CIRCLE MIRROR TRANSFORMATION

ANNIE BAKER

Character Breakdowns

These are just a guideline. Feel free to read for whichever role resonates the most.

Marty – (late 40's-60's) The class instructor and co-executive director of the Community Center. Teaches pottery, jewelry making, and youth drama. A former hippie, all around creative artist type. A leader. Pours her heart into these classes and believes in this work. Charming, open, and unpredictable. Married to James. Is close with her stepdaughter.

James – (late 40's -60's) A seemingly mellow, slightly withdrawn professor. Married to Marty, his 2nd wife. Estranged from his 23-year-old daughter but really doesn't want to be. A bit defensive, a bit vulnerable, a bit sarcastic. Worries he is becoming like his abusive father as he gets older. A lot is going on underneath the surface.

Schultz – (30's-50's) A recently divorced carpenter who still wears his wedding ring. Sensitive and a bit awkward, wears his heart on his sleeve. His mother died when he was a child. Met his ex-wife in college. Longing for connection. He is "a really good artist" and it shows during this class.

Theresa – (late 20's - 30's) Confident, passionate, former professional actor. Moved from NYC to be closer to aging parents and to leave a toxic relationship. Studying for a certificate in acupressure. Earnest, fast talking, and desperately wanting to make a difference and forge her path, somehow.

Lauren – (late teens to 20s to play 16) A shy teenager. Not sure of how much space to take up. Her parents are constantly fighting. Wants to study either theatre & dance or be a vet. Uses acting as an escape. Occasionally frustrated with Marty's teaching methods of theatre games which she may or may not consider to be real acting.

Audition Monologues

These monologues are all part of an acting class exercise within the play where each person, one by one, stands up and introduces themselves as someone else in the class. The characters are explicitly instructed *not* to act, do accents, or "imitate" the person. They are simply speaking the other person's exact, factual words as honestly and truthfully as they can…at least what they can remember. Please feel free bring as much of your true self to this as you'd like!!!

JAMES
Hi.
My name is Marty Kreisberg. Short for Martha, but they've
been calling me Marty since I was born.
Ah ...
(He scratches his head, then grins.)
My husband is supposed to do this, ah, monologue about me
but he doesn't really know what to —
(Marty is trying to signal something to him.)
Why can't I do that?
(He shakes his head.)
Alright alright….I'm 55 and I'm, ah ... I live in Shirley, Vermont. I'm co-executive
director here at the Community Center and I also teach a
bunch of classes ... ah ... pottery, jewelry making, creative
drama for youth... I've been pushing for an adult creative
drama class for a while and I'm ... I'm really glad they let me do
it.
(Pause.)
Okay.
Ah... I'm from New Jersey. Originally. I don't have any kids,
but I'm a great stepmother.
My husband is named James. He's in the class, too.
Ah... let's see. I'm really into nontraditional healing and sort
of ... unconventional, ah ...
(He scratches his head again.)
I'm 55 years old. I really love the Southwest. I hope to move
there someday.
Did I already say that?
Okay.

MARTY.
My name is Lauren Zadick-White.
I'm sixteen.
I was born right before midnight, on October 24th. Um..
I'm a Scorpio, and my mother says that accounts for why I'm such a hard worker.
Also' why I'm so stubborn!
Ah ... this fall I'll be a junior at Shirley High. School is okay, but I can't wait to go to college and start doing what I love, which is theater and dance. I'm also really interested in going to veterinary school. We'll see. I don't have to make any decisions right now, even though I think I do.
(She gazes pointedly at Lauren.)
I don't enjoy talking that much about my family and my, um, background, but it's actually fascinating and just ... really, really interesting. My mother is Lebanese, and my father is Irish. Both of them were born outside of the States and they met at the University of Iowa.
Um... my grandmother lives with us. We call her Sitti. That's Lebanese for "grandma." I'm really close with her. Everyone says we look álike.
I have agreed to let all of you know that in the past couple of years my father has had some problems with the, um, law. I hope that this will remain strictly confidential. It has been really hard for my whole family, especially my mother and grandmother, who have always had such high expectations. My grandmother thinks my mother should leave my father. They fight about it.
(Pause.)
I'm not going to go into any more detail.
(Pause.)
It is really hard for me to talk about it and I should be so proud of myself for sharing it with all of you.
Oh. Also. This fall they're doing West Side Story at the high school and I would really like to get the part of Maria. It's my dream role. I signed up for this class so I would be, um, better prepared for it.
I hope that I …
Maybe one day I can stop putting so much pressure on myself.

