

Audition notice

Wigan Little Theatre is proud to present **The Railway Children**. 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 Railway Children

Playwright: Mike Kenny
Director: Lauren Brown
Audition: Sunday 9th June, 2pm.
Production dates: 4th to 14th September 2019.

Synopsis of play After Charles Waterbury is imprisoned on false charges, his wife and children move to a small house near a railway station. The Waterbury children, Bobby, Phyllis and Peter, occupy themselves watching the trains. This is a story that never fails to bewitch audiences and takes back to simpler times. It celebrates family, community and the power of love and hope. The tale has been imaginatively brought to life for a modern audience, while losing nothing of the original spirit of humour, tension and adventure.

Director's notes The play requires actors to play more than one role so I am looking for versatile performers that are capable of bringing to life a variety of characters and demonstrating subtle differences between these. The sense of family is a key theme that pervades the writing and I am seeking a strong cast that can make the audience feel this sense of unity.

Rehearsals The technical rehearsal will take place on **Thursday 29th August 2019** and the dress rehearsal will take place on **Sunday 1st September 2019**. If you are cast, **you must be available for both of these dates**. Rehearsals will take place on Monday and Wednesday evenings and Sunday mornings. Over Summer, some rehearsals may take place during the day for younger members of the cast and any others that are available. I understand that people may have commitments over Summer and it is therefore vital that you let us know at the audition any dates that you will not be available and then the rehearsal schedule may accommodate this.

Characters (with suggested doubling):

Father/Doctor/District Superintendent
Mrs Perks/Maid
Mother
Perks
Phyllis
Mrs Viney/Cook
Bobbie
Peter
Jim/Butler/Mr Szezcpansky
Old Gentleman

Audition pieces Please see the character descriptions below.

Cast

Character Name	Details	Audition Piece
Roberta (Bobbie)	<p>Playing age: 14 to 18 years old.</p> <p>The eldest daughter: brave, thoughtful and intelligent. She is considerate and caring and often acts as a mediator, resolving the arguments of her younger siblings. Requires a strong and capable young actress, as she acts as narrator for much of the play.</p>	<p>Pages 9 – 11</p> <p>Up to: 'the pantomime at Christmas.'</p>
Peter	<p>Playing age: 12 to 16 years old.</p> <p>The middle child: intelligent and honest. He demonstrates bravery and resilience in the face of danger but does enjoy bickering with his younger sister. Also acts as a narrator for some of the play.</p>	<p>Pages 9 – 11</p> <p>Up to: 'the pantomime at Christmas.'</p>
Phyllis	<p>Playing age: 11 to 14 years old.</p> <p>The youngest child: Phyllis can be naïve. Nevertheless, she has a sensitive and considerate nature and shows as much heroism as her siblings.</p>	<p>Pages 9 – 11</p> <p>Up to: 'the pantomime at Christmas.'</p>
Mother	<p>Playing age: 35 to 50 years.</p> <p>Considerate and resourceful, she does her best to protect her children from the rumours surrounding their father and helps them to adapt to their new lifestyle. She has an incredible capacity for love and, despite the hardships she faces, remains proud and determined.</p>	<p>Pages 14 – 17</p> <p>From: 'Can it be mended, Father?' up to 'Sorry, Mother.'</p>
Father	<p>Playing age: 35 to 50 years.</p> <p>*Please note it is likely this role will be doubled with other characters that appear in the play.*</p> <p>He is hard-working, tolerant and maintains integrity and dignity, despite the charges levelled against him.</p>	<p>Pages 14 – 17</p> <p>From: 'Can it be mended, Father?' up to 'Sorry, Mother.'</p>

Perks	Playing age: 35 to 55 The station-master. Perks befriends the Railway Children and supports them. He is a friendly, likable character, who provides some comic relief throughout the play.	Pages 33 – 35 From: 'But then came the dreadful night' up to Perks' exit.
Mrs Perks	Playing age: 35 to 55. Married to the station-master.	Pages 61 – 62 From: 'There, there.' Up to 'listening to every word you speak.'
Mrs Viney	Playing age: 35 to 55. A local that supports Mother and looks after the children.	Pages 25 – 26 From: 'Which Mrs Viney had left for them' up to 'Never mind.'
Old Gentleman	Playing age: 55 to 70. An elderly passenger of a train that helps the Railway Children to re-unite with their father.	Pages 74 – 75 From: 'How do you do?' up to 'and I don't think it's false.'
Mr Szezcpany	Playing age: 18 to 25. A Russian gentleman that falls ill and is taken in by the Railway Children. This character speaks both Russian and French in the show and therefore the actor must be able to perform with a convincing accent.	Pages 45 – 46 From: 'Move along.' Up to 'There! There. That's French.'

Scripts

To request a script contact the Director, Lauren Brown on 07411 275119 (please note I am not available to talk during working hours in the week; it is preferable that you send a text) or laurenebrown8895@gmail.com or ask any member of the Play Selection & Casting Committee:

Paul Leffler ... **07854 086332** ... Paul_leffler@hotmail.com
Pat Hall ... **07745 914349** ... patandpeterhall@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 Brendan on 07566 200717

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 Richard on 07818 814926

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 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 Stacey on 07913 972441

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