

Audition Information for Oregon Community Theatre's Production of
Come From Away

Audition Team:

Jen Bonnice—Producer

Amy Spaulding-Heuring—Director

Jennifer Jackson—Music Director

Ann Sommers—Stage Manager

Audition Requirements:

- Preparing a song from *Come From Away* is preferred, but preparing a song from a similar show or in a similar style is acceptable. Please sing 16-32 bars (or a verse and a chorus); Please note that we may ask you to stop singing.
- An accompanist will be provided, so bring sheet music (paper, not digital). (No tracks or acapella singing allowed)
- Audition sides will be available on the OCT website (www.octshows.org). Sides do not need to be memorized. You may also be asked to do a “cold reading” or some improv. Sides will be available at auditions.
- Auditioners who need to attend callbacks will be contacted after auditions end on 8/4 and on the morning of 8/5. If you are not called back, you may still be cast in the show. Conversely, attending callbacks does not guarantee being cast in the show.

Audition Dates: Monday, August 3, 2026-- 6:30 PM-9:15 PM (45 minute sessions, 6 auditioners/group)

Tuesday, August, 4, 2026-- 6:30 PM-9:15 PM (45 minute sessions, 6 auditioners/group)

Wednesday, August 5, 2026—Callbacks (Invited only) 6:30 PM

- Cast members will be notified starting Thursday, August 6, 2026. **(Please do not share casting news or post anything on social media until after the cast list is posted on OCT social media.)**
- **Mandatory Meeting and Read-through/Sing-through:** Monday, August 10, 2026, at 6:30 PM St. Mark Lutheran Church
- Rehearsals from August 10-August 25 will be held at St. Mark Lutheran Church.
- Starting August 26, rehearsals will be held at Fassett Junior High School, Monday-Thursday.

Important Things to Remember:

- Sign up for auditions on the octshows.org website. If you can't audition or need to change your date/time, contact akessler@octshows.org
- Conflicts and being cast in other shows will have a bearing on casting for CFA.
- All characters are based on real people, so it is important to honor their stories.
- Actors may be playing multiple characters.
- Up to 22 actors will be cast in the show.
- The show will be performed without an intermission.
- The Newfoundland accent will be used by the actors. The videos below are by Kelli Ruttel from her Accent Quickie Series:
(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rXEsZc_e5SY&t=2s)
(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TYSMdpNU_bc&t=1s)
- Other major accents used in the show are German, French, Spanish, proper British, Middle Eastern, American (Texan).
- Tech Week is October 12-15 starting at 6:30 PM.
- Performance dates are October 16, 17, 23, 24, at 7:30 PM and October 25, at 3:00 PM.
- All cast members must participate in strike immediately after the show on Sunday, 10/25.

Synopsis:

On the morning of September 11, 2001, the townspeople of Gander describe life in Newfoundland and how they learn of the [September 11 attacks](#) on the radio ("Welcome to the Rock"). Claude, the mayor of Gander, is informed of the attacks by Janice, a new reporter in town, while at a local [Tim Hortons](#). The town receives the news that the US airspace has been closed, causing US-bound flights to be [diverted across Canada](#), including 38 to [Gander International Airport](#) ("38 Planes"). This nearly doubles the population of Gander, and the townspeople make preparations to care for the 7,000 stranded passengers. Beulah and Annette, two schoolteachers, prepare the local school to take in passengers, while Janice asks for the community to provide resources ("Blankets and Bedding").

For hours, the plane passengers are forbidden from leaving the planes, and are without information about the attacks. They express frustration and fear at being stranded. A Gander [SPCA](#) worker, Bonnie, goes into the plane holds to search for animals on the planes, and Claude reaches an agreement with Garth, a union leader, to pause the bus drivers' strike and transport passengers ("28 Hours/Wherever We Are"). The passengers are eventually transported to Gander and surrounding towns for shelter ("Darkness and Trees"). A Muslim passenger, Ali, is temporarily detained. The local bus drivers take passengers to the towns and explain the culture of Newfoundland while navigating language barriers with international passengers ("On the

Bus"/"Darkness and Trees (reprise)"). The passengers learn why they were grounded and watch replays of the attacks on television ("Lead Us Out of the Night"). They attempt to contact their families ("Phoning Home") and experience disorientation and stress at their situation ("Costume Party").

