

**AUDITION NOTICE**  
**OVER THE RIVER AND THROUGH THE WOODS**

directed by Ralph Rosati

**Performances:** (There will most likely be a preview performance on Wednesday March 6 at 8:00 p.m.);  
Fridays & Saturdays March 8, 9, 15, 16, 22 and 23, 2019 at 8:00 p.m.; Sundays March 10, 17 and 24, 2019 at 2:00 p.m.

**Audition Details:**

Thursday January 3, 2019; 6:30 p.m. registration; 7:00 p.m. auditions

Friday January 4, 2019; 6:30 p.m. registration; 7:00 p.m. auditions

TABLE READ Tuesday January 8, 2019 at 7:00 p.m.

**Rehearsal Details:**

Rehearsals are set for:

Sundays (6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m./8:30 p.m.)

Tuesdays (7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m./9:30 p.m.)

Thursdays (7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m./9:30 p.m.)

*These dates and times are subject to change depending on cast's schedules and weather conditions*

**Synopsis:**

*Over the River and Through the Woods*; it conjures up a Currier & Ives scene of people traveling over the countryside laughing and singing all the way. We see crowded sleigh rides crisscrossing each other in wooded areas far from urban sounds and smells. Could anything be more exhilarating? FORGET IT! In this case, grandmother's house is a modest (and hot) but comfortable home in New Jersey. Dwelling within are an Italian/American husband and wife, Aida and Frank Gianelli. In over fifty years of marriage, they have developed a love/hate relationship (more love than hate). They, along with relatives, Nunzio and Emma Cristiano, and grandson/nephew Nicky, enjoy (?) Sunday Italian dinners. These dinners come close to being obligatory for Nicky. The crux of these dining experiences is to discuss the likelihood of finding the perfect girl for Nicky. He will then settle down (close to them, of course) and they will ply him with loads of pasta and all the unwanted advice he can handle. When Nicky's talent as a marketing/advertising executive is recognized by his company, he is offered a once-in-a-lifetime position in Seattle, Washington. The relatives have no idea where the hell Seattle is. But, they know it is nowhere close to New Jersey. Is there no way to stop him? SURE! Enter pretty Irish/ Catholic Caitlin O'Hare. When it should be an ideal boy-meets-girl set-up, things go completely awry. The play is filled with love, laughter, and yes, a generous helping of tears. These are old-world people who are completely unsuited to live in this modern world.

**ITALIAN ACCENTS ARE NOT REQUIRED**

**Nicky Cristiano:** (early 30s); intelligent, successful, but needing to break away from the vice-like grip the old folks have on him (all scenes).

**Frank Gianelli:** (late 60s/early 70s in appearance); his life has been hard; he is bitter about his father until he goes back to Italy and learns the truth about being sent to America (all scenes).

**Aida Gianelli:** (late 60s/early 70s in appearance); Frank's wife; she is effervescent and demonstrative; she loves Nicky but is horrified that he ate Chinese food (all scenes).

**Nunzio Cristiano:** (late 60s/early 70s in appearance); he is probably the lowest keyed of the group (if that is possible); he is dying of cancer but will not tell Nicky for fear of emotionally blackmailing him into staying (all scenes).

**Emma Cristiano:** (late 60s/early 70s in appearance); Nunzio's wife; she is constantly giving Nicky mass cards in hopes that he will find a girlfriend; Nunzio's death weakens her otherwise strong spirit and hastens her own death (all scenes)

**Caitlin O'Hare:** young, pretty, vibrant, and a nurse (an honorable profession); she is a vegetarian which baffles the old folks; her clash with Nicky cancels out any possible romance. This part is not as large as the others but calls for strong acting (two scenes).

**All ages listed in the descriptions of the characters are merely an approximation.**

**Makeup and wigs can do wonders!**

**If you think you can meet the needs called for in the play, PLEASE AUDITION!**

**Ralph Rosati, Director.**

**Audition Sides:**

To acquire cuts please send an email to [birminghamvillageplayers@gmail.com](mailto:birminghamvillageplayers@gmail.com); in the SUBJECT LINE type in OVER THE RIVER. Then in the body of the email let us know what characters you are interested in. Or you may stop by the playhouse to pick up printed cuts Tuesdays through Saturdays from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.