



Audition notice

The Thrill of Love

Wigan Little Theatre is proud to present 'The Thrill of Love'. 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: Amanda Whittington

Director: Stacey Vernon

Audition: Sunday 7th September at 2pm in the bar at Wigan Little Theatre

Production dates: 4th – 14th February

Synopsis of play

This gripping and atmospheric drama focuses on Ruth Ellis; the last woman hanged in Britain in 1955 for the murder of her womanising and abusive lover. The play follows the months leading up to the fatal moment, delving into Ruth's background and lifestyle in the, not so glamorous, world of gentlemen's drinking clubs. The action of the play is led through Detective Inspector Jack Gales' investigation as he tries to understand what led Ruth to her actions.

Director's Note

This is an excellent play based on real events. I am looking for a talented cast who are committed to portraying this tragic story to a high standard and enjoying it along the way! It is an ensemble cast, so consideration for others and commitment is a must. In terms of playing ages, while Ruth and Vickie were historically mid to late 20s I am open minded as to actual ages for all characters – it will be down to what looks and sounds right at the audition.

Rehearsals

Days and times of rehearsal will be decided with the cast after the audition. It will be two a week at first, increasing to three nearer time, with breaks being taken over October half term and Christmas.

Characters

Cast - list of characters

Ruth Ellis – Works in the world of gentlemen’s drinking clubs. She is the product of an abusive childhood and goes from one abusive relationship to another. She is by no means a weak lady, she is resilient and determined. She becomes besotted with Blakely, consistently making bad choices.

Speaks with RP accent. Acting age late 20s+

Sylvia Shaw – A night club manageress. She has seen it all and done it all, cynical about the men who inhabit her world. She is a businesswoman and understands the pressures and realities of the position she is in. She cares for her girls but cannot overly show this. Can be RP or London accent.

Acting age 40s+

Vickie Martin – She is trying to escape her past life and seeking fame and fortune. She is convinced that working in Sylvia’s night club will be her route to the big time. Good time girl, quite naive.

Outwardly bubbly, very loyal to her friends. London accent but tries to ‘put on posh’ at times. Acting age mid 20s+

Doris Judd – The ‘char’ and general helper in Sylvia’s night club. She is not one of the hostesses and has no wish or intention to be. Her ambition is to sing in the club with her fiancé playing the piano.

She gets very close to Ruth, moving with her and trying with no success to steer Ruth away from her abusive relationship. Must be able to sing. London accent. Acting age late 20s+

Jack Gale – Strong character, he knows there is more to the story than is being shown and admitted to. He is determined to unpick the truth and wants to understand Ruth and her actions. He is a constant observer to the action, hardly leaving the stage. London accent. Acting age 40s+

Audition pieces

Ruth and Jack – pg 6: Gale ‘I then took a gun...’ to end of scene pg8

Sylvia and Jack – pg 12 top of page to end scene pg 13

Vickie, Ruth, Doris – pg 47: Vickie ‘Madame Alice!’ to Vickie’s last line pg 49 ‘I know. Silly me. Keep the change’

Vickie, Sylvia, Ruth – pgs 16 and 17

Doris and Sylvia – pg 29: Sylvia ‘Something I ate’ to bottom pg 30

To request a script, contact the director, Stacey Vernon by email on staceyvernon@hotmail.com or call on 07913972441

Advice can also be sought from any member of the Play Selection and Casting Committee: Niall Wilkinson, Caroline McCann, Cathy Owen, Catherine Finch and Fiona Stewart

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

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