

MENOPOSITIVE – THE MUSICAL
BY J.J. MCCOLL

CASTING INFORMATION

Show Title: Menopositive – The Musical
Theatre/Production Company: Theatre Orangeville
Venue or cities: Orangeville, ON
Director: David Nairn
Music Director: Shelley Hanson
Choreographer: Kiri Lyn Muir
Contact info: 87 Broadway
Orangeville, ON
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mgrant@theatreorangeville.ca
Marsha Grant (Auditions Coordinator)

Storyline: Menopositive is a revue within a musical. Three menopausal women, Marnie – a Fortune 500 president whose current “toyboy” is twenty-one, Kate – the talented struggling singer mother who’s written the revue, and Cynthia – the conservative, unsuspecting wife of a philandering executive, are rehearsing the show about menopause for their 30th class reunion. They’re joined by the flamboyant Zsuzsu – a former star in Hungary, now working as a cleaning woman. As they rehearse their riotous revue the women gradually disclose more about themselves and their lives in poignant and hilarious original songs that reveal the dark shadows of childhood, lost dreams, struggles and fears about growing old.

Vocal Range: All four women should have a vocal range extending from E below middle C -> A flat (one ledger line above the staff).

Roles:

Kate Phillips Female 45 to 55 Mezzo Soprano

On graduation night Kate became pregnant. At a time when having a child out of wedlock was unaccepted by society, she had the baby. Alone, her son’s only support, she was forced to take any available job. All low paying. All soul destroying. Soon her

dreams of writing and performing were strangled by the struggles of everyday life. Eventually, and for years, she turned to alcohol. Jobs became scarcer. Sitting in the welfare office time after time, feeling like a complete failure, any leftover traces of self esteem evaporated. Writing this revue is her last chance to prove to herself that she still has the fire, the intellect, the talent that was so obvious when she was young; to give herself a renewed sense of who she is, or is capable of being.

Marnie Summers Female 45 to 55 Soprano (with Belt)

Marnie embodies power: authority, intelligence, self assurance, humour, drive. It's no surprise to anyone she meets that she heads a Fortune 500 corporation. Her early life – an orphan tossed around the foster care circuit, sexually abused – might have destroyed someone else; instead it forged Marnie's strength and determination to succeed. She's proud of her achievements, proud of her independence to do whatever she damn well wants. Most of the time she's just proud. Inwardly she's a romantic. That yearning to love and be loved is as forceful as her rage to succeed in all her business dealings; but she recognizes that all her life her attempts to experience that love have met with disaster. She's been married and divorced three times and had countless lovers – most of them inappropriate.

Cynthia Sawyer Female 45 to 55 Soprano

Cynthia appears to have the ideal existence. She is rich, often mentioned in the society pages; able to devote herself to the details of running a large house, entertaining, traveling, and moving in an exalted social milieu. Her life is busy and structured. Cynthia's husband is a successful businessman who, as she'll say with a smile, "takes great care of me." She is conservative, a Christian, the seemingly dotting, deferential wife who seldom speaks at social gatherings except to steer the conversation towards Charles's chance to shine. But increasingly she feels ashamed, somehow a failure. She knows that it's terrible to care about looking older ... Because if God Himself doesn't worry about how Cynthia Sawyer looks (and she has a hunch that He doesn't) she, herself, shouldn't. But there it is. Her beauty has faded. She is the invisible woman.

ZsuZsu Herendy Female 45 to 55 Mezzo Soprano

ZsuZsu is the ultimate survivor. For her own advantage she will manoeuvre, plot, twist, scheme, bulldoze, seduce – skills she learned under the Hungarian Communist regime. They were what kept her alive and flourishing as a leading actress/singer in Budapest. A few years after their arrival in this country her husband died in a car accident. Without ever complaining the once acclaimed celebrity took any job to pay the rent and keep herself alive. When jobs don't surface she goes on welfare. No one has to know. The

money is there. She needs it. Takes it. ZsuZsu has never forgotten who she is: A singer! An actor! A star!
