

CHARACTERS

SARAH WEDDINGTON—20's in Act One, 40's in Act Two, a few scenes in her 70's. A feminist, a great lawyer, charming, brilliant, private, funny in her own way, and quite composed. In real life, blonde and beautiful with big hair. Texan.

NORMA McCORVEY—20's in Act One, 40's in Act Two, a few scenes in her 70's. A funny, angry, hard drinking and drugging, irreverent lesbian Texan, with a hole in her heart. In real life, short, and they called her "Pixie."

CONNIE GONZALEZ—40's in Act One, 60's in Act Two. An even-handed Tex Mex dyke and true Christian. Loyal, loving, unjudgemental, and maybe even wise.

FLIP BENHAM—40's, the head of Operation Rescue. Passionate, folksy, fiery, earnest and persuasive, a good-looking guy and quite a preacher.

LINDA COFFEE—Late 20's, a shy, bright, socially awkward, and dedicated lawyer.

RON WEDDINGTON—30's, a bright, ambitious, open and optimistic lawyer.

HENRY McCLUSKEY—30's, an adoption lawyer, sensitive and compassionate, closeted gay.

JAY FLOYD—40's, a lawyer in Wade's office, quite affable and effusive, if not brilliant.

ROBERT FLOWERS—40's, a lawyer in Wade's office, smarter than Floyd, passionately pro-life.

RONDA MACKEY—30's, pretty, warm, fair, a true believer.

EMILY—7, Ronda Mackey's daughter, a feisty angel.

ROXANNE MILLER-RODRIGUEZ—20, an Afro-Latinx college student, working class, bright, emotional, a truth seeker.

AILEEN—30's, down to earth, working class, African American lesbian nurse.

NORMA'S DOCTOR—60's, brusque and superior.

ABORTION DOCTOR—40's, played by a white actor, sometimes with a strange foreign accent.

JUDY—20's, an early second-wave feminist, strong.

HELEN—20's, a budding feminist, eager to get it right.

BARBARA—20's or 30's, African American, well educated, no nonsense, wry feminist.

MOLLY—50's, Texan, upper middle class, flirting with feminism.

MARY—50's, Norma's mother, poor, tawdry, and a real mean drunk.

OFELIA—40's, a housekeeper, Mexican. (Played by the actress who plays Connie.)

UMA—30s, a Texas reporter.

PEGGY—30's, a Christian reporter.

GLORIA ALLRED—40's, the feminist lawyer, quite strong.

PREGNANT WOMAN 1

PREGNANT WOMAN 2

PREGNANT WOMAN 3

WAITRESS

FLO KENNEDY—African American feminist, wry, powerful.

KATE MICHELMAN—40's, well known feminist.

ELEANOR SMEAL—40's, well known feminist.

FRED GILMOUR—A speech teacher.

MARY GILMOUR—A speech teacher.

TV NEWSMAN—40's, important. (Act One)

TELEVISION NEWS REPORTER—Charming, ambitious. (Act Two)

FRED FRIENDLY—60's, used to run CBS News.

MICHAEL MANHEIM—40's, a Hollywood TV producer. (Played by the actor who plays Flip.)

MELISSA --7, Norma's child, as she exists in her mind.

JUSTICE BLACKMUN—60's, deliberate to a fault, torn, and thoughtful.

JUSTICES BURGER, WHITE, DOUGLAS, MARSHALL AND STEWART are the voices of the real justices, available on tape from DPS.

HOLLY HUNTER

HENRY WADE

BEAU

MARIAH

CAMERAMAN

CHRISTIAN WOMAN 1

CHRISTIAN WOMAN 2

CHRISTIAN MAN

PRO-LIFE MAN

PRO-LIFE WOMAN

PRO-CHOICE WOMAN 1

PRO-CHOICE WOMAN 2

BREAKDOWN OF ACTORS AND CHARACTERS

Norma, Sarah, and Roxy don't double. Connie can double before she's Connie. Flip doesn't double in Act Two. As in the original production, ideally, there should be seven actresses, three actors, and a child actress. One actress is African American, one is Latina, one is Afro-Latina, the other actors and actresses are white. In a professional production, please do not make changes. This play reflects the political and social dynamics of specific historical time periods and is based on real people. The casting needs to be true to that or the play, especially its power dynamics, will not make sense. As Sarah says in the beginning, "history is the result of shared experience...and is a reflection of multiple points of view--that are affected by race, religion, gender, sexuality, and class."

Except for adjustments with assigning minor characters that may vary from production to production, this is the breakdown of roles:

ACTRESS ONE SARAH

ACTRESS TWO NORMA

ACTRESS THREE CONNIE, OFELIA

ACTRESS FOUR LINDA, JUDY, PREGNANT WOMAN 1, PEGGY, PRO CHOICE WOMAN, ELEANOR
SMEAL

ACTRESS FIVE RONDA, HELEN, PREGNANT WOMAN 2, WAITRESS, GLORIA ALLRED, HOLLY
HUNTER

ACTRESS SIX (AFRICAN AMERICAN) AILEEN, BARBARA, UMA, CHRISTIAN WOMAN 2, PRO
CHOICE WOMAN 2

ACTRESS SEVEN MOLLY, MARY, CHRISTIAN WOMAN 1, KATE MICHAELMAN, PRO CHOICE
WOMAN 1, MARY GILMOUR.

ACTRESS EIGHT ROXY

CHILD ACTRESS EMILY, MELISSA

ACTOR ONE FLIP, RON, JAY FLOYD, MICHAEL MANHEIM, CAMERAMAN, NEWS MAN IN ACT
ONE

ACTOR TWO MCCLUSKY, FLOWERS, TV REPORTER IN BOTH ACTS, ABORTION DOCTOR,
CHRISTIAN MAN

ACTOR THREE BLACKMUN, NORMA'S DOCTOR, FRED FRIENDLY, GILMOUR, WADE, CHRISTIAN
MAN, PRO LIFE MAN