

Character Information Sheets
Between the Oak Trees

BETWEEN THE OAK TREES

Welcome to the audition stage for Tony Del Degan's Between the Oak Trees. You must be interested in a role if you downloaded this sheet, so let's get started with what you need to know.

First off, you will not be cast because of your race, you will not be cast because of how attractive you are. You will be cast based on how suitable you are for the role you are interested in. Some of these roles are very complex - very difficult to pull off - and you will need skill to portray them. Others are more basic.

Included in this sheet are background details on each character, descriptions for preferred appearance, including costuming, hairstyling, etc., and more. If your goal is to audition for someone, you will need to contact Tony Del Degan through the info provided, and include a pre-recorded audition tape of yourself reading the lines given in this document.

If you receive a callback, you will be provided an email with more information, and you will need to schedule a live audition with Tony Del Degan, in which he will give basic directions to evaluate your ability further. These should run under ten minutes, ideally.

IMPORTANT: This is a full commitment. When you are required to be on set, you must show up. If you are unable to reach the set, you must either make arrangements, or forego the audition. Any lack of initiative or commitment will result in a loss of your role. This film will be entered into various festivals. If you are uncomfortable with this, do not audition.

Role 1: Hazel Mclean

Bio: Hazel Mclean (17-19) is different than many other teenagers. Her mother died when she was younger, which affected her deeply. Her father is strict and religious, though she loves him more than anything; he's her only parent left. Moody, bordering on angsty, most of the time, and very thoughtful. Mature for her age. She does not go out to parties like the other kids, preferring instead to stay at home with her father. Conflicting emotions of both caring and indifference, loneliness and freedom.

Appearance: I see Hazel as a taller, slender girl with long dark hair hanging closely around her face, almost to conceal it. She dresses differently than the other teens of the town, which accentuates her disconnection from them. There's always a wide-brimmed felt hat on her head, which she doesn't like to take off; that's more of her trying to hide herself. We see her in denim jackets, biker jackets, and blouses, as well as jeans. Not a country vibe, though. More of a toughened, classic kind of look.

Audition Lines: **(No direction. I want to see how you interpret them.)**

HAZEL: (Sigh) Lia, I... I don't do that kinda thing, okay? I don't even know why you're doing it either.

HAZEL: (Pause to think) I don't know. She said it was at Tommy's house. (Stop as she realizes) That's, uh... That's a boy she knows, I guess. She knows him from church, I think.

HAZEL: (CONT.) Since I'm here... (Pause, thinking) Why would someone kidnap Lia? She's the least interesting person here... Someone who reads the bible so much - she wouldn't wear a skirt without tights if someone had a gun to her head. (Pause) Shit.

Role 2: Fraser Mclean

Bio: Fraser **(30-50)** is a strict, god-fearing parent. The loss of his wife has turned him bitter, and he sometimes takes it out on his daughter in the form of cold indifference. This is a very complex role, especially in regards to certain scenes at the end of the film where his tough exterior breaks down completely. Lots of crying and wailing. He is tough, but the whirlwind of emotion inside of him sometimes peeks through. Perhaps the most difficult role in the film. He has a secret as well, that he tries to keep quiet.

Appearance: Tall, dark, and handsome. I see him wearing a button-up white shirt with his sleeves rolled for most of the film. No tattoos or things of that kind - he's a deeply religious man. I would love to have someone with an almost sinister look, just to add to the gravitas and power of this character. When outside, he wears a long coat, again to add to his silhouette.

Audition Lines: **(No direction. I want to see how you interpret them.)**

FRASER: (Smiling) Well don't give me that bullshit. What's wrong, Hazel? When you're tired, your head droops and you close your eyes.

FRASER: Hazel? (Pause) Now this preacher is new here - that's why he's running late. When he gets here, I want you to treat his sermon with respect. At least pretend that you care what he's saying. Is that clear?

FRASER: I don't want you pulling that again.

Role 3: Larry Tate

Bio: Larry **(40-50)** is the police chief of the town. His attitude is almost careless sometimes, and he finds things funny most of the time as a form of coping with the stresses of his job. He is friends with Fraser Mclean, and lives right across the street from him. There is something he is hiding, though, and he sometimes shows it. Underneath his nonchalant exterior, there is a deep anger, almost to the point of mania. At the end of the film, he loses his cool. We can tell he likes the power that comes from his job.

Appearance: He wears his uniform for the whole film. At the beginning, it's done up and nice looking, but as we go on, it slowly starts to deteriorate; the tie gets looser, the collar gets ruffled - things like that. I see him as a scruffier guy, a little large, with a very uncaring personality.

