

CHOSEN

Casting Call — Now Casting Paid Roles

A 15-minute narrative short film • Writer-Director Michelle Farley • Columbus, Ohio

Logline. When a 70-something widow's secret lover turns up seemingly dead on her couch — and his wife arrives at the door — one very long morning forces her to reckon with a lifetime of being someone's greatest love but never their choice. A dark comedy about second place, and finally choosing yourself.

About the film. CHOSEN is a dark comedy about grief, old love, impossible timing, and the unexpected ways life asks us to begin again. Its comedy is grounded, not slapstick — the absurdity of real life arriving all at once, and the grace it takes to survive it. By centering an older Black woman as romantic, flawed, funny, and still becoming, the film challenges limiting portrayals of aging, and reminds us that reinvention has no expiration date. An award-winning, festival-recognized screenplay by writer-director Michelle Farley, shooting on a professional set with an experienced crew.

THE ROLES

All four roles are written for African American performers. This is a requirement of the story and the characters as written. All roles are **paid**. Union and non-union performers welcome.

You do not need extensive acting credits. Experienced and newer performers are equally welcome — stage, screen, or first time on camera. We're watching for truth and instinct, not a long résumé.

Janice, Deborah, and Harold must read as older. They are written in their 70s; performers roughly mid-60s and up are encouraged. These are vibrant, lively, fully alive characters.

JANICE MONTGOMERY — Lead • African American Woman • 70s (mid-60s–70s)

Earthy, regal, and gloriously unbothered. A widow quietly carrying on with an old love, until one very long morning upends everything. Outspoken, witty, fun, and carefree, and it shows in how she carries herself: vibrant, stylish, and still very much a sexy woman. Underneath the comedy is someone done being anyone's second choice. Needs razor-sharp comic timing, real warmth, and gravity. (Role includes a brief staged physical altercation, choreographed for safety.)

DEBORAH GREEN — Lead • African American Woman • 70s (mid-60s–70s)

Harold's wife. Refined, dignified, and impeccably put together. She arrives not to beg but to collect what's hers. Her power is in restraint and composure, the quiet cut, until it finally cracks. An elegant, commanding presence. Needs stillness, dry devastation, and a willingness to commit to physical comedy. (Role includes a brief staged physical altercation, choreographed for safety.)

HAROLD GREEN — Supporting • African American Man • mid-60s–70s

An old love and a sitting councilman, held for most of the film by catalepsy — trance-like episodes in which he appears lifeless. A largely physical, largely still role built on control and presence, plus one short burst of confused, panicked life when he wakes. **WARDROBE NOTE:** Harold appears to have been caught undressed, but there is no nudity in this film — the actor wears an undershirt and shorts and is covered with a blanket.

BRIAN GREEN — Supporting • African American Man • early-to-mid 20s — \$150/day × 2 days

Deborah's grandson — polished, and very much not signed up for this. He tracked his grandfather's phone and drove Grandma over, then becomes the tender, calming counterweight in the chaos. Needs charm, quick comic reactivity, and genuine warmth.

PAY & KEY DETAILS

- **Rate:** \$300/day for Janice and Deborah; \$150/day for Harold and Brian. Two shoot days — both days required.

- **Union status:** Signatory to the SAG-AFTRA Short Project Agreement. Union and non-union performers welcome.
- **Shoot dates:** October 10–11, 2026 (weekend). Please confirm availability on both days.
- **Location:** Columbus, Ohio. Local hires preferred; strong out-of-area talent considered.
- **Process:** Self-tape first. Callbacks (in person in Columbus, or via Zoom) the week of September 1.
- **Self-tape deadline:** **Monday, August 31, 2026**

HOW TO SELF-TAPE

A phone is all you need. We care about the performance, not the production value.

- Slate first — about ten seconds. Say your name, the role you're reading, and your city, then go straight into the scene.
- Film horizontally, from the chest up. Hold the phone sideways, keep your eyeline just beside the lens, and find a plain wall, soft light on your face, and a quiet room.
- Have someone read the other lines from off-camera, a little quieter than you.
- Make a strong choice. We would rather see a bold interpretation than a safe one. Know the lines well enough to keep your eyes up — one take per side is plenty.
- Reading for Harold? Add a short clip holding completely still for 60 to 90 seconds while someone talks nearby, then perform the wake-up lines.

HOW TO SUBMIT

- Name your file **LASTNAME_FIRSTNAME_ROLE** (e.g., SMITH_JANE_JANICE).
- Upload as an **unlisted YouTube link, Google Drive link, or WeTransfer** — please don't send large attachments.
- Email the link to **chosenauditions@gmail.com** with your name, phone number, the role, and a headshot/résumé if you have one (not required).
- **One scene per role.** Every actor auditioning for a role reads the same single side — download it at chosenshortfilm.com/casting. There is nothing else to prepare. If we invite you to callbacks, we'll send additional scenes then.
- Questions welcome at the same address.

CHOSEN is committed to a safe, respectful, professional set. Performers of all experience levels are encouraged to submit for the roles as written. We can't wait to meet you.