

Audition Notice

Wigan Little Theatre is pleased to present an audition for

SPRING & PORT WINE

You are invited to audition for the following roles or volunteer in other areas of the production. Please contact the named people within this notice.

<i>Playwright:</i>	Bill Naughton
<i>Director:</i>	Veronica Teesdale
<i>Audition details:</i>	Sunday 25th September 2022, 2pm at WLT
<i>Production dates:</i>	25th January – 4th February 2023

Synopsis of the Play

The play takes place over a weekend in the Crompton family home in Bolton. It is set in the 1960's. Rafe Crompton, the father of the household, has known poverty and hardship in his youth and will not accept Hilda's refusal to eat a herring one teatime. Rows and deception ensue. The situation becomes explosive until lessons are learned.

Director's Notes

The play is deemed to be a comedy. The humour comes from the conflicts, deceptions, compromises and loyalties which typify family life; and which are recognisable to an audience.

The ages of the cast are flexible, within reason. It is important that the 'chemistry' between the two generations is credible.

Rehearsals

Monday, Tuesday & Thursday evenings (but open to negotiation)

Characters

Daisy Crompton	45 upwards. A loyal wife and mother who acts as a peacekeeper in the Crompton household.
Hilda Crompton	16 – 25. Bubbly, rebellious, slightly vulnerable.
Rafe Crompton	50 upwards. An intelligent and frustrated man who outwardly appears stern. Integrity and truth are the maxims by which he lives. The casting of this character is central to the play.
Florence Crompton	25 – 30. A teacher. Attractive and intelligent. Sometimes judgemental of her siblings. Engaged to Arthur.
Harold Crompton	Early 20's. A mill worker. Outspoken, irritating, blustering, comical. Frequently challenges his father (in his absence).



Audition Notice

Wilfred Crompton	18 ... young looking. A factory mechanic and the youngest son. Likeable, loyal and naïve.
Arthur	25 – 35. A sheet metal worker. Engaged to Florence. Quiet, deceitful, thoughtful. Shows courage and determination when needed.
Betsy Jane	30 – 70. A 'slatternly next-door neighbour'. A good comedy role. Warm hearted and frequently blunt.

Audition pieces

Arthur / Florence	Pages 32 – 33
Arthur / Rafe	Page 48
Hilda / Daisy	Pages 36 – 37
Betsy Jane / Daisy	Pages 52 – 53
Harold / Daisy / Florence / Wilfred / Hilda	Pages 8 – 10
Rafe / Daisy	Pages 60 – 62
Wilfred / Rafe / Daisy	Pages 44 – 45

To request a script, please contact the director by email veronica435@sky.com or telephone 07926 911683 / 01942 539464

Advice can also be sought from any member of the Play Selection & Casting Committee:

Martin Green	07947 031234	mpj.green@outlook.com
Stacey Vernon	07913 972441	staceyvernon@hotmail.com



Audition Notice

THE COMPANY

ACTORS – please contact the director or any member of PSCC

WLT aims for a very high standard of production and commitment is required to achieve this. Rehearsals can take place for 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, alternative auditions are at the discretion of the director and PSCC.

BAR – contact **Jenny Hampson** on 07799 265125

Members of this team should be over the age of 18. They are responsible for working behind the bar, which is open from 7pm to 11pm during each production.

BOX OFFICE – contact **David Swift** on 07377 519216

We need friendly and helpful people who have good interpersonal skills both face-to-face and over the phone. Experience of working with IT would be an advantage but training will be given on the box office systems. Opening hours are 7pm to 9pm.

COFFEE / SWEET SALES – contact **Muriel Naughton** on 01942 741583

Coffee is sold during the interval and most helpers arrive prior to the opening of a show to make and serve the coffee. Once the washing up is done, they are free to go! Sweet sellers are expected to be on duty from 6.45pm for pre-show sales until after the interval, the time of which obviously varies.

FRONT OF HOUSE – contact **Tracey Dawson** on 07715 534716

The FOH team welcome the public to a performance, hand them their tickets where appropriate and escort patrons to their seats if necessary. They remain on hand until the end of the show and are responsible for locking the main doors once departing audience members have all gone. The usual commitment is for 1 or 2 nights during the run of a show from 7pm to 10pm (approx.)

LIGHTING & SOUND – contact **Owen Rasburn** on 07749 962615

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 occasions before the Technical Rehearsal. Two or three members are present at each night of the production. Training will be given and you will be supported until you feel completely confident.

PROGRAMME SALES – contact **Hilary Chadwick** on 07882 276837

All you need is your smile and the ability to handle cash in selling programmes. Normal arrival time is 6.45pm and you remain on duty until the show has started at 7.30pm.

PROMPTS – contact the director of each production

Members of the prompt team are never seen – and hopefully never heard – during the run of a production! Prompters work on a rota basis and attend rehearsals for about



Audition Notice

three weeks prior to the opening of a show and share out the commitment during the run.

PROPERTIES – contact **Elaine Delaney** on 07772 833544

Attention to detail when setting the scene can bring a production to life! This is the aim of the props team. Volunteers need to be organised, creative and able to deal with situations in a sensible and realistic manner. Commitment to rehearsals and performances is necessary to create innovative and exciting productions.

SET BUILDING – contact **Brian Heap** on 07811 530293

DIY or trade experience is useful but not essential! Much of the work is manual – carrying flats, steps, doors, and holding them while they are fixed in place, etc. All materials and equipment are provided in the workshop at the side of the stage. Guidance will be given and you won't be asked to use any tools you are not comfortable with. Usual times are Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 10am to 2pm but even the odd hour of help is most welcome.

SET PAINTING – contact **Christine Armstrong** on 07716 318886

Set painters bring the set to life with their paintbrushes – but you don't have to be Monet! Anybody who can use a brush is welcome and the ability to climb step ladders is useful. Set painters work during the day in the week or two before the productions open (generally 10am to 3pm). Guidance is provided along with frequent coffee and a lunch break but you can stay as long as you like.

STAGE MANAGEMENT – contact **Paul Dawson** on 07718 063516

The role of the stage manager is to ensure the smooth running of a performance. You need to be tactful in dealing with directors, actors and other members of the theatre. An ability to remain calm under pressure and to communicate well with a mature and sensible attitude – ideally aged 18+.

WARDROBE – contact **Stacey Vernon** on 07913 972441

The wardrobe department sources and constructs suitable costumes for each production. Volunteers can also help with cleaning, repairing and maintaining the existing costumes. Some heavy lifting may be required but any help is welcomed. The ability to sew would be a bonus!

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

Good luck!

