

Audition Character List – *Mort: The Life of the Dead*



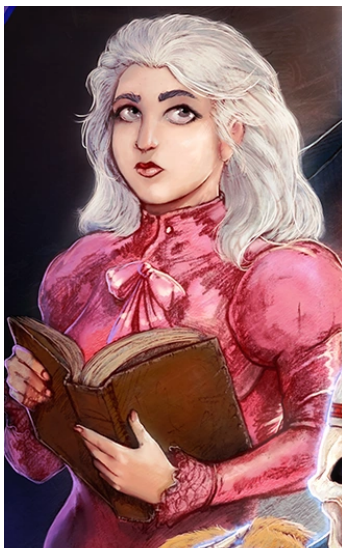
MORT

- **Age:** Late teens to early 20s
- **Character:** Awkward, gangly, with an earnest sincerity. Mort is intelligent but naïve, driven by a strong sense of fairness and justice. Over the course of the play, he grows darker, gradually adopting Death's mannerisms, voice, and presence. He shows a range between bumbling comedy and stern sincerity. Ideal for actors who want to go on a journey of growth and development over the course of the play as Mort grows into himself.



DEATH

- **Age:** Ageless (played usually by a tall, commanding figure)
- **Character:** The anthropomorphic personification of death. Speaks in strong tones that command authority and sternness. At once terrifying to mortals and utterly serious about his duty, yet oddly childlike when discovering “fun” and observing on the strangeness of the living. Dry humour, with moments of surprising vulnerability. The actor will find a challenging role that balances commanding stage presence with a comedic edge that grows as the play develops.



YSABELL

- **Age:** 16–20s (but has been that age for decades)
- **Character:** Death's adopted daughter. Petulant, sharp-tongued, with a streak of vanity. Beneath the surface is clever, strong-willed, and lonely. She has impeccable comedic timing and is brutally honest yet yearns for more than her solitary existence. She slowly warms to Mort and the others as the play goes on.



ALBERT

- **Age:** 70s+ (but has been that age for decades)
- **Character:** Death's manservant. Once the greatest wizard in the world, now grumpy, entirely practical, and fond of fried food. Sarcastic, but not without warmth. Actor should be able to play crusty comedy and shift into commanding wizardly authority. Should be able to display age in their movements and warmth in their tone, both of which is shed as he reveals his true identity.



PRINCESS KELI

- **Age:** Late teens to early 20s
- **Character:** Spirited, headstrong princess whose assassination was prevented by Mort. She is stubborn, witty, and determined to hold onto her life even as reality pushes against her survival. Needs poise and regal bearing mixed with youthful rebellion. You will get the opportunity to engage in dramatic tension as well as sharp comedic beats.



CUTWELL

- **Age:** 20s–30s
- **Character:** Young and a bit dishevelled, but surprisingly competent when it matters. A slightly cowardly but good-hearted wizard who aids Keli. A balance comic bumbling with flashes of seriousness. Actor should handle dry humour and be comfortable with physical comedy.

ENSEMBLE ROLES

- **Various ages**



- **Character:** Supporting roles that add comic colour atmosphere. These roles will be at the very least doubled but each person likely to have 3-4 scenes with at least one scene as a main character. Ability to create distinct characterisations for each part is essential. Most of these roles will not be auditioned for but divided amongst the ensemble cast after casting:

List of named characters:

- (Mort's Father)
- King (Kelli's Father)
- Duke (Kelli's Uncle)
- Abbot
- Witch
- Arch Wizard Ridicully
- Secretary Ponder
- Barkeep
- Carnival Reveller
- Employment Office Worker