REDWOOD

GEOFREY WARNER

AUDITION SIDES

Character Overview + Three Audition Scenes

SECTOR 7 FILMS

GEOFREY WARNER

50s | General Counsel / In-House Attorney, Vanguard Foods

CHARACTER DESCRIPTION

Geofrey Warner is Vanguard Foods' Yale-trained in-house attorney and one of the sharpest minds in the company's inner circle. The script describes him as well dressed, witty, sarcastic and equipped with a dry sense of humor. He is the man who sees the legal risk, the leverage and the language in the fine print - and he is rarely shy about offering advice, whether anyone asked for it or not.

Geofrey is not a stiff corporate-lawyer stereotype. He has history and comfort with Rod, Cleveland, Edwin and the rest of the Vanguard leadership. That familiarity gives him permission to tease them, challenge them and occasionally say what everyone else in the room is thinking. His humor should feel intelligent and effortless, not performative.

Professionally, he is precise. Geofrey understands that major deals are won in the terms, not the handshake. He can sit across from powerful investors or opposing counsel and remain relaxed because he trusts his preparation. His confidence comes from knowing the contract, understanding the numbers and recognizing where the other side is vulnerable.

Personally, there is a lighter man underneath the suit. He is married to Rin, a doctor, and their relationship reveals a playful, slightly ridiculous side of him. He can be the Yale lawyer closing a multi-million-dollar transaction in one scene and the husband doing a cannonball into a pool in another. That range is important.

WHAT THE AUDITION SHOULD SHOW

• **Intelligence** - Geofrey should sound like he understands the room before he speaks.
• **Dry wit** - his sarcasm comes from comfort and intelligence, not from trying to be funny.
• **Executive authority** - he belongs at the table with founders, investors and dealmakers.
• **Negotiating instinct** - he can be friendly while quietly tightening the terms.
• **Humanity** - with Rin and close friends, the lawyer can disappear and the man can come out.

DO NOT PLAY THE LAWYER. PLAY THE MAN WHO ALREADY KNOWS WHERE THE WEAK SPOT IN THE DEAL IS.

SIDE 1 - IT'S ALL IN THE TERMS

SCENE: Geofrey is in Cleveland's office discussing a major real-estate negotiation and a potential capital relationship. This scene establishes his place inside Vanguard: trusted counsel, smart-ass friend and deal strategist.

ACTOR OBJECTIVE: Stay relaxed while demonstrating that Geofrey is always tracking the business. He can joke with Cleveland because the work is already handled.

PERFORMANCE NOTE: The humor should be dry. Don't punch the jokes. Let the legal confidence do the work.

GEOFREY
Did you peep the T.I. offer from Greystone. Fifteen percent less than what they originally agreed to. They're pushing it.

CLEVELAND
I was able to negotiate the lease down to twenty-two thousand three hundred a month. Eighty-nine dollars a square foot.

GEOFREY
Fourteen percent lower than our other waterfront assets.

CLEVELAND
Right. But not good enough. So put that overpriced Yale law degree to work and counter them back.

GEOFREY
Sent the counter this morning, smart ass.

The conversation shifts to a capital meeting Geofrey has arranged.

GEOFREY
Don't forget we got Lieberman Capital at Redwood on Friday.

CLEVELAND
Lieberman? What for? They're scumbags.

SIDE 1 - CONTINUED

GEOFREY
They chased me down at ICSC. Those scumbags had a windfall. They're sitting on two billion dollars they gotta invest... now!

CLEVELAND
I watched how they play the game. They come in with the cash smooth and easy and the minute the market turns - whoom! They swoop in and take every single thing you thought was yours. All your hard work, blood and sweat. We don't need them, Geoff.

Geofrey starts toward the door.

GEOFREY
It's all in the terms. Friday, seven sharp.

WHY THIS SIDE MATTERS

Geofrey's attitude is the character: Cleveland sees danger; Geofrey sees language, structure and leverage. He isn't naive about sharks. He simply believes the contract is where you control them. The actor should let the audience feel that Geofrey has already thought three moves ahead.

SIDE 2 - THE COUNTER

SCENE: Rod and Geofrey are negotiating with restaurant owner Mr. Brewer and Brewer's son Tom, a Harvard-trained attorney. The family wants to sell, but Vanguard believes the business is worth far less than the asking price.

