

Guess Who's Coming To Dinner

Show Summary and Character Descriptions

Show Summary

In 1967, Joanna Drayton, a young white woman, returns from her Hawaiian vacation to her parents' home in San Francisco with Dr. John Prentice, a black widower. The couple became engaged after a 10-day romance. Joanna's parents are Matt Drayton, a newspaper editor, and his wife, Christina, who owns an art gallery. Though the Draytons are liberal-minded, they are shocked that their daughter is engaged to a man of a different race. Christina gradually accepts the situation, but Matt objects because of the likely unhappiness and seemingly insurmountable problems the couple will face.

From the Director – Adam Konowe

This show is highly specific to its time. Thus, I feel it's important for younger audience members to understand how taboo racial integration was and for older patrons to reconnect with a past that they experienced, yet may have forgotten. Moreover, like so many plays that appear to be uniquely situational, this show can serve as metaphor for other forms of social acceptance and integration, from inter-generational relationships to same-sex ones. The challenge is to ensure the play's portrayal is so genuine as to draw in the audience to consider parallels in their contemporary lives that may generate conscious or unconscious bias akin to our play's characters in 1967. In short, the audience must understand the time for what it was, yet hopefully conclude that this play is more than a mere period piece. It is of its time, but also holds the potential to transcend it.

Character Descriptions

MATILDA BINKS, (50s), black. "Tillie" has worked 27 years as a domestic for the Draytons.

HILLARY ST. GEORGE, (40s) white. Associate Director of the Drayton Gallery.

CHRISTINA DRAYTON, (40s+), white. Runs the Drayton Gallery.

MATT DRAYTON (50s+), publisher of San Francisco newspaper, *The Guardian*.

JOANNA DRAYTON, (20s) white. "Joey" recently interned for a medical research hospital in Hawaii.

DR. JOHN PRENTICE, (30s), black. A medical research doctor.

MONSIGNOR RYAN, (50s+), white. Longtime family friend of the Draytons.

JOHN PRENTICE SR, (50s+), black. Schoolteacher.

MARY PRENTICE, (50s+), black. Department store clerk.

Additional info and audition links to be posted, please check back here for updates.

Questions? Please email AskLTA@thelittletheatre.com