

A FLEA IN HER EAR
by David Ives
Directed by Esdras Toussaint

Los Angeles Pierce College Main Stage
AUDITIONS: Monday, December 8 from 2pm to 5pm
CALLBACKS: Thursday, December 11 from 4pm to 6pm

Please prepare a 1-2 minute contemporary monologue for the audition. We are looking for 15 actors of all backgrounds. At this time, all roles are open.

LAPC Theater is committed to inclusivity, and encourages ALL members of our community to submit, particularly members of communities who have historically been excluded or underrepresented — including but not limited to artists of color, Native American and Indigenous artists, women, non-binary and gender non-conforming artists, LGBTQ+ artists, and artists with disabilities.

THE STORY:

The greatest of French farces, perhaps the greatest farce ever written. Raymonde Chandebise suspects that her husband, Victor, a placid and successful insurance executive, is secretly having an affair. To find out, she and her friend Lucienne write him an anonymous love letter suggesting a rendezvous at the shady Frisky Puss Hotel. Thinking the letter was intended for his coworker, the gigolo Tournel, Victor sends Tournel off to make the rendezvous in his place. Lucienne's jealous Spanish husband, meanwhile, finds the letter, recognizes his wife's handwriting and takes his pistols to the Frisky Puss, hoping to catch her in the act. Meanwhile, Victor's nephew Camille tries to warn everyone about the mix-up, but his ridiculous speech impediment prevents anyone from understanding him.

In Act Two, all decamp to the Frisky Puss where, it turns out, the drunken bellboy Poche is the exact double of the proper Victor Chandebise. Meeting Poche and thinking she's been caught by her husband, Raymonde keeps trying to escape from the hotel with Tournel, but a revolving bed keeps flinging them from room to room, as more and more of the involved parties pile into the hotel in a climax culminating in the entrance of the jealous Spaniard and his pistols.

In Act Three the vortex spins even faster as all the parties return to the Chandebise home utterly confused about what actually happened and who was who at the Frisky Puss. The drunken bellboy arrives, is mistaken once again for Victor, and all the threads of the multiple mix-ups are sorted out as Victor and Raymonde recognize their mutual confusions and are reunited.

Character Breakdown:

VICTOR EMMANUEL CHANDEBISE: A life insurance executive and faithful husband to Raymonde, who misreads his decreased romantic interest as infidelity. He looks uncannily like Poche.

POCHE: The drunken bellboy of the Frisky Puss Hotel, who is frequently mistaken for Victor Emmanuel due to their striking resemblance.

RAYMONDE CHANDEBISE: Victor Emmanuel's wife. She is considering having an affair with Romain Tournel, but is jealous when she suspects that her husband is having an affair of his own.

CAMILLE CHANDEBISE: Victor Emmanuel's nephew, whose cleft palate makes him unable to pronounce consonants and causes many miscommunications. Dr. Finache provides him with a prosthetic palate to fix this impediment, which Camille promptly loses.

LUCIENNE HOMÉNIDÈS DE HISTANGUA: The long-time best friend of Raymonde and the wife of Don Carlos. She suggests that Raymonde trick her husband to catch him red-handed.

DON CARLOS HOMÉNIDÈS DE HISTANGUA: Victor Emmanuel's client and the very jealous husband of Lucienne. He speaks in broken French (English in translation).

DR. FINACHE: The medical consultant for the life insurance company where Chandebise and Tournel work. He is good friends with both Victor Emmanuel and Camille as well as a frequent guest of the "red-light" Frisky Puss Hotel.

ROMAIN TOURNEL: Victor Emmanuel's best friend and business partner. He is also Raymonde's lover.

ANTOINETTE: The maid/cook in the Chandebise house. She is married to Étienne and having an affair with Camille.

ÉTIENNE: Victor: Emmanuel's inquisitive manservant and Antoinette's husband.

FERRAILLON: The militaristic owner of the Frisky Puss Hotel.

OLYMPIA: Ferrailon's wife, a former prostitute.

EUGÉNIE: A maid in the Frisky Puss Hotel.

BAPTISTE: Ferrailon's unsteady and senile old uncle, who works for him at the Frisky Puss Hotel.

RUGBY: A British guest at the Frisky Puss Hotel who speaks little or no French. He is ready to pounce on any woman who crosses his path, including Lucienne and Antoinette.