

Audition information for *VALENCE*,

an upcoming urban fantasy fiction podcast

Audition Due Date:

July 20th, 2019

Special thanks to Lisette Alvarez for their casting call format and accessibility information. Lisette Alvarez is a phenomenal audio drama creator, actor, speaker, and community member. You can find Lisette's work on their [website](#).

Production Title: *VALENCE*

Production Type: Independent Audio Drama

Project Length: Ongoing, 30-45 minute episodes--planned for approximately three seasons

Company Website: [hughouseproductions](http://hughouseproductions.com)

Email: valencepod@gmail.com

Location: Remote only (must have a reliable, clear-sounding microphone and basic understanding of recording)

Compensation: \$200 flat rate for primary roles for the season, \$100 flat rate for secondary roles for the season, plus scalable additional pay by percentage. All pay is dependent on crowdfunding, Patreon, etc.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

After being recruited by a new government agency, a depressive magic user must stop the unethical practices of his estranged family and the country's most successful "medical" tech startup.

KEY DATES

Audition due date: July 20th, 2019

Callbacks: August 2019

Table Reads and Recordings: September 2019

Season 1 Premier: January 2020

AUDITION INFORMATION

Mic Requirements: 16-bit/44.1kHz that can be exported to WAV and MP3 (Blue Yeti mic, etc.)

Please send no more than 5-minute recording of no more than three takes of the sides provided for the character. **One take should be a take on the line that maintains the tone and concept, but is looser and semi-improvised.** *VALENCE* will be aiming for naturalistic dialogue. Please **only audition in your natural accent.** No character needs to have an American Standard accent! Additionally, actors with speech differences are welcome to audition for any role.

Please start the recording by stating the name of the character you're reading. Please DO NOT include your name. You may also send a 5-minute recording of other voice acting experience. Auditions will only be taken as submitted to the Google Form at the bottom of our audition information page. All submissions emailed will be deleted. All audio should be in MP3 or WAV format. Actors are welcome to audition for more than one role. Please submit a different file **and form** for each role.

Accessibility: If you require additional support, including Deaf or Blind accessibility to the sides/directing assistance, please feel free to reach out. We also encourage soft recording due-dates to help with anyone who needs that level of flexibility based on income, working hours, and other mitigating circumstances. We have been and are able to do last-minute rewrites to accommodate emergencies and self-care required on behalf of the actor.

Content Warning: *VALENCE* is an intense, dramatic fiction podcast (with some levity, for sure). Themes of trauma will be discussed in depth, as well as:

- Abuse (discussed, not conveyed)
- Medical/scientific testing
- Alcoholism
- PTSD
- Suicidal ideation
- Anxiety/panic attacks

Please be aware that you may be asked to act in scenes that are emotionally intense in content.

Representation: We heavily advocate for more diversity in media and for that reason people of color, trans people, and people from other marginalized groups are particularly encouraged to audition. Yes, this means that trans men and trans women are both eligible to play any characters who use she/her and he/him pronouns. Nonbinary folx can play any character if they are comfortable using that character's pronouns. Anyone who is cast will also be encouraged to be an active part of the character-development process. Similarly, non-white actors are welcome to audition for any white character, and the character will be adjusted accordingly.

We have done our best in research while writing characters outside of our own demographics. All three creators of *VALENCE* are queer people with mental health disorders and disabilities; however, we are also three white people. We ask that actors either feel comfortable giving us feedback on changes that need to be made to more accurately represent characters outside of our demographics or let us know that you would, instead, like us to work with a sensitivity reader. You know your experiences better than we ever will, and we want to respect the voices within these demographics.

PLEASE NOTE: Due to the nature of our production, all applicants must be 18 or older, with no exceptions. We require everyone involved in the project to sign a non-disclosure agreement (NDA) and a contract, which minors are not legally able to sign. As such, we cannot employ minors in any capacity. If you have any questions regarding this policy, please reach out to us at valencepod@gmail.com or through the [Contact Us](#) section of our website.

PRODUCTION INFORMATION

VALENCE will be about 90% recorded remotely, but during a read with all actors present in a scene. This means you will not be recording your lines alone, asynchronously; you will be acting and reacting off of other actors. Because of this, and because *VALENCE* aims for realistic dialogue, including overtalk, improvisations, etc. We understand that this may be initially intimidating for some actors, and we will make the experience as comfortable and encouraging as possible. This also means that we will need to find recording times that work with every actor in the scene. Weekend availability, especially during the day/mornings, would be ideal.

If you have any questions on the audition process, our accessibility and representation policies, or our production information, please do not hesitate to email us.

Primary Characters

Liam Alden

Note: Actors playing Liam will be asked to perform intense lines related to depression, anxiety, suicidal ideation, alcoholism, PTSD, and abuse. If you have any questions, please let us know.

