

# ***BAD SEED***

**By Maxwell Anderson**

The dramatization of William March's Novel THE BAD SEED  
Presented through special arrangement with Dramatists Play Service  
Directed by Toni Tomei

**Auditions at Mary Godfrey Playhouse, 2706 E. Pershing Blvd., Cheyenne**

**CALL FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION – (307) 638-6543**

**Saturday, December 10 from 1pm –4pm auditions for Rhoda and Christine**

**Mon. & Tues., Dec. 12 & 13 from 6:30 – 9:00pm auditions for all adult roles.**

**Callbacks – Wednesday, December 14 starting at 6:30pm**

**\*\*Please bring a conflict calendar, head shot (any photo will do) and resume. Please prepare and memorize a dramatic monologue, preferably from a play of the same time period, no more than 2 min. in length for adults and no more than one minute in length for children. If you do not have a monologue prepared, the director will furnish a monologue to be read cold at the audition. Monologues will be presented one at a time in order of sign in. Plan on block of time to allow director and staff the opportunity to spend time with each individual. We will make every effort to be mindful of your time. Those being considered for Callbacks will be notified no later than Wednesday day for Callbacks that evening. Cold readings from script for all parts provided at the Callbacks. Final cast list will be posted no later than Friday, December 16 by noon. For more info visit; [www.cheyennelittletheatre.org](http://www.cheyennelittletheatre.org)**

**CHARACTERS**– 1 girl (to portray age 8), 4 women, 7 men. **TIME**– 1950's **PLACE**– Small town in a Southern State

**Rhoda Penmark** – Rhoda, 8 yrs. old, is portrayed as a sociopath, although the term was not widely used at the time. She has no conscience and will do whatever it takes to get what she wants. An adept manipulator, she easily charms adults while eliciting fear and repulsion from other children, who can sense something is wrong with her.

**\*\*Please note**- The child cast in this role must appear to be 8 years old. So, an older child who looks 8 would be acceptable. The young actor will need to truly understand the character and the text. The director encourages all parents to read the full script prior to having their child audition. While one could watch the film, the film is far more graphic and very different from the play. The play leaves more to the imagination. (Depending on ability, size and likeness, this role could possibly be double cast)

**Christine Penmark** – The mother of Rhoda Penmark. She doesn't want to believe the worst of her daughter, but as the play progresses, she unravels, becoming more and more confused and distraught over what she believes to be the truth and, worst of all, her own fault. As she seeks the truth, her psyche becomes more fragile.

**Monica Breedlove** – The Penmark's landlady and dear friend. Considers herself to be somewhat of a psycho-therapist and claims she was examined by Sigmund Freud. A very social, busy-body, Monica adores Rhoda and believes she is an extraordinary child. She is divorced, and dotes on her adult brother Emory who lives with her.

**Reginald Tasker**- Friend of Monica and Emory's. A writer of mystery and crime novels. As Christine delves into her own past, Tasker provides Christine with information about the case of Bessie Denker, which he studied for his writings. He informs Christine that her father, Richard Bravo, worked diligently on the Bessie Denker case.

**Leroy Jessup** – Maintenance man who works for Mrs. Breedlove. Other than Christine, he's the only adult character who notices that Rhoda is unlike other children. He constantly taunts her. We can see that he too may have his own psychopathic tendencies. He tells Rhoda, "blood cannot wash off with water". He sees who she is.

**Colonel Kenneth Penmark** – Father of Rhoda and husband of Christine. He is away on business and therefore unaware of the developments at home. He never discovers the truth about Rhoda or the reasoning behind Christine's actions. While this character is only in Act 1, scene 1 and Act 2, scene 4, he is a very important anchor to the lives of Christine and Rhoda.

**Emory Wages** – Monica Breedlove's brother, who lives with his sister. He is constantly being analyzed by his sister, who believes him to be effeminate. So, he escapes by going fishing, going to baseball games, reading murder mysteries, singing in male quartets and going fishing on a boat with his friend Reggie the "the guys".

**Miss Fern** – The prim and proper schoolteacher who runs a private school for children in town with her sisters. She is Rhoda's schoolteacher. At first seeing only the picture perfect little girl and as the story unravels, we see her fear in the unknown. Only in Act 1.

**Hortense Daigle** – Mother of Claude Daigle, a classmate of Rhoda's, who dies during a class excursion. She is a plain woman who believes that she is looked down on her for being a hairdresser and marrying late in life. Devastated by her son's death, she turns to alcohol as a source of comfort. She senses that Rhoda had something to do with Claude's death and seeks her out to find answers.

**Dwight Daigle** – Father of Claude Daigle. He tries to help his wife, Hortense Daigle, and keep her under control as she suffers from the death of their son. A gentle soul, rather lost in the upheaval of their lives.

**Continued.....**

**Richard Bravo** – Christine's adopted father, who may hold the key to Rhoda's behavior. A well-known columnist and war correspondent, he performed great research in the "Bessie Denker" case which made tabloid headlines about twenty-five years earlier. He has never told Christine that she was adopted or that Bessie Denker was her biological mother. Only in Act 2.

**Messenger** – Telegram messenger, only in one brief scene, ACT 2. May use one of the other characters or a backstage crew member to portray this role.

### **THE STORY**

Eight-year-old **Rhoda** is the only child of Kenneth and Christine Penmark. Col. Penmark goes away on military business, leaving Christine and young daughter, Rhoda at home. Rhoda appears to be sweet and charming, full of social graces and loved by all. Now, Christine begins to notice that there is something else to her young daughter. Rhoda is acting strangely after one of her classmates mysteriously drowns and Christine wonders, did Rhoda kill the boy? Will she kill again? Tension builds as events spiral out of control and Christine delves into her own past to see if it holds the key to these troubled times.

**Rehearsals begin Jan. 5, 2012 with a reading and then will be Mon. thru Thurs. 6:30pm to 9:30pm. Not everyone will be needed at each rehearsal and also, when no longer needed at a rehearsal, you will be released for the evening. The director will strive to be very mindful of everyone's time. TBA rehearsals for Fridays will be noted throughout and as we get closer to opening, if extra rehearsal is needed it will be discussed at that time. Please view current rehearsal calendar at the auditions.**

**Performance dates: February 17, 18, 19 and February 23, 24, 25 and 26.**

**\*\*Please note- If you are auditioning for the roles of Christine and Rhoda and are unable to attend the Saturday audition, you may audition on Monday or Tuesday at general auditions.**