

# NOT SO COMMON PLAYERS

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For Immediate Release

## **THE SPITFIRE GRILL Auditions**

**Mon., June 23 and Tues., June 24**

**Sign-ups begin at 6:45 pm**

**Location: Shenendehowa Senior Center Vischer Ferry Road**

Clifton Park: **NOT SO COMMON PLAYERS** announce auditions for *The Spitfire Grill* **June 23 and 24** at the **Shenendehowa Senior Center**, Vischer Ferry Road Sign-ups begin at 6:45 p.m.

**Synopsis:** A feisty parolee sets out on a journey to follow her dreams, based on a picture from an old travel book she saw in prison, to a small town in Wisconsin and finds a place for herself working at Hannah's Spitfire Grill. It is for sale but there are no takers for the only eatery in the depressed town, so newcomer Percy suggests to Hannah that she raffle it off. Entry fees are one hundred dollars and the person who writes the best essay about Gilead and the Grill wins the grill and the two-story house attached. Soon, mail is arriving by the wheelbarrow full and things are definitely cookin' at the Spitfire Grill.

*The Spitfire Grill* is an American musical with music and book by James Valcq and lyrics and book by Fred Alley, based on the film by Lee David Zlotoff. The Off-Broadway production by Playwrights Horizons began previews at the Duke Theatre on 42nd Street on September 7, 2001 and concluded its scheduled run on October 14, 2001. It won the Richard Rodgers Production Award, administered by The American Academy of Arts and Letters.

**The Characters:** *The Spitfire Grill*, a modern folk tale set in the fictional town of Gilead, Wisconsin gets its title from the town's "only place to eat", the Spitfire Grill. Soon after **Hannah (f. 60-70)** grudgingly gives **Percy (f. 22-29)** a job at the Grill, Hannah is injured and is forced to depend on Percy to keep the Spitfire open. Percy's cooking leaves much to be desired and she is assisted in the kitchen by **Shelby (f. 30-40)**, thwarted by Shelby's husband **Caleb (m. 35-45)**, courted quietly by **parole officer Joe (m. 28-38)**, and gossiped about by the townspeople, led by the irascible **Effy (f. 50-60)**. By story's end, all the characters have learned many of life's lessons and achieved "freedom from their self-imposed imprisonment," which becomes the play's resolution. There is also a "**visitor**" **played by a male (40-50)**.

**Critique:** In New York Magazine, John Simon wrote, "It is not often that material moves me to tears, but this was one of those occasions. *The Spitfire Grill* has the heart and soul that your *Producers* and *Full Montys* cannot begin to approach. What even in normal times would be a joy is, in these troubled ones, sheer nourishment." He later included the show in his "Best of 2001" list. Other critics also commented on the show's poignancy vis-à-vis the September 11, 2001 attacks. "If after the events of recent weeks you need any reason at all to embrace life again, the musical you've been waiting for has arrived. *The Spitfire Grill* is one of the most heartfelt musicals of recent years, its homespun charms as inviting as a warm winter blanket" wrote Matthew Murray reviewing the show for Talkin' Broadway

Sponsored by the Town of Clifton Park, production dates are **October 31, November 1 & 2 and November 7, 8, 9** at the Shen HS East Little Theater. Don Countermine directs, with musical direction by Vince Bonafede.

For more information, contact the director at **Don Countermine; [DONCMINE@aol.com](mailto:DONCMINE@aol.com) or by phone @ 373-9701.**