

AUDITIONS FOR THE FR. RYAN FILM CHATTANOOGA YELLOW FEVER EPIDEMIC OF 1878

Fr. Carter and the Diocese of Knoxville have commissioned us to make a film about the life of Fr. Patrick Ryan in the cause for his Sainthood. We're looking for actors to play the parts of a few characters who will be heard in the film as off-camera voiceover. These characters will be reading personal letters they wrote at the time of the epidemic. We ask for the support of the parishioners in helping us find the hidden gems in our family who might have just the right voice to bring these characters alive. Below you will find instructions on how to proceed. If you know actors who are not members of our Parish, please invite them as well to participate in these auditions.

INSTRUCTIONS:

- You will be reading for this character according to the director's notes. You may submit up to two additional different readings that feature variations you feel enhance the story.
- You can use your cell phone to record this audition and then send it to us by EMAIL ONLY (marc@aramian.com). Make sure you tell us at the beginning of the recording your name, your character, your telephone number and email address. Like this: "This is Marc Aramian and I'm reading for John Smythe. You can reach me at marc@aramian.com and my telephone number is 310-729-2222."
- If you're not technically savvy, contact me and I will either walk you through it or record you myself after Mass.
- There will be dozens of people auditioning for these roles. Since this is a Sts. Peter and Paul project, we're hoping to discover hidden talent from within the congregation. Please help by auditioning.
- Those chosen will receive a \$25 Honorarium and an 'end credit' at the end of the film; however, most of the people working on the film are doing it for free.

Thank you for your support. Any questions, give me a shout.

Contact:

MARC ARAMIAN, PRODUCER

Crunch Entertainment

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VERONICA DiPIPPA, DIRECTOR/WRITER

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ROLE: Fr. Patrick Ryan, hero of our film

DESCRIPTION OF CHARACTER:

- He's 34 years-old, athletic, devout. He's very upset in the writing of this letter that his dear friend, Fr. Walsh, has not written back to him to let him know what's going on in Memphis. He's powerless and expresses his frustration in this letter. He also shows his willingness to sacrifice himself by volunteering to go to Memphis. Fr. Ryan sits alone at a writing table, beneath a moonlit night and a lone candle. This letter is an intimate look into the soul of Fr. Ryan.

SCRIPT:

My Dear Father Walsh.

I have written and dispatched to Memphis and cannot hear anything from you.... I have received the circular addressed to the T.A. Societies appealing for aid....I took up a collection for the objects specified in your appeal. The amount is \$100, which I am sending you...I trust in God I shall hear better news from you, and that you are still well as I know you are still living. Can't I hear from you? Just one line will satisfy.

I have heard with regret about the deaths of Fathers Welsh and Meagher. My God! Are we to lose all our priests! I wished that I had been in Memphis. Perhaps it's not too late yet. I will go, should the Bishop let me.

May God, in His great mercy, give you strength and courage to bear up against this terrible calamity.

Fr. Patrick Ryan

As I cannot live without ye, I will go and die with ye.

ROLE: Fr. D.A. Quinn

DESCRIPTION OF CHARACTER: A Priest, younger than Fr. Ryan, wrote a book some years later about the Yellow Fever Epidemic.

SCRIPT:

As I had been for two years an under classmate, I can state Father Ryan, although not possessing extraordinary talents, was one of the soundest and most reliable students of the seminary....The Professors and students regarded Ryan as one whose head contained what other students had to learn from books...common sense.

I well remember the panic that crazed the populace the morning it was first announced in the papers. Men, women, and children in wagons, street cars and carriages all dashing through the streets on their way to the various railways depots and steamboat landings.

ROLE: Adolph Ochs, publisher of the Chattanooga Times

DESCRIPTION OF CHARACTER: He was a hardscrabble young publisher when he bought the Chattanooga Times; served as reporter, editor, and probably printer at some point. He later went on to buy the New York Times.

SCRIPT:

We shall never...forget the unselfishness and efficient work of Father Ryan....It was peculiarly meet and very touching the respect shown the dead father's remains yesterday by many of the chief survivors of that terrible fall. This was without regard to religious connections, as it should be.

ROLE: Fr. Walsh

DESCRIPTION OF CHARACTER:

Young Priest, served together for a time with Fr. Ryan. They became dear friends. Walsh ran the refugee program in Memphis.

SCRIPT:

Those of us whom God was pleased to spare...had to witness scenes which pen cannot describe, and to undergo labors which, on some occasions at least, might be considered superhuman. Among our Sisters and Priests, the fever made great havoc. Almost a score of Sisters died. Of the Priests...only three of us escaped.

ROLE: W. I. Crandall

DESCRIPTION OF CHARACTER: He was a printer of means, upper middle class, married with three girls. He died from the disease and most of his family preceded him in death. His eyewitness account is powerful.

SCRIPT:

During that fearful night, Miss Ackerman was watching Delia, bathing her in whiskey and warm water to relieve her breathing. [W.I. Crandall, 1878]

(more)

ROLE:

Young Woman

DESCRIPTION OF CHARACTER: Young, brave, afraid, doing everything she can to survive.

SCRIPT:

Father and Mother are lying dead in the house, brother is dying, send me some help, no money.

[Sally U., 1878]

ROLE: Shepherd

DESCRIPTION OF CHARACTER:

An eyewitness account at the time of the epidemic.

SCRIPT:

Our municipal government refused to make any quarantine regulations, or adopt any regulations for examining and inspecting the refugees, who were, in large numbers, passing through the city on railroad and, many of them, stopping here.