

# WHAT SOMALIA WANTS

Developed and Created by Jade Bryan

Proof of Concept

Scripted Pilot Written & Created for Television Drama ©

WGAE Registration #1327890

## **SYNOPSIS**

In this gentrified Harlem dramedy series, Somalia LaMine, a Black deaf fashion designer, pop-up store owner, and TikTok influencer experience new challenges and hilarious situations associated with the pressures and demands of a Gen Z era.

## **CHARACTER BREAKDOWNS FOR DEAF ROLES (Specifically for Deaf Actors)**

1) **SOMALIA LA'MINE** – AFRICAN-AMERICAN (D/HH, Age 30's) LEAD ACTRESS

"Somalia La'Mine is a gorgeous, stylish, independent, sensitive, and unapologetic with her own thoughts. She's also a popular TikTok influencer. She owns a fashion shop in Harlem. She is Deaf and speaks clearly. She also hosts her own Black ASL Talkback show.

2) **HENNESSY TAINO** - AFRICAN-AMERICAN (H/D/40'S) Open to transgender/ (They/Them/Non-binary actors)

Hennessy is a gay flamboyant, hairstylist and make up artist. He loves fashion. He is known to gossip and make comments about everything. He has a vibrant personality. He sometimes go by Honey. (LGBTQ role. Character must be deaf and fluent in ASL/BASL.)

3) **BILL HARVEY** - AFRICAN-AMERICAN - (D/HH, 30-35)

Bill Harvey is a popular, DJ/Deaf rapper in the Deaf community. He is an entitled and pampered Black alpha man who is used to having his way. No matter what he does, the Black Deaf community sees him as their leader because it validates and boosts his ego. (This character must be fluent in ASL/BASL)

4) **FATIMA GRACE** - AFRICAN-AMERICAN ( D/H, 40's) Open, must know ASL.

Fatima Grace is a talk show host, an inspirational speaker, new thought spiritual teacher, and strong-willed life coach.

5) **PETRA WENTWORTH** - BLACK/ANY ETHNICITIES (D/H, AGE 50's -60's) Somalia's therapist (This character must be fluent in ASL/BASL)

Petra is Somalia's therapist. She has good energy, humble and is a great listener.

6) **JAVON ANDRE** - AFRICAN-AMERICAN (D, AGE 30's)

Jovan is humbled and good-looking. He works for a corporation as an accountant. Although he enjoys a quiet and simple life, he can be comical. He's not much into the club scene. (This is a deaf role and the talent must be fluent in ASL/BASL)

### **CHARACTER BREAKDOWN FOR HEARING ROLES**

(Deaf/Hard of Hearing actors with speaking privilege who speak clearly can audition for these roles (Please, no deaf accent!)

7) **SARITA PAGAN** – MIXED/AFRO-LATINA - (Age 30's) (CODA/ASL required)

Somalia and Sarita are childhood friends. Sarita is Somalia's right-hand woman and pillar for support. She's a lesbian, an artist, keyboard activist, blogger, and computer hacker. Sarita is a very outspoken and unapologetic social disrupter. Sarita is a Child of Deaf Adult (CODA). Talent must be fluent in ASL and Black Sign Language.

8) **CAMILLE JUSTINIANO** – ANY ETHNICITIES - (Open/Age 30's) (ASL required)

Camille is Somalia's business partner in the popup store. She designs and makes her own clothes, handbags and teeshirts. She is Bipolar. She is careless with money, and famous for her intense mood swings. She is constantly obsessed with nerdy and geeky gay men. (This character must be fluent in ASL.)

9) **MARA MENDEZ** – LATINA (Age 40's) M (ASL/Some signs required)

Mara is an undocumented immigrant living with Hennessy and his husband, Carlito in Harlem. She is pretty and feisty and does not take-no-prisoners. Mara is Sarita's lover and works as a bartender at her club.

10) **JAMAICA LA'MINE-DUNBAR** - AFRICAN-AMERICAN (AGE 50-60) (ASL required)

Jamaica is Somalia's mother. She's an outspoken advocate for black mothers who lost their children to gun violence. Her oldest son, age 34, Blair La'Mine, was gunned down by the police when Somalia was ten years old. Somalia and Blair were very close. She has not gotten over his death. (This character is encourage to know some ASL. Deaf actors can submit for this role.)

11) **MONA LA'MINE-DUNBAR** - ANY ETHNICITIES/BLACK (AGE 50-60) (Must know some signs)

Mona is money-hungry and dedicated. She works as a licensed real estate agent. She's married to Jamaica. She's the man of the family. She cares about Jamaica and her family. (Deaf actors can submit for this role.)

12) **SUDAN LA'MINE** - AFRICAN-AMERICAN (Age 20-25) (ASL required)

Sudan is a grad student at Columbia University. She lives at home with her two moms, Jamaica and Mona. She is spoiled. She is envious of Somalia because she is successful, has her own place, has her own business and is self-reliant. Sudan is bourgeois and thinks she is better than Somalia. She can sign but refuses to sign to Somalia.

13) **ZAVIER POWELL** - AFRICAN-AMERICAN (AGE 30-40) (Must know some signs)

Zavier is an obnoxious musician who is only interested in Somalia because she's deaf and beautiful. He is unwilling to learn about her deaf culture and her world. He refuses to learn sign language. He does not love her.

14) **CARLITO TAINO** - ANY ETHNICITIES/ LATINO, (30'S) (Must know some signs)

Carlito is Hennessy's husband. He's easy-going. Sometimes he gets annoyed with Hennessy's impulse habits and his unreasonably germ-phobias. (Open to non-conforming gender/Non-binary talent)

15) **HAYWOOD MOORE** - AFRICAN AMERICAN/LATINO, (30-40)

Somalia's one-night stand date whom she met on Tinder, a dating site.

16. **BRANDON GAMBI** – CAUCASIAN/ANY ETHNICITIES (Age 30's) (ASL required)

Brandon is a gay, conservative hipster in his 30's. He lives in the gentrified part of Williamsburg, Brooklyn. His dark secret is that he is currently, a hardcore conservative Republican. He owns a restaurant in Harlem. (This character is encourage to know some ASL. Deaf actors can submit for this role.)

17. **TECH PERSON** - ANY GENDER/ETHNICITIES (Age 20-60)

To play a production crew for a TV talk show. (Deaf actors can submit for this role.)