ACTOR OBJECTIVE: Be the calmest man in the negotiation. Geofrey isn't there to intimidate anyone; he is there to make the numbers and the contract impossible to ignore.

PERFORMANCE NOTE: Enjoy the lawyer-to-lawyer exchange with Tom. Geofrey can be funny and cutting without losing professionalism.

GEOFREY
Rumor was your brother was in line to run the company. Is he on board?

TOM
Danny is Danny. He's temperamental, you know. Too much pressure.

MR. BREWER
The kid's an asshole, but he gets it from me. Once the dust settles he'll be fine.

ROD
We're hoping we can come to terms. We have a counter, but honestly the gap is substantial.

MR. BREWER
What are you talkin' about? They're all operating in the black. The real estate alone is damn near worth what we're askin' for the whole shabang.

ROD
Tindeco and Brewer's Place especially, I get it. Nostalgia. Everyone who comes through the door is like family.

Rod turns toward Geofrey.

ROD
What was that restaurant show back in the day where everybody knew everybody?

GEOFREY
Cheers.

SIDE 2 - CONTINUED

TOM
How much less are we talking?

GEOFREY
You'll walk with just under five million. We assume all your debt.

MR. BREWER
That's peanuts.

Brewer pushes back hard on the offer. Tom tries to keep the negotiation alive.

TOM
Dad. Hear them out.

GEOFREY
You're a lawyer, right?

TOM
U Penn undergrad and Harvard Law.

GEOFREY
Look at that. I'm a Yalie myself. Good to know we're not dealing with a dumbass here. See, the way this deal is currently presented nobody is gonna do back flips to the bank. Especially not Vanguard. We don't want to point fingers here, but like Rod said, whoever's responsible for the accounting, you gotta wonder. Those P&Ls were shaky at best. The upside is if we can cut a deal, we're prepared to close fast.

TOM
How long will it take to send us the counter?

GEOFREY
When I'm through with the changes in the contract? Say two days tops.

PERFORMANCE KEY

Geofrey does not need to dominate Tom. He recognizes another educated attorney and immediately changes the texture of the conversation. The line about being a Yalie should feel like connection, humor and pressure all at once. Then get directly to the weakness in the books.

SIDE 3 - SNOODLES

SCENE: At Anne's birthday party, Geofrey is off the clock with his wife, Rin. He has had a few drinks and is enjoying himself. This is the private version of the man the audience usually sees in a suit.

ACTOR OBJECTIVE: Let us see the husband, not the attorney. He is playful, a little goofy and completely comfortable with his wife.

PERFORMANCE NOTE: Do not turn him into broad comedy. The fun comes from seeing such a polished professional behave like a regular married man at a party.

Geofrey and Rin sit beside the pool. Geofrey awkwardly dances in his chair with a drink in his hand.

Rin waves over a server, takes food from the tray and hands it to him.

RIN
Put some food in your belly. That's your third drink. You'll be puking all over the place.

She takes his drink. Geofrey devours the food and talks with his mouth full.

GEOFREY
This is the way you bring in a birthday. Top notch. Ready for a dip?

RIN
We've been through this. I'll want to stay in the shallow end because of my fear of deep water and you'll deride me all night for not going deeper. No.

GEOFREY
Has nothing to do with getting in the deep part of the pool. I deride you for not taking chances, snoodles.

Rin rolls her eyes. Geofrey stands and heads toward the diving board.

A moment later, he cannonballs into the pool, splashing everyone nearby. Rin drops her head into her hands in disbelief.

PERFORMANCE KEY

This side is here to stop the actor from making Geofrey one-note. He is a serious attorney, but he is also funny, married, social and capable of embarrassing his wife. The more grounded this feels, the more complete the character becomes.

AUDITION REMINDER

Across these three sides, we should see three dimensions of the same man: the trusted executive who trades sharp humor with the founders, the attorney who can quietly control a high-stakes negotiation, and the husband who can take off the corporate armor and simply enjoy himself.

Geofrey should never feel like a generic corporate lawyer. His intelligence is obvious, but so is his personality. He knows the law, knows business, knows his friends and knows when a room is getting away from someone.

The actor should make us believe that when Geofrey says, 'It's all in the terms,' that isn't just a line. It is how he sees the world.

THAT'S GEOFREY WARNER.

NOW SHOW US YOUR VERSION OF HIM.