

Ponderosa Stage Productions 2026 Fall Play
November 5-7 & 12-14

Witches?! In Salem!?

by Matt Cox

SHOW SYNOPSIS

Matt Cox, creator of *Puffs*, has written a new play which also happens to involve witches. *Witches?! In Salem!?* is a darkly comedic, yet (mostly) historically accurate take on the Salem Witch Trials and all the (mostly) historically accurate horrors which may occur when populism runs rampant, injustice is a day to day occurrence, and a rigid religious minority sets the laws of the land. A companion, or an alternative, to a certain other Salem play everyone reads in high school.

PLOT

Welcome to Salem Village. 1692. It's a bad time to visit. Here, wealthy landowners want your land, local magistrates want your confession, unpopular reverends want your respect but more importantly your firewood, and everyone wants someone to be punished for something. Meanwhile, several local children try to make sense of a hysteria they find themselves at the center of. Oh! And the newest Salem villagers, the Bloodkravens are here too. They are confused, but not letting it get in their way of having a good time.

CASTING

5f, 5m, 1 non-specific. Can be expanded to 33+. Any gender can play any role.
The original production was performed by eleven actors playing multiple characters.

ROLES

JENNY ANNE BISHOP An eighth grader who got way too into her class lesson plan on the *Crucible*. Eventually realizes history's fun facts may not be so fun.

THOMAS PUTNAM A conniving, greedy soul who will do what it takes to get what he wants. His plot goes awry immediately, but he does his best to keep up with it throughout the play.

REVEREND PARRIS A spineless, petty narcissist of a Reverend who cares most about his personal needs, gains, and firewood. He demands a respect no one gives him, at least until he becomes the de facto spiritual leader braving the newly discovered evil within the village.

COTTON MATHER A rigid Puritan minister. A real fire & brimstone type. An author who really needs to sell more pamphlets and knows how to scare his audience. His dad maybe didn't hug him enough.

JOHN PROCTOR A real everyman, leading actor type. Loves a good powerful monologue.

ABIGAIL WILLIAMS A twelve-year-old girl who has seen some stuff. Intelligent, perhaps too intelligent for her own good.

BETTY PARRIS The Reverend's daughter. Full of confidence and nerves and the proper fear of God.

MARY WARREN An awkward teenager of the village. She struggles with public speaking and also public accusings of her neighbors of being witches.

ANN PUTNAM JR. A frightening child - very intense. A bit like she crawled out of a horror movie.

BELLA'LOCH Your stereotypical witch living her best life. Has some concerns about being discovered but isn't too worried.

XANATAR Your stereotypical wizard. Is loving this Salem place.

GOODY GOOD A messy street vagrant. Loves the sound of her own name.

SARAH DUSTIN A rather ordinary woman who finds herself on the wrong side of the law.

GOODY BIBBER A real show biz type. An older woman who joins in on the accusing, realizing that's a pretty safe way to not be accused.

BRIDGET BISHOP A village woman who has been through this before. Tired, confused, hoping for the best.

LYDIA DUSTIN Quick to point fingers. Is always sending thoughts and prayers and wants everyone to know it.

MARTHA COREY A gospel woman.

FARMERS Simple farmers with not many opinions.

FARMER GEORGE A simple farmer with one concern: farming rye.

REBECCA NURSE The kindest, oldest woman in Salem. Great at bringing a room full of people together.

REVEREND INCREASE MATHER An even rigid-er Puritan minister. A powerful, commanding presence.

THE MAGISTRATE A judge—but more of a monster delivering their own form of justice.

DOCTOR GRIGGS An old doctor who really loves getting paid.

EDWARD BISHOP A member of the Salem congregation with lots of loud and aggressive opinions.

EPHRAIM WILDES A constable lacking confidence and conviction. Really wants to get paid above all else, but doesn't love people being angry at him.

THOMAS PUTNAM SR. A man on his deathbed, until he isn't.

GOVERNOR PHIPS A dandy English gentleman. Not a lot of government experience.

JOSEPH BALLARD A Massachusetts man who wants to get to the bottom of his wife's illness and is pretty sure it's witches.

A BOSTONIAN A Bostonian with a wicked accent and lots of money.

WEIRD MEMBER OF THE CONGREGATION A weird member of the congregation. Excited to be able to speak and for people to listen.

SIGN PERSON A person who holds up a sign. Has strong notions towards the level of applause.

UNNAMED VILLAGER A villager with some accusations to throw around.

SATAN Your typical casual immortal being. Doesn't like that their name is mixed in with this whole Salem thing.

CASTING & AUDITIONS PROCESS

Whether this is your first audition or your hundredth, no experience is required—just bring yourself, your audition form, and your Conflicts Calendar on the first day of auditions, Tuesday, August 18.

- Auditions are closed to the public (parents, siblings, or friends may not be in the theatre.)
- Day of Auditions: Arrive in the theatre after school with your audition form and conflicts calendar. Auditions are by groups—you'll be given a script excerpt and time to rehearse the scene together before you're called onstage. We try to give everyone equal time, so expect some wait so bring a book or homework to fill the gaps.
- On the audition form you'll be asked if you're interested in a specific role. You can list roles there, or leave it blank if you're open to any role. First-timers and experienced performers all receive the same consideration. Casting is based on the role which the director believes best suits him or her, regardless of experience.
- If necessary, callbacks will be done after school on August 20th. You'll be notified if you receive a callback via email or text on Wednesday evening. (Be sure to write your email and number on your form.)
- Parent Permission: You're required to review this packet with your parents and have them sign the bottom of your Audition Form before you attend the audition.

The Cast List will be posted on the class entrance to the theatre and in the Google Classroom Production hub on Friday, August 21. You accept your role by initialing next to your name, or by emailing Mrs. Fritz no later than Friday evening. You must attend the Read Through on August 25 to get a rehearsal calendar from Mrs. Fritz, and you and a parent or guardian must attend the Parent Meeting directly after the read-through at 6:30 pm.

Interested in working on crew or tech? Complete the application and turn it in by August 20.

Looking forward to auditions—break a leg!

Mrs. Fritz