LAUREN.
Hi.
My name is Schultz.
I'm a carpenter.
And I don't just ... I mean, I do regular carpenter things but I
also make these amazing chairs that are like ... this one chair has,
like... like the headrest is the sun and the whole thing is gold?
(Lauren looks nervously at Schultz.)
It's kind of hard to explain.
There's this other chair that looks like a cloud.
Um... I'm forty-eight years old.
I grew up in Maryland and my mom died when I was really little. She was an
elementary school teacher. I always wanted to be a
baseball player.
I'm really nice to everyone.
(Pause.)
I met my wife Becky right out of college and we ...
(Schultz is saying something we can't hear.)
Yeah. I know. I was gonna —
…We just separated. Divorced.
I'm in a lot of pain about it.
But, um, to look on the bright side, I have more time now to
work on my chairs and maybe find a way for them to um, spread
out to um, more people.
(Pause.)
I am an artist.
I am a really good artist.

SCHULTZ.
My name is Theresa.
Ah... I am a very special person.
(He looks tenderly in Theresa's direction.)
I am 35 years old.
I'm very passionate. About all things. I care about things very deeply.
(Pause.)
I grew up in a small town in New Hampshire. I have a younger brother named Brendan. He's getting married next summer.
Ah ... I lived in New York for about ... for many years. I was ... I am an actress. The decision to move to Vermont was a difficult but I think ultimately positive one. There was a competitiveness and a claustrophobia that was very difficult for me in New York... also this sense that people didn't really care about each other.
(He shoots another tender look at Theresa.)
I have always wanted to make a difference. I have an amazing soul, an amazing warmth, that, that, that people can sense the minute they meet me. I had hoped to reach people through theater, but the realization that maybe this was impossible caused me to reevaluate and try living in a, a smaller place, where I could work, uh, directly with people. I'm studying for a certificate in acu-pressure and, ah ... Shoot.
Rolfing.Rolfing.
About six months before I left New York I broke up with my
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boyfriend, Mark. He was not very good to me. Sometimes I guilt myself out and convince myself that I ruined something and that I made a mistake, but those, uh, my friends and people who are close to me know that I did the right thing. That was a toxic relationship.
My father has prostate cancer. It's a, ah, blessing to be only a few hours away from him and to be able to see him on the week-ends. I'm also worried about my mother.
I don't want my parents to die.
(A long pause while he thinks deeply about this.)
Yeah. Okay. That's it.

THERESA.
I'm James.
I grew up in a lot of different places because my father was in the army. Um... Germany. Chicago. Florida. I spent the last, um, three years of high school in Long Beach, California, so that was nice 'cause I got to graduate with people I knew and make real friends.I went to school at UC Santa Barbara, which was pretty crazy in the late sixties! I learned a lot about myself during college. One, it was pretty hard to break away from my father and all his expectations for me. I also learned a lot about women and men and sexual politics. Um...
(She glances briefly at James and grins.)
I'm really interesting.
(She giggles.)
Marty is my wife.
(She grins at Marty.)
Marty is awesome.
We live in this amazing house near the center of town painted these really amazing colors. It's like purple and orange and yellow and people stop their cars and take pictures of it. We have a cat named Coltrane.Coltrane only has three legs.
(She giggles again.)
U m . . . o k a y .
(She sobers up and thinks again.)
I am a very strong man. By strong I don't mean physically strong, although, um, that too. I've been through a lot. My first wife was an alcoholic. My whole family is alcoholics. Alcoholic. My father was emotionally abusive to my mother and although I'm not that way I feel a lot of his anger inside of me. I feel it and I think instead of dealing with it I push it, um, I push it deep down inside me and repress it.
(A pause.)
But the truth is ... I mean, I haven't said this. But ...
I think the problem is not my father so much as my fear of being my father. Like if I run away too hard from him I will become something else that is also problematic.
Because actually?
I'm an amazing person.
(She grins.)
Okay. Thank you.