



"Making God Laugh" follows one typical American family over the course of 30 years' worth of holidays. Starting in 1980, Ruthie and Bill's grown children—a priest, an aspiring actress and a former football star—all return home, where we learn of their plans and dreams as they embark on their adult lives. The empty-nester parents contend with their own changes, too, as old family rituals are trotted out and ancient tensions flare up. As time passes, the family discovers that, despite what we may have in mind, we often arrive at unexpected destinations.

Pierre Players Auditions: Monday, Dec. 13, 2021, 7 p.m., Grand Opera House, Pierre

Production Dates: Feb. 25-27 and March 3-5, 2022, with a preview performance on Feb. 23

Roles: There are parts for three men and two women. Characters age 30 years during the production.

- **Ruthie:** The matriarch of the family. She starts the play in her late 40s or early 50s. She's bossy, authoritative, means well but tries to steer the world more than is humanly possible. She needles each of her children and even her husband, Bill, but truly loves them all.
- **Bill:** Our patriarch, in his late 40s or early 50s at the start. He loves everyone and is a go-with-the-flow sort. Easygoing, wouldn't hurt anyone's feelings, desperately in love with his kids and wife. Being the dad of these people and Ruthie's husband is his life's work.
- **Richard:** Eldest son. Mid-to-late 20s at the start. He wants to conquer the world. Not a plugger, more of an entrepreneur. He buys the latest everything and dress "up to the second" stylish. A one-time football hero, he misses that kind of spotlight.
- **Maddie:** Second child. Mid-20s at the top. She's an aspiring actress. A strong-willed person who loves her family. She lives in New York and struggles with the artist's life as well as her life-life. She and her mother have a difficult relationship.
- **Thomas:** Son two, the baby of the family and the "good" son. A nice, even-tempered guy, in the style of his father, who thought his life was on a plan. A devoutly religious man studying for the priesthood at the beginning, he's nonetheless funny, warm and not at all rigid.

More Information: If you are interested in reading a script, are interested in helping backstage or have any questions, contact director Alisa DeMers Bousa at ademers@pie.midco.net or 605.280.3700. Or visit www.pierreplayers.com.