The town tries to manage food, sanitation, and other necessities for the guests. Some of the passengers try to get home, but are informed by Oz, the constable of Gander, that travel to the US takes several days. Nick, a British passenger, and Diane, a Texan, go for a walk with a gay couple from Los Angeles, both named Kevin. Bonnie and her husband Doug discover two rare [bonobo chimpanzees](#) in the hold of a plane. An American, Bob, is asked to take grills from backyards to set up for a community cookout; he fears he will be shot for stealing, but he finds everyone is friendly and willing to help. Hannah, the mother of a New York firefighter, bonds with Beulah and worries about her son ("I Am Here"). Many of the passengers of various religious beliefs go to a local Catholic church or other spaces around town to pray ("Prayer"). Ethnic and national tensions erupt among the passengers and townsfolk ("On the Edge"). To alleviate this, the passengers are invited to a local bar and some are initiated as honorary Newfoundlanders ("Heave Away"/"Screech In"). One pilot who has been diverted, [Beverley](#), reflects on her experience as the first female captain for [American Airlines](#) ("Me and the Sky").

The planes prepare to leave, and Ali is subjected to a strip search prior to leaving on suspicion he may be a terrorist. When flights are delayed, Nick and Diane go for a walk around the town and realize they will miss each other when they leave Gander ("The Dover Fault"/"Stop the World"). When the planes are cleared for takeoff, the passengers express happiness at returning to the US, and set up a donation fund for the people of Gander ("38 Planes" (reprise)"/"Somewhere in the Middle of Nowhere"). After the events of the last five days, both the townspeople and passengers experience loneliness and fear about the state of the world; the two Kevins' relationship has fallen apart due to the stress of the crisis, and Hannah is devastated to learn her son has died ("Something's Missing").

Ten years after the attacks, the townspeople and the passengers reunite in Gander (including Diane and Nick, who have since married) and celebrate the relationships formed while the passengers were stranded ("Ten Years Later"/"Finale").-- Wikipedia

Main Characters and Voice Parts:

Claude--The gregarious and well-liked Mayor of Gander, Newfoundland; Claude loves his work, the townspeople and his daily traditions, but he's never had to deal with a crisis of this magnitude before. Gender: male Age: 40 to 60, Vocal range top: G4

Bonnie-- A no-nonsense mother of three, Bonnie is the head of the Gander area SPCA; when she discovers animals are trapped on the planes, she stops at nothing to ensure their safety; she often lashes out at those around her but only in frustration about the situation. Gender: female Age: 30 to 40, Vocal range top: B4

Beulah-- The head of the Gander Legion, whose son is a firefighter son; she walks with Hannah to a church and prays with her. Gender: female Age: 40 to 60

Oz-- The quirky constable in the two-person Gander police force; when the town's population suddenly doubles, Oz helps out in unexpected ways. Gender: male Age: 30 to 50, Vocal range top: G4

Doug-- An Air Traffic Controller who is married to Bonnie; he tries to help his wife save the animals. Gender: male Age: 30 to 40, Vocal range top: E4

Janice-- An eager new local TV reporter, Janice is thrown into the most important new story of her career on her first day; initially naïve about the world, Janice must face the pain and confusion around her. Gender: female Age: 20 to 30, Vocal range top: E5

Annette-- A local teacher at the Gander Academy with a vivid imagination and mother to a lot of children. Gender: female Age: 40 to 60, Vocal range top: D4

Garth-- The head of the local union, representing the Bus Drivers. Gender: male Age: 30 to 40, Vocal range top: G4

Beverley--The first female captain for American Airlines, Beverley Bass has always loved flying; her leadership and calm demeanor are a steadying force. Gender: female Age: 50 to 60, Vocal range top: C#5

Diane-- A traditional divorcee from Texas, who is terrified that her son may have been flying at the time of the attacks; when she finds out that he's safe, she's given a new lease on life and discovers a wilder, more carefree side of herself. Gender: female Age: 50 to 60, Vocal range bottom: D5

Nick-- A British oil engineer who is focused on his work; Nick's life is turned upside down when he falls for Diane. Gender: male Age: 50 to 60, Vocal range top: E4

Kevin T-- The head of an environmental energy company in Los Angeles, Kevin was on vacation with his boyfriend (and secretary, also named Kevin), when they become stranded in Gander; inspired by the town's generosity, Kevin creates the Pay It Forward Foundation. Gender: male Age: 30 to 50, Vocal range top: G4

Kevin J—Kevin T's boyfriend and secretary; sarcastic and unhappy, he wants to leave as soon as possible. Gender: male Age: 30 to 50

Bob-- A hardened New Yorker, Bob is highly suspicious of where he's landed, fearing that it's World War 3, that someone is going to shoot him and steal his wallet; instead, he ends up losing his New York jadedness. Gender: male/(African American) Age: 20 to 40

Hannah-- The mother of a firefighter in Manhattan; Hannah waits for news about her son and is comforted by Beulah. Gender: female/(African-American) Age: 40 to 60, Vocal range top: E5

Principal and Ensemble Roles may be combined or divided to offer more flexibility in casting. The final cast size will range from 12 to 22.

Break a leg!