Canon Age: 24

Ethnicity: Any ethnicity. Was written as white, but will be tailored to fit the actor cast.

Gender: Was written as a cis man, but trans men and nonbinary actors are more than welcome to audition as long as they are comfortable with he/him pronouns

Orientation: Biromantic, bisexual

Character Description: Liam Alden doesn't talk to people. Not if he can help it, at least. He isn't good at it--he was never given the opportunity to become good at it--and he always has so much swirling around in his brain that it's hard to concentrate on any external words anyway.

Liam is a misanthrope (read: secret humanist) who has a shocking lack of empathy (read: perhaps too much empathy when you win him over) and virtually no sense of self-preservation (that one is true). He's proper and refined, but only as much as he's been trained to be. He has a tendency of cowardice, both because he's been so sheltered and because he's terrified of accidentally hurting the people he cares about.

Sides:

"What a dreadful thing to think of me, given my naturally sunny and effervescent demeanor. I'm wounded, truly."

"I do trust him. I have not . . . *allowed* myself much trust, regardless of how much others may have deserved it--but at much as I wish I couldn't, I--I do trust him."

Alex Velasco

Canon Age: 20

Ethnicity: Chicano, but all Latinx actors are welcome to audition.

Gender: Trans man

Orientation: Heteroromantic, heterosexual

Character Description: Alex likes to define himself, first and foremost, as a great friend. He has a generally sunshiney demeanor with a blatantly humanist attitude that, let's be real, as rubbed off on Liam for the six years they've known each other. Alex is a goofball, an iconic little brother--until he has to be the dad. While he's usually full of jokes and lightheartedness, he can be serious and direct when it's needed. His tolerance for bullshit is very, very high, but he does still have a limit.

Sides:

"Hey, hey, how come--how come it takes pirates so long to learn the alphabet? . . . Because they can spend *years at sea*."

"Yeah, no, I know. You *know* I know. I just--I worry, okay? I'm allowed to worry."

Sarah Harris

Canon Age: 22

Ethnicity: Black

Gender: Was written as a cis woman, but trans women and nonbinary actors are more than welcome to audition as long as they are comfortable with she/her pronouns

Orientation: Heteroromantic, asexual

Character Description: Sarah Harris is very, very good at what she does. Need to light a campfire but don't have any matches? Done. Ask her for a perfect Old Fashioned? She's already made a round for everyone. And say you need to hack into a massive

corporation's customer databases to see if you can steal the information from them--she's already done that. Many, many times.

Sarah is a straight-shooter who doesn't have time for small talk, passive aggression, or people valuing politeness over conciseness. Sarah says exactly what she means, and she expects everyone else to do the same.

Sides:

"Adam Mercer. 341 South Knoles. Banks with Chase, Discover; closed a local credit union three weeks ago. Platforms are Twitter, Facebook, Instagram--Snapchat that hasn't been used in six weeks. Checked into fourteen locations in the past month in New Candler. IP address 241.211.76.142."

"Wow, with that kind of confidence it's almost like you think you'll actually win. It's kind of embarrassing for you. They call me . . . the Wii Bowling Queen. Well, they don't, but they should."

Finn Salvai

Canon Age: Somewhere between 24 and maybe 31

Ethnicity: Any ethnicity. Was written as white, but will be tailored to fit the actor cast.

Gender and orientation: Finn uses "queer" as a blanket label for his identity. He aligns best with demiromantic, homosexual, demiboy

Character Description: Finn Salvai is composed of many, many contradictions. Nobody hates or loves Finn Salvai like he does. He's loud, and obnoxious, and direct--but he can be hauntingly quiet, shockingly sentimental, and frustratingly passive-aggressive. He is manipulative, violent, and strong; he's advocational, protective, and fragile.

Sides:

"Yeah, *no shit, dummy!* It's almost like nothing matters because it's all the fuck made up! It's almost like we *the fucking made it up*. So yeah, like, if she just fucking decks me right in the ol' moneymaker, that's just how the cookie hates you. Crumbles."

"It's cute until it isn't. Don't forget why you're here or who continues *allowing* you to be. Got it?"

Mahira Varma

Canon Age: 30

Ethnicity: South Asian

Gender: Was written as a cis woman, but trans women and nonbinary actors are more than welcome to audition as long as they are comfortable with she/her pronouns

Orientation: Homoromantic, homosexual

Character Description: Mahira Varma understands people, how they think and what makes them tick. She knows the weakest points of any system are its human elements. And she knows how to exploit that. For nearly half of her life, she has used this to survive. Not everyone she has come up against has been as lucky.

