

Come join us for a new play reading group at Meekins Library. The goal of this group will be to read through a playscript with members of the group reading different parts. People participating in this group will not need to make long-term commitments. This will not be a performance-oriented group and is a wonderful opportunity to become another person for a while.

Our initial project will be a script reading of the play "Stage Door" by Edna Ferber and George S. Kaufman. This play is set in New York City where a group of young women with show business aspirations live in a rooming house called "The Footlights Club". It is from this location that the hopeful residents go out to auditions and work at day jobs to pay the rent. The establishment is managed by Mrs. Orcutt, a former actress, who provides safe lodging and encouragement to the aspiring actresses. This play has roles for 17 female Footlights, resident. Additional roles: Mrs. Orcutt the landlady, the two household staff, ten male roles and assorted show business people. As you can see this play is rich in roles for women with parts ranging from a few lines to much longer parts.

The plan is to do this script reading over 3-4 sessions meeting at a specific day and time each week during the months of January and February. Each session will probably last up to two hours. During our first session we will pass out scripts, provide a list of characters, introduce the play, assign character parts and begin reading Act 1. For the first meeting please come prepared to do script reading with needed supplies (reading glasses, pen/pencil, water) and an expectation of having a good time. It is likely that some people will have multiple roles, particularly for those with small numbers of lines. The group facilitator or other volunteers will step in as needed to fill in for any needed readers. I eagerly look forward to meeting with all of you and getting started with this project.

David Bickford