CASTING BREAKDOWN

CHARACTERS

THE BRENNAN FAMILY

BETTE (female, 20s–30s)  Bright and vivacious, a “winner.” Someone for whom everything should go right. Her ideas about life are simple and her disappointments are bitter. **Note:** her name is pronounced “Bet,” like Bette Midler. Not “Betty,” like Bette Davis.

MARGARET (female, 40s–60s)  Bette’s mother, a suburban Queen Bee who’s preoccupied by appearances. The only character besides Matt who is self-aware enough to address the audience directly.

PAUL (male, 50s–60s)  Bette’s father. A loving man who has been rendered unintelligible by a stroke. Perhaps the most compassionate and sensical character in the play.

JOAN (female, 30s–40s)  Bette’s sister. Her life has been hard, and she’s bitter and put-upon, especially in the company of her sisters and mother, with whom we always see her. We never see her ne’er-do-well husband, Nikkos.

EMILY (female, 30s–40s)  Bette’s other sister: a sweet and spiritual soul. Humble and Christlike, but hopelessly inept and eternally apologetic.

THE HUDLOCKE FAMILY

BOO (male, 30s–40s)  A gentle man who loves his family but is completely disengaged from his emotions and trapped in his life. **Note:** Boo is called “Bore” by his father.

KARL (male, 50s–60s)  Boo’s father. Karl is cruel and acidic and unaware that Other People are anything but an annoyance. He is upper-middle class, not an Archie Bunker-type boor; he has simply never been in a position where he has had to edit what comes out of his mouth.

SOOT (female, 40s–60s)  Boo’s mother. Soot is Karl’s polar opposite. She’s quite endearing, and in her seeming adoration of Karl has more or less divorced herself from reality. She laughs often, and as a verbal tic, it’s an important part of her character.

FR. DONNALLY (male, 40s–60s)  The family priest. An affable man and a comic character, extremely comfortable in his own authority. (Also appears as the family DOCTOR)

MATT (male, 20s–early 30s)  Bette and Boo’s only surviving child, Matt is the play’s narrator. He is introspective, extremely self-analytical, and the outside observer of his own family. **Note:** the family, by and large, calls him “Skippy.”