

ALTRINCHAM GARRICK PLAYHOUSE - AUDITION INFORMATION:

"A thrilling blend of entertainment, politics and justice today"
The Sunday Times

QUIZ

by James Graham

A: COUGH B: HACK
C: BARK D: RASP

Based on the book
"Bad Show: The Quiz, the Cough,
the Millionaire Major"
by Bob Woffinden and James Plaskett.

GARRICK
ensemble

Directed by
Joseph Meighan

altrincham
garrick
playhouse

Monday 2 –
Saturday 7
February 2026

Evenings at 7:30pm
Matinée at 2:30pm, Saturday 7 February

Box Office: 0161-928 1677
www.altrinchamgarrick.co.uk

This amateur production of "Quiz" is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals Ltd on behalf of Samuel French Ltd.
www.concordtheatricals.co.uk

Thank you for expressing your interest in auditioning for “**QUIZ**”. This production will be our Garrick Ensemble Production for 2026 at Altrincham Garrick Playhouse.

The Audition Date for this production is
The Rehearsal Start Date for this production is
The Production Dates for this production are

Tuesday 23rd September
Sunday 14th December
Monday 2nd -
Saturday 7th February 2026

(Matinee at 2.39pm on Saturday 7th February)

Rehearsals

Rehearsals will be every Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 7.30pm - 10pm, and every Sunday from 2pm - 5.30pm.

We do ask that all those auditioning are able to make every rehearsal. We do, of course, understand that sometimes you may have other commitments and special occasions during the rehearsal process, and we therefore ask that you inform us of any dates you are not available in advance (at the audition) and we will try and make this work. If you have a date that you're unable to rehearse within ten days of the opening night (2nd February) we may have to ask you to withdraw from the production.

You may not be called to every rehearsal, and the Director will produce a rehearsal schedule as far in advance as possible, but we do still ask that those successful in being cast in the production remain flexible, as rehearsal schedules can often change during the process.

QUIZ

Written by James Graham
Directed by Joseph Meighan

September 2001: the nation is gripped by a scandal that remains, to this day, a mystery. In an outrageously audacious heist, Charles Ingram, aka the Coughing Major, and his accomplices duped the world's most popular TV quiz show, ***Who Wants to Be a Millionaire***, out of £1,000,000.

Or did they? And if they did cheat, how did they really do it?

James Graham's thrilling, entertaining and provocative comedy drama, asks you, the audience, to put fingers on keypads and answer the ultimate 50/50: guilty or not guilty?

And, for your first question, is **QUIZ**...

A) A play by acclaimed writer James Graham, performed by The Garrick Ensemble?

B) A provocative re-examination of the conviction of Charles Ingram, 'the coughing Major', for cheating, following his appearance on Who Wants To Be A Millionaire?

C) A hilarious celebration of the great tradition of the British quiz show?

D) A razor-sharp analysis of the 21st century's dangerous new attitude to truth and lies?

Answer: You decide.

Nominated for two Olivier Awards including Best New Comedy, James Graham's smash hit play, Quiz, transferred to London's West End with sensational reviews in 2018, following a sold-out run at Chichester Festival Theatre. And in 2020, millions tuned in to see the three-part ITV adaptation starring Michael Sheen, Matthew Macfadyen and Sian Clifford.

This production is performed by **THE GARRICK ENSEMBLE**.

The Garrick Ensemble is a company of 18 – 30 year old aspiring actors from Greater Manchester and Cheshire who perform one production each year as part of the Altrincham Garrick Playhouse Main House Season. The production will be directed by Artistic Director Joseph Meighan.

The Garrick Ensemble aims to make theatre that is fresh, innovative and exciting. See the very best of local, up and coming talent before they move forward in the next stages of their careers in the Arts.

Characters

ALL ACTORS IN THE PRODUCTION/ THE GARRICK ENSEMBLE NEED TO FALL INTO THE 18 - early 30s AGE BRACKET. Any ages listed below just give the characters actual ages in the play.

