BEAU JEST — CHARACTER SUMMARY

Breakdown of the six roles in James Sherman's romantic comedy. Ages are suggested playing ranges

Character	Playing Age	Summary
Sarah Goldman	Late 20s–30s	Jewish kindergarten teacher; the heroine.
Bob Schroeder	30s	Actor hired to pose as "Dr. David Steinberg."
Chris Kringle	30s	Sarah's non-Jewish boyfriend; ad executive.
Abe Goldman	50s–60s	Sarah's father.
Miriam Goldman	50s–60s	Sarah's mother.
Joel Goldman	30s	Sarah's older brother; a psychologist.

Sarah Goldman

The play's center. Sarah is smart, kind, and funny, but she cannot bring herself to disappoint her parents. She engineers the deception and spends the play trying to manage it as it spirals. The role demands strong comic timing, emotional honesty, and the ability to carry scenes as the straight woman to the chaos around her. Her arc moves from people-pleasing to claiming her own choices.

Bob Schroeder

The showcase comic role. A likable, underemployed actor, Bob takes the job for the money and then commits to the part with gusto, improvising a Jewish identity and eventually leading a seder. He needs quick wits, charm, and physical and verbal agility, plus the sincerity to make his growing feelings for Sarah believable. Actors should be comfortable improvising-style energy within a scripted role.

Chris Kringle

Sarah's handsome, successful boyfriend, whose name itself is a joke on his non-Jewish background. Chris is decent and confident, not a villain. The role calls for an actor who can play earnest straightness and growing bewilderment, and who can earn sympathy even as the story moves away from him.

Abe Goldman

Sarah's father: loving, opinionated, and proud of his family and traditions. Abe provides much of the play's gruff warmth and a good share of its laughs. The role suits a seasoned character actor with solid comic instincts and a big heart underneath the bluster.

Miriam Goldman

Sarah's mother, devoted and doting, with sharp instincts about her children. Miriam's delight in "David" fuels much of the comedy. The role calls for warmth, precise timing, and the ability to land a line without overplaying the stereotype.

Joel Goldman

Sarah's brother, a psychologist with a recently troubled personal life. Analytical and observant, Joel is the family member most likely to see through the ruse, which gives the role dry wit and conspiratorial energy. It suits an actor who can be understated and still steal a scene.

Audition Tips

- Play the truth of the situation; the farce is funniest when the stakes feel real.
- Avoid broad caricature of Jewish family life; the play is affectionate, not mocking.
- For Bob, show range: the "performer" mode and the genuine man underneath.

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