

Character	Description	Age range	Role type
Sheridan Whiteside	<p>Modeled after Alexander Woollcott.</p> <p>The center of the play, "Sherry" is a middle-aged celebrity who breaks his hip on a piece of ice while visiting - reluctantly - the home of Mr. and Mrs. Ernest W. Stanley for a quick dinner during a stop on one of his national lecture tours. As a result, he ends up convalescing at their home for several weeks just before Christmas in 1938. Larger than life in every way, Sherry's appetites, demands and ego are all outsized. A world famous wit, lecturer, theater critic and radio talk show host, he is used to getting his own way and having anyone and everyone less powerful than he dance to his tune. He knows every world leader, actor, artist and intellectual worth knowing. And yet, for all of his bluster and pomposity, there is genuine affection and even a touch of kindness in him.</p>	35-60	Lead
Maggie Cutler	<p>Whiteside's private secretary. She's been with him for ten years. In a way, she's grown up under Whiteside's influence, and has developed into a first-rate professional, developing as close and affectionate a bond with Whiteside's famous friends as he has himself. And yet, her unwavering loyalty and exemplary professionalism have been honed at the expense of her personal life. Resigned to the possibility that "old maidhood" is in her future, she is amazed and delighted when Bert Jefferson, the local Mesalia, Ohio newspaperman, enters her life and awakens the romantic in her.</p>	30-40	Lead
Mr. Ernest W. Stanley	<p>Unwilling host to Sheridan Whiteside, Mr. Stanley is a prominent and well-to-do businessman in Mesalia, Ohio currently held hostage in his own home by Whiteside and the constant parade of celebrities, eccentrics and other assorted visitors who make the pilgrimage to have an audience with the great man. Ernest is a traditional man with a traditional family and has little use for Hollywood, celebrities or flamboyant lifestyles. As a result, the longer Sherry stays on, and the more he takes over the household and the lives of the Stanleys, the more frustrated and vexed Mr. Stanley becomes.</p>	50-65	Supporting

Mrs. Stanley (Daisy)	Daisy was once the conventional and dutiful, if a bit high-strung and flighty, wife of Ernest Stanley. As befits a pillar of the small community in which they are a prominent family, Daisy keeps an immaculate and well-appointed home, and she is a gracious and socially adept hostess. However, Sheridan Whiteside's arrival has brought out some of Daisy's more neurotic tendencies. She is star-struck in the extreme, and awed to see her name mentioned in the national press now that she's harboring one of America's most famous men of letters. She is also chronically flustered in his presence and that of his equally famous visitors. She does become increasingly dimayed however, when Sherry takes over not only the house and the household staff, but even the parenting of the Stanleys' children. Her increasingly conflicted feelings seem to keep her running in several directions at once.	50-65	Supporting
Richard Stanley	The son of Ernest and Daisy, Richard is about 20 years old and an aspiring photographer. He's a good kid who feels he could use a bit more attention from Dad - which makes him susceptible to Sheridan's advice.	20-25	Supporting
June Stanley	Daughter of Ernest and Daisy, June is about 18 years old. Although very much a dutiful and well-behaved daughter, June is in love with Sandy, a young union organizer who happens to work for her father, and who happens to be organizing a union inside her father's company that will directly challenge his authority. Despite her penchant for union organizers, June is an otherwise level-headed, even-keeled girl.	18-25	Supporting
Harriet Stanley	Elderly, eccentric, live-in sister of Ernest Stanley, Harriet flits in and out furtively and with great mystery; she has a distinct affection for Sheridan Whiteside. Clearly playing with far less than a full deck, she turns out to be a highly-fictionalized version of Lizzie Borden many decades after Lizzie took all those whacks.	60-75	Featured
Miss Preen	The spinsterish nurse hired as Sheridan Whiteside's private caretaker while he convalesces, Miss Preen is harried, put-upon, humorless and forever unable to please Sheridan Whiteside.	30-50	Supporting
John	The Stanleys' star-struck butler. Very affable.	40-65	Supporting

Sarah	The Stenleys' cook and Johns wife; naturally gregarious and ebullient, she is a a very talented cook.	40-65	Supporting
Miss Dexter	Good friend of Mrs. Stanley and utterly star-struck by Sheridan Whiteside.	35-65	Featured
Mrs. McCutcheon	Good friend of Mrs. Stanley and utterly star-struck by Sheridan Whiteside.	35-65	Featured
Dr. Bradley	Local Doctor brought in to tread Sheridan Whiteside. The worse kind of buffoon: One with aspirations. He's a bore and, worse, not the most competent doctor in the world. The kind of man people instinctively do not respect.	45-65	Supporting
Bert Jefferson	The local newspaperman - he's not only the ace reporter at the paper, he's the owner and editor as well. He's young and confident - and, more importantly, genuinely talented; he's written a play that turns out to be very good. Not only does he impress Sheridan Whiteside, but he captures Maggie's heart - and vice versa.	30-45	Supporting
Professor Metz	Eccentric professor and friend of Sheridan Whiteside who is an expert on cockroaches.	40-65	Featured
Lorraine Sheldon	Modeled after Gertrude Lawrence. Hollywood A-list Actress, very famous Broadway actress. Beautiful, sexy and utterly self-centered. Typically temperamental, but unusually witty. Always plotting and scheming.	20-40	Supporting
Sandy	Young man who is June Stanley's boyfriend, he works for Ernest Stanley and, to Ernest Stanley's utter consternation, is a union organizer at the company. Himself an earnest young idealist, Sandy is a decent fellow and well-mannered.	29-30	Featured
Beverly Carlton	Modeled after Noel Coward. Debonair, zany and extremely talented and successful playwright, musician and actor, Beverly Carlton is a quick-witted and clever British national treasure on loan (for the moment) to America - a good friend of both Sheridan Whiteside and Maggie Cutler, he may be a snob, but he's also down to earth. Note: Must be able to do a credible high-toned British dialect, and must be able to sing 1 song while at the piano (playing of piano can be simulated if necessary).	30-50	Supporting

Banjo	Modeled after Harpo Marx. A famous film actor having made the transition from vaudeville, Banjo is pretty much the same clown offstage that he is on screen. Part of a very famous trio of brothers (as the Marx Brothers were), Banjo is rich enough to indulge in his whims - card playing, woman chasing, spend-thrift and all around just having fun with his friends. His antics are pretty much good clean fun, and nobody's ever caught him being serious. He is much beloved by his friends because he's really quite loyal to them and a decent fellow.	35-50	Supporting
Mr. Baker	Prison guard: Big, authoritative, but friendly.	30-55	Featured
3 convicts	Rough looking prisoners	30-60	Featured
2 deliverymen	Fairly burly guys, friendly	25-45	walk on
Westcott	Chief radio technician, Westcott is the IT guy of his era. Knows how to set up and troubleshoot sophisticated, but buggy equipment. He's a geek who loves his job.	25-45	Featured
2 radio technicians	2 men who are very preoccupied with setting up the technology to make the remote radio broadcast happen	25-50	Featured
Deputies	Two no-nonsense lawmen who aren't very friendly, they come at Mr. Stanley's request to ensure that Sheridan Whiteside obeys Mr. Stanley's very sincere request that he vacate the premises.	30-55	Featured
Boy's choir	6 boys in choir uniforms to sing "Silent Night"	15-Aug	Featured
State Trooper	No-nonsense, square-jawed, very serious man.	25-45	Walk-on

