



## Audition notice

### A Bunch of Amateurs

Wigan Little Theatre is proud to present A Bunch of Amateurs. We would like to invite you to audition for an acting role or contact us if you would like to be part of the production in another area. For a description of each non-acting role, please see the later pages.

**Playwright:** Ian Hislop and Nick Newman  
**Director:** Paul Dawson  
**Audition:** Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> April at 2.30 pm in the auditorium at Wigan Little Theatre  
**Production dates:** 4<sup>th</sup> July to 13<sup>th</sup> July 2024

#### Synopsis of play

Set in a crumbling village hall that needs to raise money fast and save the community resource and the local theatre group. A fading Hollywood actor is employed thinking it's the RSC. Will the unlikely combination of a fading Hollywood star in an amateur production of King Lear save the local Theatre?

#### Director's Note

This is a fabulously witty comedy, full of twists and turns, which requires creative characterisation from all the cast members. I would like to see evidence of this at the audition.

#### Rehearsals

Three nights a week – to be arranged with the cast.

## Characters

**Dorothy Nettle** – Age range 40 to 60 years. Dorothy is the director of the Stratford Players and the moving force behind keeping the theatre alive. Her sweet and accommodating manner conceals her inner steel.

**Nigel Dewbury** – Age range 50 to 70 years. Nigel is a solicitor and leading light of the Stratford Players. Pompous, stuck up and self-regarding, he believes he is the star of the show and should play all the leading roles. (Think – an over-dramatic Ian McKellen!)

**Mary Plunkett** – Age range 50 to 70 years. Mary is the owner of the Rectory B&B. Jolly, generous and an unashamedly adoring Jefferson Steel fan. Although somewhat confused about which roles he played in his films and how keen he is on her.

**Denis Dobbins** – Age range 40 to 60 years. Denis is a handy man and village Mr Fix It. Kind and friendly, but slightly dull. He is star struck by Jefferson and fancies heading up his entourage of one.

**Jefferson Steel** – Age range 40 to 70 years. Jefferson is a fading Hollywood star who is arrogant, insecure, brash, demanding, vulnerable and ultimately aware of his own absurdity.

**Lauren Bell** – Age range 30 to 40 years. Lauren is a Marketing Executive, and a former physiotherapist, and the sponsor's wife. Passionate about the arts and smarter than her husband allows her to be.

**Jessica Steel** – Age range 16 to 18 years. Jessica is Jefferson's teenage daughter who has been neglected by her Father and now wants to make him pay for it!

## Audition pieces

Dorothy Nettle – Speech on page 1 / Page 28 to bottom of page 29

Nigel Dewbury – Page 30 to 31 / Page 90

Mary Plunkett – Page 14 to page 17

Denis Dobbins – Page 19 / Page 32 to page 33

Jefferson Steel – Page 4 to page 5 / Page 39 to 43 / Page 56 to page 58

Lauren Bell – Page 56 to page 58

Jessica Steel – Page 39 to page 43

To request a script, contact the director, Paul Dawson by calling 07718 063516 or email him on [Pauldawson57@icloud.com](mailto:Pauldawson57@icloud.com)

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

Joey Wiswell, Maggie Hall, Niall Wilkinson, Veronica Teesdale or Nicola Reynolds.

# 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 8-12 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 7.00 pm until 11.00 pm during each production. Members often do one or two nights during any production.

## 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 would be an advantage but training will be given on the box office computer and administrative systems. Box Office opening hours are 7-9 pm.

## 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!

## 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 pm approximately.

## 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.

## Programme Sales

The job is as simple as it sounds! All you need is your smile and the ability to handle cash – then all you have to do is wait for patrons to come to buy a programme! Programme sellers normally arrive at around 6.45 pm and stay on duty until the start of the show at 7.30 pm.

## 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 a show and for one or two nights during a show, sitting in the wings with a copy of a script, ready to whisper a helpful reminder if required! If you are interested in prompting, 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 the props team. New members are welcome to join us with 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.

## 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 am until 2 pm and Thursday evenings from 7 until 9 pm. 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.

## 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 am and 3 pm. 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.

## 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 recognise a team; be a good communicator; are mature and sensible in attitude – ideally over 18 years of age.

## 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.

## 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. The ability to sew is a bonus.

If you are interested in joining any of the teams/departments please email [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.*