamore-Carmichael's. Here meals are eaten, plays are written, snakes collected, ballet steps practiced, xylophones played, printing presses operated. In short, the brood goes on about the business of living the fullest sense of the world. They are individualists. This is a house where you do as you like, and no questions asked.

The play has a madcap feel to it, but it isn't slapstick. The comedy is well placed and nicely timed. It has a similar feel to the other comedies of the time, such as 'Heaven Can Wait', 'Arsenic & Old Lace' and 'Harvey'.

The play looks at the different societies of America at the time and was written to take away the down-trodden feeling of the Great Depression that had changed the lives of many Americans and the possible out-break of war in Europe. It's a look behind the door of an eccentric family who make you feel positive about life with each of the characters telling their own stories.

The play is set around Alice, the youngest member of the family and the only one with a proper 9-to-5 job. She wants to introduce her fiancé, Tony, to the family without scaring him off. All goes well, until Tony and his parents are invited to dinner. This idea frightens Alice as she also works for Tony's father, so she risks losing her fiancé and her job all in one night.

The play nicely looks at the idea of happiness vs money – the life we'd like to live versus the life we have to live. The Grandfather has long since given up work in pursuit of happiness and this has rubbed off on the rest of the extended family. They don't lead a lavish lifestyle,

just one that makes them happy. Striving to fulfil their dreams rather than pushing to make a load of money, because after all, you can't take it with you.

Style

The play is set in 1938 so we will be sticking with that period, which includes the costumes, props and music. It's set in the family's living room / dining room, which is packed with stuff, and leads off into the kitchen and entrance hall. The play was written over three acts but it will be adapted into two acts, covering a week. It's a nice ensemble piece where majority of the cast are always on stage.

What are we looking for

There are 19 characters in the play and we'll need 15 actors, 6 female and 9 male, with some doubling. It is set in America so we'll be looking for people who can do a generic East Coast American accent. There are also two Russian characters and we want to see what it would be like to have two Irish characters. The age range is quite large, with the youngest being in their early 20s and the oldest in their 70s, so there's a part for all generations.

Female characters

Penny Sycamore - Age +40s. The matriarch of the family. Warm with a positive attitude.

Essie Carmichael – Age +25. The oldest daughter who wants to be a dancer. Fun-loving and driven.

Rheba – Age +30s. Even though she works for the household, she's embraced as a member of the family. She has a more realistic take on life.

Alice Sycamore - Age 20s. The youngest of the family. Nervous and "normal". She loves her family but is easily embarrassed by them.

Gay Wellington - Age +30s. An alcoholic actress who Penny invites to the house to read her plays. She will be doubled with Grand Duchess Olga Katrina.

Miriam Kirby – Age +40s. Tony's mother. Softly spoken but at times can speak frankly.

Grand Duchess Olga Katrina - Age +30s. A member of the former Russian Royal family who has been exiled to America and is now working as a waitress. She will be doubled with Gay Wellington.

Male Characters

Paul Sycamore – Age +40s. Penny's husband and avid builder of fireworks. Has a childish and optimistic approach to life.

De Pinna - Age +30s. He works with Mr Sycamore – he came to deliver ice to the house five years ago & never left. Slightly more serious and socially unaware.

Ed Carmichael – Age +25. Married to Essie. He came for dinner once and never left. Enthusiastic, supportive and at times naive.

Donald – Age +30s. Rheba's partner. He's unemployed so spends his time helping around the house. Very likeable and astute.

Martin Vanderhof – Age +60s. Grandpa – the patriarch of the family. Supportive, enthusiastic, loving and very sharp witted.

Henderson – Age +30s. IRS officer. He's a very confused government man who pays a visit to the family about their unpaid taxes. He will be doubled with G-Man.

Tony Kirby – Age 20s. Alice's fiancé. Works on Wall Street for his father's company, but not by choice. He appears to be doing what's perceived as being right, but not what he wants to do.

Boris Kolenkhov – Age +30s. Essie's dance tutor. A big character. Russian. He says what he thinks and doesn't think about the consequences. He doesn't like modern-day Russia and the communist movement.