Audition Lines: **(No direction. I want to see how you interpret them.)**

LARRY: Taught your girl right, Fraser. Wish my daughter had half the wits of yours. Comes home drunk with her hair all messy and shit. (Motion with his hands to illustrate) Some little runt shows up at my door next morning, asking to see her; I'm half fixed to blow his brains out on my stoop.

LARRY: Damn right. (Pause) Don't ask me for more favours until you do something for me. Gotta fill the glass before you drink, right?

LARRY: (Cautious) Now hold on there, darlin'. Put that gun down.

Role 4: Douglas Malone

Bio: Douglas (20-30) is the new preacher in town. He was assigned to the town after the last preacher mysteriously died from what was claimed to be a heart attack. He's completely ignorant to everything that is happening around him, focused only on the task he was assigned: to lead his flock. Smaller role with a few long monologues in the form of sermons. He has a rather off-putting demeanor - a result of his lack of connection with other people. Devoted entirely to God.

Appearance: I see him as a smaller, young man. He wears round glasses and dresses in a button-up with a tie underneath a formal leather jacket. Always seems to carry around a bible.

Audition Lines: **(No direction. I want to see how you interpret them.)**

DOUGLAS: We've got church coming up soon - Sunday - and I'm the new preacher in town.

DOUGLAS: I'm the new preacher here, taking over from the last fellow. Poor soul. Heart attacks are the devil touching us with his black hand.

DOUGLAS: May I speak a verse to you, my child? (Pause) I think of your situation, and I think of what poor Lia must be going through as we speak here now, and I'm reminded of a passage - Job five-fifteen to sixteen. Now if I remember correctly, it goes something like: He saves the needy from the sword in their mouth; he saves them from the clutches of the powerful. So the poor have hope, and injustice shuts its mouth. Now that's Jesus for you, Hazel - that's Jesus for Lia. Wherever she is right now, you can rest easy knowing he's there to save her poor soul.

Role 5: Verity Tate

Bio: Verity **(30-40)** is the wife of Larry, the police chief. She's very friendly, almost to the point of being disconcerting. This is her way of hiding whatever it is she's feeling at any moment. She loves her husband, but is often disconnected from him. She clearly suspects that something is going on between him and Fraser, but does not say anything about it.

Appearance: I picture her as the typical southern bell archetype, with long blonde hair. She also wears white most of the time; both her clothing and hair symbolize her purity.

Audition Lines: **(No direction. I want to see how you interpret them.)**

VERITY: (Smiles) You're friends with that poor girl that went missing, aren't you darling?

VERITY: Fraser Mclean, right? You've got quite a looker there for a daddy, you know. Guess that's where your pretty face comes from.

VERITY: (Pause) Well, uh, this isn't our car. I was just looking at it - you didn't answer me when I asked you whose it was.

Role 6: Lia Lucero

Bio: The girl who goes missing. Lia **(16-18)** is incredibly shy and meek, and considers Hazel one of her only friends. Almost like a little puppy sometimes, following Hazel around and asking questions. Very religious, and carries around her bible everywhere, reading it in her free time. This is a smaller role.

Appearance: I see her as a smaller girl, clearly Hispanic, with dark hair. We only see her wearing a turtleneck shirt beneath a slim dress, with dark tights hiding her legs. She carries around her bag, which holds her bible.

Audition Lines: **(No direction. I want to see how you interpret them.)**

LIA: My mom makes potatoes too - the little ones, though. They're good too, but not as good as yours.

LIA: Anyway, uhh... Tommy invited you to a party tonight - well, he told me to invite you.

LIA: Oh, Hazel, please? I don't wanna go alone.

Extras

I will also need extras for a few scenes. During a scene outside a church, there will be a group of teenagers standing in a circle. One is a boy, who we are told is Tommy. No lines for him. There will also be some adults standing around, talking while they wait for the church to open.

Another scene in Fraser's kitchen requires a few adult extras to stand around, pretending to talk and eat during a church luncheon. One of them, a Hispanic woman, is Lia's mother, and speaks one short line in Spanish.

Final Words

Thank you very much for your interest in this film. If you are questioning it, just send in an audition tape. The completed film is set to run around half an hour, and will be submitted to various film festivals, hopefully one of those being the Calgary International Film Festival. Shooting will likely take place in Okotoks, based on early planning, so as long as you can get there, you are set. There is no set schedule yet for filming dates.

To send in audition tapes, ask questions, or contact me, please see the information below.

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