

Character Breakdown

One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest

By Dale Wasserman

Based on the influential novel by Ken Kesey

Directed by Janine Corman

Assistant Director: Ash King

Playing ages are approximate. We encourage actors of all ages to audition for any role they feel fits their strengths.

Patients

Randle P. McMurphy

Male | Playing Age: 30s-50s

A charismatic gambler and convicted criminal transferred from a prison work farm to a psychiatric hospital. Bold, irreverent, and deeply disruptive, McMurphy refuses to accept the ward's rigid rules and authority. His actions challenge both the patients and the staff, setting the central conflict of the play in motion.

Chief Bromden

Male | Playing Age: 30s-60s

A towering Native American patient who has spent years pretending to be deaf and mute. Though he rarely speaks, Chief quietly observes everything happening around him and becomes an integral part of the story.

Dale Harding

Male | Playing Age: 30s-50s

An articulate, intelligent patient who often speaks on behalf of the group. Witty, perceptive, and highly verbal, Harding frequently analyzes the behavior of those around him while revealing his own insecurities.

Billy Bibbit

Male | Playing Age: Early 20s-Early 30s

A young patient with a pronounced stutter. Shy and eager to please, Billy struggles with self-confidence and the expectations placed upon him by others.

Cheswick

Male | Playing Age: 20s-50s

An energetic and emotional patient who is quick to speak his mind. Easily excited and easily discouraged, Cheswick often becomes caught up in the shifting mood of the ward.

Martini

Male | Playing Age: 20s-60s

A patient whose vivid imagination shapes the way he experiences the world around him. He provides moments of humor while remaining an important member of the ward community.

Scanlon

Male | Playing Age: 30s-60s

A quiet, guarded patient with a dry sense of humor. Often observes before speaking and is skeptical of authority.

Ruckly

Male | Playing Age: 30s-60s

A long-term patient whose ability to communicate has been severely affected by repeated electroshock treatments. Though he speaks very little, his presence has a profound impact on the ward.

Hospital Staff

Nurse Ratched

Female | Playing Age: 40s-60s

The supervising nurse of the ward. Highly intelligent, composed, and fiercely controlling, Ratched exercises near-total authority over the patients and staff. She is relentless in maintaining order and will go to great lengths to preserve it.

Dr. Spivey

Male | Playing Age: 40s-70s

The attending physician. Though responsible for the patients' care, Dr. Spivey is frequently outmatched by Nurse Ratched and struggles to assert his own authority within the institution.

Nurse Flinn

Female | Playing Age: 20s-40s

A staff nurse who assists Nurse Ratched in the daily operation of the ward. Efficient and professional, Flinn follows Ratched's lead and works within the rigid structure of the institution.

Aide Warren

Male | Playing Age: 20s-50s

One of the ward aides responsible for maintaining order among the patients. Warren is quick to assert his authority and often directs his frustrations toward the ward's most vulnerable patients.

Aide Williams

Male | Playing Age: 20s-50s

A ward aide who works alongside Warren in enforcing the institution's rules. Like Warren, he readily exercises his authority over the patients.

Aide Turkle

Male | Playing Age: 50s+

The overnight aide on the ward. More relaxed than the daytime staff, Turkle is easily tempted by alcohol and willing to bend the rules.

Visitors

Candy Starr

Female | Playing Age: 20s-40s

McMurphy's free-spirited friend from outside the hospital. Warm, lively, and compassionate, Candy is far more perceptive than others initially assume. She plays an important role in one of the play's pivotal sequences.

Sandra

Female | Playing Age: 20s-40s

A friend of Candy who accompanies her to the hospital. Spirited and playful, Sandra contributes to one of the play's most memorable scenes.