Anthony Kirby – Age +50s. Tony's father. Very Wall Street and closed. Likes to be the centre of attention, under his own terms.

G-Man - Age +30s. A forceful & brutish government man. He will be doubled up with the role of Henderson.

Jim - Age +20s. One of the government men. Minor role, only a couple of lines.

Mac - Age +20s. One of the government men. Minor role, only a couple of lines.

Key Dates

- Workshop – Wednesday 6th December
- Auditions – Sunday 7th and Monday 8th January 2018
- Recall – Saturday 13th January 2018
- First rehearsal – Sunday 21st January 2018
- Rehearsals will be on Mondays & Wednesday nights and Sunday afternoons
- Full day run and get-in – Sunday 8th April 2018
- Full day Tech and dress rehearsal and– Monday 9th April 2018
- Performance dates at the Bridewell Theatre – Tuesday 10th – Saturday 14th April 2018 (inc matinee)

Workshop

Wednesday 6th December 2017 - 1 Brewers' Hall Garden, Moorgate, EC2V 5DX

6.30pm for 7pm start. Finish 8.30pm / 9pm

The workshop will include:

- Introduction to the team & the play
- Group activities
- A look at some scenes

- Visit <https://membership.sedos.co.uk> and register for the workshop if you want to attend (BTW - you can still attend if you don't email us – this just gives us an idea of numbers)

Auditions

Sunday 7th and Monday 8th January 2018 - 1 Brewers' Hall Garden, Moorgate, EC2V 5DX

- Each audition will be divided into one-hour sessions – please get there 10 minutes before hand for registration
 - Sunday sessions: 1pm, 2.15pm, 3.30pm
 - Monday sessions: 7pm, 8.15pm
- You only need to attend one of the sessions
- Once you've signed up you will be sent a collection of monologues - please prepare one for the audition (you don't have to learn it)
- Once you've done the monologue you will be paired with another auditionee to do a scene
- It is free to audition for members and £5 for non-members
- Visit <https://membership.sedos.co.uk> and register for the auditions
- If you need to cancel please contact youcant@sedos.co.uk

Recall – invitation only

Saturday 13th January 2018 - 1 Brewers' Hall Garden, Moorgate, EC2V 5DX

- 10am – 2pm
- Currently no need to prepare before the recall. This may change depending on the number of auditionees.
- You will be given group scenes to perform with fellow actors

I will want to use this time to see the chemistry between actors so some people may be asked to stay longer than others

Fees

Sedos is one of London's pre-eminent amateur theatre societies with the aim of producing quality amateur theatre to the best artistic quality possible. In the nature of amateur theatre performers are not paid – not even expenses. To perform in 'You Can't Take it With You' you must be a member of Sedos (membership is currently £35 per year, £30 if paid by Direct Debit) and pay a participation fee of £30. There is a non-refundable £5 audition fee for non-Sedos members.

Backstage

Sedos is always looking for volunteers to help with set building, sewing costumes, working Front of House or backstage. If you are interested in getting involved in any capacity please contact the team at youcant@sedos.co.uk.

Rehearsals

Rehearsals will be held at 1 Brewers' Hall Garden, EC2V 5DX on Mondays and Wednesdays from 7pm – 9:30pm and on Sundays from 1pm – 5pm.

Sunday 8th April will be a long full day that will include a run in the rehearsal space then the get-in at the theatre. It's advisable to take Monday 9th April off as a holiday as it is a tech run during the day and the dress rehearsal in the evening.

Note: There won't be any rehearsals on Wednesday 28th March and Easter weekend, Friday 30th March – Monday 2nd April.

We will schedule rehearsals based around cast availability so please indicate on your audition form any dates you are unavailable. Please be honest - this will not necessarily stop you from being cast.

Casting restrictions

Because of overlapping rehearsal periods, it will not be possible to be in 'You Can't Take it With You' and either of these Sedos shows: 'Dogfight' and 'Pippin'. We are aware that we are auditioning at the same time as 'Pippin' and you are welcome to audition for both shows, although you can only be cast in one — the production teams will discuss casting if they both want to shortlist/cast the same person. Auditionee preferences will be taken into account.

See you at the workshop and auditions!