



TALK RADIO

This show is a part of our Nemasket series, which is an all-aged production.

Barry Champlain, Cleveland's controversial radio host, is on the air doing what he does best: insulting the pathetic souls who call in the middle of the night to sound off. Tomorrow, Barry's show is going into national syndication and his producer is afraid that Barry will say something that will offend the sponsors. This, of course, makes Barry even more outrageous. Funny and moving, off-beat, outrageous, and totally entrancing, Talk Radio had a long run at New York's Public Theatre starring the author.

Barry Champlain

Description: Barry Champlain is the central character of the play, a provocative and outspoken talk radio host. He is brilliant, charismatic, and deeply troubled, navigating the pressures of fame, personal demons, and the impact of his controversial opinions. **Age Range:** 40s to 50s. Barry's age reflects his seasoned experience in the industry and the depth of his personal struggles.

- **Personality Traits:** Sharp, intense, and confrontational. Barry is both magnetic and self-destructive, often grappling with feelings of disillusionment and existential crisis.
- **Vocal Qualities:** Strong, authoritative, and commanding. Should be able to convey both the frenetic energy of a radio show host and moments of vulnerability.
- **Physicality:** Dynamic and often erratic, reflecting his high-stress job and personal turmoil. Movements should be vigorous and expressive, mirroring his intense personality.



Ellen (Barry's Producer)

Description: Ellen is Barry's producer and a crucial support figure in his professional life. She is competent, and level-headed, and serves as a grounding presence in the chaotic environment of the radio station. **Age Range:** 30s to 40s. Ellen's age reflects her experience and maturity in managing a high-pressure environment.

- **Personality Traits:** Professional, organized, and calm under pressure. She is loyal to Barry but also pragmatic about the demands of the job.
- **Vocal Qualities:** Clear and authoritative with a soothing tone. Should convey patience and a no-nonsense attitude.
- **Physicality:** Composed and efficient, with controlled movements that reflect her professional demeanor.

Stu (Station Manager)

Description: Stu is the station manager, concerned with the profitability and image of the station. He is pragmatic and somewhat cynical, often clashing with Barry over the show's direction and content. **Age Range:** 40s to 50s. Stu's age suggests a level of experience in managing the station and dealing with its financial and public relations aspects.

- **Personality Traits:** Practical, shrewd, and somewhat opportunistic. Focused on the station's bottom line, he can be both a foil to Barry's idealism and a necessary antagonist.
- **Vocal Qualities:** Direct and authoritative, with a businesslike tone. Should reflect a balance of assertiveness and concern.
- **Physicality:** Generally composed, with movements reflecting a managerial and slightly detached attitude.



The Callers (Various)

Description: The callers are a diverse range of individuals who phone in to Barry's show. Each caller has their own personality and issues, reflecting the broad spectrum of opinions and experiences encountered on talk radio. **Age Range:** Varied. Callers can range widely in age, from teenagers to the elderly, reflecting the diverse demographic that interacts with talk radio.

- **Personality Traits:** Varied, depending on the caller. Each should be distinct, with their own quirks and motivations for calling in.
- **Vocal Qualities:** Each caller should have a unique voice and style, from angry and confrontational to earnest and vulnerable.
- **Physicality:** If represented physically on stage, movements should reflect the callers' personalities—animated, reserved, or agitated, depending on the character.

The Intern

Description: The Intern is a minor character who helps out at the station. They may interact briefly with Barry and other characters, providing a glimpse into the inner workings of the station. **Age Range:** 18 to 25. The intern's age reflects their entry-level status and youthful energy.

- **Personality Traits:** Eager, impressionable, and somewhat overwhelmed. Reflects the energy and curiosity of someone new to the environment.
- **Vocal Qualities:** Slightly nervous or tentative, with an eager undertone. Should reflect inexperience but enthusiasm.
- **Physicality:** Nervous and quick-moving, reflecting the character's newness and anxiety about the job.



The Guests

Description: The guests on Barry's show are invited to discuss various topics, adding depth to the play's exploration of societal issues and media influence. **Age Range:** Varied. Guests can range in age depending on their background and the topics they discuss, adding diversity to the show's dynamic.

- **Personality Traits:** Varied, depending on the guest's background and the topic. Each should bring a unique perspective to the discussion.
 - **Vocal Qualities:** Should match the guest's character—confident, introspective, confrontational, etc.
 - **Physicality:** Movements and demeanor should align with the guest's role and personality, adding to the richness of the radio show's dynamic.
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