The complete list of Characters can be seen below:

WARM-UP – warm-up comedian
JUDGE RIVLIN – presiding over the case
NICHOLAS HILLIARD QC – barrister for the Crown
SONIA WOODLEY QC – barrister for the Ingrams
CHARLES INGRAM – 38-year-old army major
DIANA INGRAM – 36-year-old quiz fanatic, his wife
TECWEN WHITTOCK – 40s, accused co-conspirator with the Ingrams
MAJOR GENERAL ROBERTS – army officer, MOD
PAUL SMITH – CEO of Celador
ADRIAN POLLOCK – Diana's brother
QUIZMASTER – a pub quiz host
PADDY SPOONER – frequent contestant on the show
DES O'CONNOR – game show host
JIM BOWEN – game show host
LESLIE CROWTHER – game show host
JOHN DE MOL – TV producer
MARK BURNETT – TV producer
DAVID LIDDIMENT – director of programmes at ITV
CLAUDIA ROSENCRANTZ – commissioner at ITV
DAVID BRIGGS – TV and radio producer

RACHEL DA COSTA – second contestant on the show
PRODUCTION MANAGER – on the show
DS WILLIAMSON – lead investigator on the case
RUTH SETTLE – head of press for the show
ADRIAN WOOLFE – head of marketing for the show
HILDA OGDEN – Coronation Street character
ELSIE TANNER – Coronation Street character
ALYN MORICE – professor of respiratory medicine
Various **JOURNALISTS, ARMY OFFICERS, STUDIO TECHNICIANS, PUNTERS, CITIZENS** and other minor characters
with
CHRIS TARRANT – TV and radio personality, the host of the quiz show

There will be doubling in our production. The original production used the following doublings, and we may do the same or similar, depending on the casting process:

Rachel da Costa / Ensemble
Nicholas Hilliard QC/ Quizmaster/ John de Mol/ Ensemble
Warm Up/ Chris Tarrant/ Jim Bowen/ Des O'Connor/ Leslie Crowther/ Ensemble
Paul Smith/ Paddy Spooner/ Adrian Woolfe/ Ensemble
Tecwen Whitlock/ Major General Roberts/ David Briggs/ Ensemble
Adrian Pollock/ Mark Burnett/ Ensemble
Charles Ingram
Diana Ingram
Judge Rivlin/ David Liddiment/ DS Williamson/ Elise Tanner/ Ensemble
Production Manager/ Claudia Rosencrantz/ Ruth Settle/ Alyn Morice/ Ensemble
Sonia Woodley QC/ Hilda Ogden/ Ensemble

We may use a small Ensemble too.

What to Prepare

We ask that Actors auditioning for **QUIZ** prepare a 2 minute dramatic or comedic monologue from a contemporary British drama. (Or a short 1 minute dramatic / tense speech and also a funny speech).

For Actors auditioning for CHRIS TARRANT, we ask you to prepare a short speech from WHO WANTS TO BE A MILLIONAIRE, with an emphasis on recreating his physical and vocal mannerisms.

There will be some audition pieces available on the evening - mainly for the QCs and the Ingrams.

Audition pieces will be available from 6.30pm on Tuesday 23rd September. You will be given some time to look over these before you see the panel.

The Audition Evening

Auditionees will need to sign in and complete a contact sheet in the Theatre Bar at Altrincham Garrick Playhouse from 6.30pm on Tuesday 23rd September. We will then see each auditionee in the Annexe in front of the audition panel from about 7pm.

There will be Garrick personnel to show you around and help you through the process. Please be aware that these audition evenings often include quite a bit of waiting around and can be long, but we will try to move as quickly as we can.

The audition panel will consist of the Director and members of the Altrincham Garrick's Artistic and Casting Team (ACT).

We are a diverse theatre and we welcome auditionees between the ages of 18 - 30 and all genders, ethnicities, sexualities, disabilities and races, to enrich the work of the production.

What Next?

If you've read all the information in this pack, and wish to audition, then please email casting@altrinchamgarrick.co.uk stating "**QUIZ**" in the subject heading and detailing your name and contact number. By emailing, you will have registered for an audition on Tuesday 23rd September.

We'd like to wish you the very best of luck, and we look forward to welcoming you, or seeing you again! Thank you for taking the time and interest to prepare for this audition and Break-A-Leg!

Best wishes,

Joseph Meighan (Artistic Director/ Artistic and Casting Team)

Carole Carr (Artistic and Casting Team)

Mike Shaw (Artistic and Casting Team)

Fiona Primrose (Artistic and Casting Team)