

Harvey Character Descriptions

Ethel Chauvenet - an old friend of the family. She is a member of the town's social circle, which Veta wants Myrtle to break into, and so they both flatter her and curry her favor.

Betty Chumley (the doctor's wife) - more concerned with socializing than with science: told that her husband has to examine a patient, she tells him, "Give a little quick diagnosis, Willie — we don't want to be late to the party."

Dr. William B. Chumley - an esteemed psychiatrist and the head of the sanitarium, "Chumley's Rest," to which Veta has Elwood taken. He is a difficult, exacting man, feared by his subordinates, unwilling to tolerate his mistakes.

Elwood P. Dowd - the central character of the play, a friendly eccentric who spends his days and nights in the taverns of his unnamed town. Elwood's best friend is Harvey, an invisible six and a half-foot-tall rabbit. The play leaves open several possibilities regarding exactly what Harvey is, whether he is a figment of Elwood's imagination, as the psychiatrists would like to believe, or he is, as Elwood asserts, a supernatural being known as a pooka.

Judge Omar Gaffney - an old family friend of the Dowd family, a representative of the people in town who are accustomed to seeing Elwood talking to Harvey and who do not think anything of it.

Miss Johnson - listed in the Cast of Characters as "a cateress," but her dialog in the play is tagged "Maid." She only appears briefly in the first act.

Nurse Ruth Kelly - a sympathetic character, a pretty young woman who appears to have some sort of love/hate relationship with Dr. Sanderson.

E. J. Lofgren – a cab driver who makes Veta realize that the treatment that is supposed to make Elwood stop seeing Harvey might drain him of his kind personality.

Dr. Lyman Sanderson - young, for a psychiatrist, but very qualified — Dr. Chumley has picked him out of the twelve possible assistants that he tried. He is just as infatuated with Nurse Kelly as she is with him, but he only reveals his concern indirectly.

Myrtle - a young woman, the daughter of Veta. The main reason why she and her mother are concerned about their standing in the community is that they both are concerned that Myrtle find a man to marry.

Veta Louise Simmons, - Elwood's sister, an important character in this play because she joins the play's two opposing forces, logic and imagination.

Wilson - the muscle of Chumley's Rest, a devoted orderly responsible for handling the patients who will not cooperate voluntarily.

Credit: <http://www.stage-right.org/auditions/harvey>