

# Audition Notice

Wigan Little Theatre is proud to present **The History Boys**. We would like to invite you to audition for an acting role or contact us if you would like to be part of the productions in another area. For a description of each non-acting role, please see pages 3 and 4.

Playwright: Alan Bennett  
Director: Paul Leffler  
Assistant Director: Lauren Brown  
Audition: 1pm Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> June, Wigan Little Theatre  
Production dates: 5<sup>th</sup> September 2018 – 15<sup>th</sup> September 2018

## Synopsis of play

Set in the early 1980s, the play follows a group of history pupils preparing for the Oxford and Cambridge entrance examinations under the guidance of three teachers (Hector, Irwin, and Lintott) with contrasting styles.

Hector, an eccentric teacher, delights in knowledge for its own sake, but the headmaster ambitiously wants the school to move up the academic league table; Irwin, a supply teacher, is hired to introduce a rather more cynical and ruthless style of teaching.

## Director's notes

This is a clever and humorous play with a lot of educational references to history, poetry and French speaking. All the boys in the play are bright and Northern speaking, playing ages are 18 making these parts perfect for college and university students. RP accents for Hector, Irwin, Lintott and the Headmaster and must demonstrate being well educated. For research, I would recommend watching the film which starred the original stage cast.

## Rehearsals

Due to "One man, two guvnors" commitments there will be only one longer rehearsal a week during June on a Sunday from 1pm. Rehearsals will then increase to three times a week in July with days and times agreed with the cast.

## Audition pieces

These will be provided to auditionees on request of a script.

## Cast

**HECTOR:** A man of studied eccentricity. He prides himself in not teaching to an exam, or any prescribed path. He teaches his students to learn by heart, driven by a belief in the pursuit of knowledge for its own sake. He is met with different reactions. He is known for allowing his emotions to effect his teaching. **Playing age: 60**

**IRWIN:** is a young history teacher, employed for his innovative approach to education. The antithesis of Hector, he believes that education is for now, and teaches an approach which subverts facts to find an original and interesting argument. He believes in presentation, and history as performance. **Playing age: 25 - 35**

**MRS LINTOTT:** is a 'traditional' History teacher, she gets excellent results, and does not allow her emotions to interfere with her teaching. She comments that as the only woman on the staff, she is often overlooked, and this clearly frustrates her. **Playing age: 50 - 60**

**THE HEADMASTER:** is a typical headmaster with authority, concerned with league tables, and getting students into Oxbridge. "Our fearless leader". His understanding of the arts is limited. **Playing age: 50 - 60**

**DAKIN:** is a very attractive boy, who is very aware of it. Despite having both Posner and eventually Irwin interested in him, he is only interested in Fiona, the Headmaster's secretary. Nonetheless, he enjoys indulging Irwin's desires.

**POSNER:** is a quiet Jewish boy who loves singing, from show tunes to hymns and is in love with Dakin. Looks and is young for his age

**SCRIPPS:** is currently predisposed with exploring his Christianity, is a budding writer, and often records events in his notebook. He is Posner's confidant. **Plays piano (desirable)**

**RUDGE:** is a star rugby player whose ability surprises everyone. He finds Irwin's ways difficult due to his straightforward nature. Not as bright as the other boys.

**AKTHAR:** is happy to get involved in the class's testing of Irwin and is a Muslim.

**CROWTHER:** is a keen actor and friends with Lockwood.

**TIMMS:** is the joker of the pack and often subject to a whack from Hector as a result.

**LOCKWOOD:** is a shrewd film buff, interested in politics.

## Scripts

To request a script contact the Director, Paul Leffler, on 07854 086332, the assistant Director Lauren Brown, on 07717 199203 or ask any member of the Play Selection & Casting Committee:

Tracey Dawson	...	07715 534716	...	traceydawson67@hotmail.com
Paul Leffler		07854 086332	...	paul_leffler@hotmail.com
Anne Woolley	...	07799 061558	...	akwoolley@blueyonder.co.uk
John Naughton	...	07786 941858	...	john.naughton1@blueyonder.co.uk
Kath O'Leary	...	07863 794431	...	kathleenoleary14@hotmail.com

## THE COMPANY

### Actors

WLT aims for a very high standard of production and maximum commitment is required to achieve this. Rehearsals can take place for 8 to 12 weeks prior to the performance dates, typically 3 or 4 times a week in the evenings or on Sundays. In the event of not being able to attend the audition date, you should contact the Director or a member of our Play Selection and Casting Committee (PSCC). Please be aware that only one alternative audition will be held and times will be limited due to everyone's availability. If you are interested in auditioning for a part, please contact the Director or any member of PSCC.