Mahira is a caretaker through and through, but the kind of caretaker who, after making sure you're safe and sound with a hot drink in hand, will show up on the doorstep of the person who hurt you. She carries herself in a way that seems she's making sure her jagged edges don't cut those she cares about.

Sides:

"Don't you ever pull that shit on me again. You're not alone now--you don't get to run in and act like your life doesn't matter, you dumbfuck. I'm extremely glad nothing happened but if you do something like that again, it's not them you'll have to worry about. It's me."

"Oh. Oh wow. You . . . you have no idea, do you? That's so much cuter than it has any right to be. That? What you did back there? That was definitely flirting, kid. Deeply, *deeply* bizarre flirting, but hey, it seemed to work! . . . I think?"

Luis ("lou-EES," not "lou-ee" or "LOU-iss") Acebo

Canon Age: 46

Ethnicity: Written as Colombian, but all Latinx actors are encouraged to apply

Gender: Was written as a cis man, but trans men and nonbinary actors are more than welcome to audition as long as they are comfortable with he/his pronouns

Orientation: Heteroromantic, heterosexual

Character Description: Luis loves to travel, to help people, and to fully enjoy life to a level that's almost hedonistic. Luis loves food, and wine, and coffee, and tea, and nature, and music, and art, and people, and magic, and most everything except Trudon Circle and cops. He's immediately paternal to almost everyone he meets, and he definitely isn't above dad jokes, either.

Sides:

"Hm! It sounds like what's important to you here is making sure you're getting things right. It's going to be okay if you don't sometimes, you know."

Secondary Characters

Annie Chen

Canon Age: 47

Ethnicity: Chinese, but all east Asian actors are welcome to audition

Gender: Was written as a cis woman, but trans women and nonbinary actors are more than welcome to audition as long as they are comfortable with she/her pronouns

Orientation: Asexual, aromantic

Character Description: Annie Chen wants people to be safe and taken care of, and she wants to do it right--but that means she's willing to go a *little* outside of her orders to make sure it gets done right. Annie Chen likes clearly-stated rules and procedures, as long as she's in charge of them. Even if she butts heads with people when it comes to philosophy, morality, or ethics, what she cares about is the results being what she needs.

Sides:

"What do you mean? When did it happen? Is it--no, I'm fine. It's fine. Please continue giving your report."

Morgan Reilley

Canon Age: 41

Ethnicity: Any ethnicity. Was written as white, but will be tailored to fit the actor cast.

Gender: Was written as a cis woman, but trans women and nonbinary actors are more than welcome to audition as long as they are comfortable with she/her pronouns

Orientation: Bisexual, biromantic

Character Description: Morgan Reilley wants people to be safe and taken care of, and she wants to do it right--but that means she's willing to go a *little* outside of her orders to make sure it gets done right. Morgan Reilley likes clearly-stated rules and procedures,

as long as she's in charge of them. Even if she butts heads with people when it comes to philosophy, morality, or ethics, what she cares about is the results being what she needs.

Sides:

"I think it's going to change the world. I don't think that's naive to say; we've already seen the effects. The facts are facts; the numbers show the impact."

Richard

Canon Age: Late 40s to mid 50s

Ethnicity: Any ethnicity. Was written as white, but will be tailored to fit the actor cast.

Gender: Was written as a cis man, but trans men and nonbinary actors are more than welcome to audition as long as they are comfortable with he/him pronouns

Orientation: Heterosexual, heteroromantic

Character Description: Richard is a risk-taker. He's very professional, very proper, almost serious or solemn at times, but he *loves* the thrill of a risk being rewarded. He used to get these thrills in investments.

Sides:

"You don't *get* that luxury anymore! This is what you are; *this* is where you will stay!"

Noel

Canon Age: 22

Ethnicity: Any ethnicity. Was written as white, but will be tailored to fit the actor cast.

Gender: Noel is nonbinary, but is not yet out to themself. Actors should be nonbinary, and should be comfortable playing a character using both she/her and they/them pronouns

Orientation: Noel identifies as a lesbian

Character Description: Noel is mysterious, quiet, studious, serious, and sharp.

Sides:

“I don’t know why you’re even trying to hide at this point. It hasn’t helped for years. It isn’t going to help now.”

Kate

Canon Age: 42

Ethnicity: Was written as biracial, with a white parent and a Chicanx parent, but all Latinx actors are welcome to audition

Gender: Was written as a cis woman, but trans women and nonbinary actors are more than welcome to audition as long as they are comfortable with she/her pronouns

Orientation: Bisexual, biromantic

Character Description: Kate is exceedingly brilliant, with a PhD in microbiology and several publications under her belt. She’s funny and charming, even though she *definitely* needs plenty of alone time.

Sides:

“You need to care about it! There’s no point if you don’t care, if you don’t *really* care.”