

Audition notice

Wigan Little Theatre is proud to present **The Entertainer**. 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.

THE ENTERTAINER

Playwright: John Osborne with music by John Addison
Director: Nicola Reynolds
Audition: 9 December 2018 5pm
Production dates: 24 April to 4 May 2019

Synopsis of play Archie Rice is a failure as a comedian. News of his son's death while on military service arrives as the family is anticipating his return with a party. The already embittered Archie descends further into despair. A prosperous brother offers to send the family to Canada but can Archie leave the decaying world of the music hall where he is at home.

Director's notes This play is set in Archie's home and on stage. Location is a coastal town in England. The year is 1956. All characters need to have good RP or Southern accents. The characters with the exception of Graham are related so ages set out below are a guideline only and will be relative to each other.

Rehearsals Rehearsals will begin for the main cast during week commencing 4th February 2019 but I would like to get together with Archie at least twice during January. Rehearsal will be 3 times a week one of which will be Sunday. The actual day can be with the agreement of the cast but will not be a regular Friday unless required. The dress rehearsal and technical will be around the Easter weekend. I will endeavour to work around family commitments if possible. William & Graham are in one scene at the end. I will arrange rehearsals for both so that they are not required more than necessary.

Audition pieces please see each character description

Cast (Characters in order of appearance)

Billy Rice aged 65/70 upwards. The family patriarch and Archie's father. He is a retired music hall showman. He is dapper but sometime grouchy. He is especially close to his granddaughter Jean and thinks Archie is a fool to follow in his footsteps. Billy bemoans the loss of old traditional values. Accent is an old fashioned well spoken cockney. See scenes 1 & 5

Jean Rice aged 22 to 28. Archie's daughter. She is a pleasant intelligent young lady. She is especially close to Billy and the only character not to be patronised by Archie. See scenes 1 & 5

Phoebe Rice Archie's downtrodden wife. Should appear older than Archie but this not essential. Phoebe takes refuge from Archie's womanising and his resentment of her in a bottle of gin. A vulnerable character who is anxious to please. Accent should be southern/London See scenes 5 & 6.

Archie Rice age between 45 to 55. The title character. An actor, comedian and singer in the music halls. He is larger than life but also selfish and self pitying. Although he claims to be unfeeling, he is affectionate towards Jean and Billy. This is perhaps his only redeeming quality. He drinks excessively. This character should be able to "put across" a song and dance routine and a big performance as a stand up comedian. His accent is southern and occasionally a little camp. See monologue in scene 4 and also scene 5

Frank Rice Jean's younger brother and Archie & Phoebe's son. Age 18 to 25. Frank is protective of Phoebe and close to Jean. Has an antagonistic relationship with Archie at times. See scene 8 pages 52 & 53 and also his speech on page 57. This character also has a song but not essential).

William Rice (brother Bill) Archie's older brother. A small but important part in one scene towards the end. A comfortably off gentleman who tries to help the family. See scene 12

Graham Dodd Jean's boyfriend aged 25 upwards. As with William this is a small but important part in an end scene. See scene 12

Scripts

To request a script contact the Director, Nicola Reynolds on 07931 168210 or reynoldsnh70@hotmail.co.uk or ask any member of the Play Selection & Casting Committee:

Paul Leffler	07854 086332	Paul_leffler@hotmail.com
Anne Woolley	07799 061558	akwoolley@blueyonder.co.uk
Tracey Dawson	07715 534716	traceydawson67@hotmail.com
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

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.

Catering

The Catering Department is responsible for the Supper Nights for audience group bookings. If you're interested in helping to display a buffet and meeting and greeting our patrons, please contact

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

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

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 Neil on 07429 141102

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

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.

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 Dave on 07799 117758

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 Stacey on

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