### Bar

Members of this team should be over the age of 18. They are responsible for working behind the bar, which is open from 7.00pm until 11.00 pm during each production. Members often do one or two nights during any production. [If you're interested in bar work please contact secretary@wiganlittletheatre.co.uk](mailto:secretary@wiganlittletheatre.co.uk)

### Box Office

We need friendly and helpful people who have good interpersonal skills both face to face and over the phone. Experience of working with IT will be an advantage but training will be given on the box office computer and administrative systems. Box Office opening hours are 7 - 9 p.m. [If you're interested in joining this team please contact secretary@wiganlittletheatre.co.uk](mailto:secretary@wiganlittletheatre.co.uk)

### Coffee

Coffee is sold during the interval. Most helpers arrive prior to the opening of the show on one or two separate occasions to make and serve the coffee, and once the washing up is done they are free to go! [If you're interested in making and serving coffee please contact Muriel on 01942 741583](tel:01942741583)

### Front of House

The Front of House (FOH) team welcome the public to a show, hand them their tickets where appropriate, escort them to their seats if necessary and remain on hand until the end of the show when the FOH representative will wait until the last patron has left before locking the main doors. The usual commitment is for one or two nights during the run of a show from 7 – 10 approximately. [If you're interested in joining this team please contact Tracey on 07715 534716](tel:07715534716)

### Lighting and Sound

The Technical Support Group is responsible for the design and operation of the lighting and sound for each production. Setting up a new show normally takes place on two or three separate evenings before the Technical Rehearsal, and then two or three members are at the Theatre each night of the production to operate the lighting and sound desks and provide any additional services required by the show. Training will be given and you won't be left to work alone until you feel completely confident. [If you're interested in joining this team please contact Ryan on 07966 189082](tel:07966189082)

### Programme Sales

This job is as simple as it sounds! All you need is your smile and the ability to handle cash - and then all you have to do is wait for patrons to come to you to buy a programme! Programme sellers usually arrive at around 6.45 and stay on duty until the start of the show at 7.30 p.m. [If you're interested in joining this team please contact Hilary on 07882 276837](tel:07882276837)

### Prompts

Members of the prompt team are never seen – and hopefully never heard – during the run of a production! Prompts work on a rota basis and attend rehearsals for approximately three weeks prior to the opening of the show and for one or two nights during a show, sitting in the wings with a copy of the script, ready to whisper a helpful reminder if required! [If you're interested in prompting a please contact the Director of the production.](mailto:secretary@wiganlittletheatre.co.uk)

### **Properties**

Attention to detail when setting the scene can certainly bring life to a production. This is the aim of our props team. New members are welcome to join us with maybe a view to becoming a props leader. To fulfil this we are looking for volunteers who are organised, creative and who can deal with situations in a sensible and realistic manner. Commitment to shows and their rehearsal time is necessary. Working together we can create innovative and exciting productions. [If you're interested in joining this team please contact Elaine on 07772 833544](#)

### **Set Building**

For this any DIY or trade experience would be useful, but definitely not necessary! A lot of the work involves carrying/moving theatre flats, steps, doors etc. and holding them while they are fixed in place. We have a workshop at the side of the stage with the materials and equipment that we need. There is always someone around so you won't be asked to do any job or use any tools that you don't feel comfortable with. Generally, we build the sets on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. and Thursday evenings from 7 until 9 p.m. All times are approximate and, of course, you can come and go at whatever time suits you within those time periods. So, if you could spare any time at all (even just the odd hour) we would appreciate it. [If you're interested in joining this team please contact Brian on 07811 530293.](#)

### **Set Painting**

Set painters bring the set to life with their paintbrushes, whether it's a Victorian Drawing Room or a street of terraced houses! You don't have to be Monet - anybody who can use a paintbrush is welcome and the ability to climb a step ladder is also useful! Set painters work during the day, usually the week before a play opens, generally between 10 a.m. and 3.00 p.m. Guidance will be provided along with frequent coffees and a lunch break – and you can stay for as long or as short as you like [If you're interested please contact Christine on 07716 318886](#)

### **Stage Management**

The role of the stage manager is to ensure the smooth running of a performance. You will enjoy this role if you are interested in all things theatrical; tactful when dealing with directors, actors and other members of the theatre; able to remain calm under pressure; able to organise a team; be a good communicator; are mature and sensible in attitude – ideally over 18 years of age. [If you're interested in joining this team please contact Paul on 07718 063516](#)

### **Sweet Sales**

Sweets are sold prior to the start of the show and the interval, along with ice creams, during each performance. Sweet sellers are expected to be on duty from around 6.45 until after the interval, the time for which obviously varies. [If you would like to help us by selling sweets please contact Muriel on 01942 741583](#)

### **Wardrobe**

The Wardrobe Department supplies and constructs suitable costumes for every production. In addition, the Department is responsible for cleaning, repairing and maintaining the existing costumes. Some heavy lifting can be required, however any help is a benefit to support the department. Ability to sew is a bonus. [If you're interested in joining this team please contact \[secretary@wiganlittletheatre.co.uk\]\(mailto:secretary@wiganlittletheatre.co.uk\)](#)

Please note that you will be required to become a member of Wigan Little Theatre to take part in any production, in any capacity.