

ALTRINCHAM GARRICK PLAYHOUSE

ACTOR'S GUIDE - 2025/2026 SEASON

altrincham garrick playhouse



Introduction

Welcome to the Actor's Guide for the 2025/ 2026 Season at Altrincham Garrick Playhouse.

In this pack, you will find information about each production, important dates and character lists, and I hope it will help you to plan which production, or productions, you may wish to get involved with in the upcoming Season.

As always, I have tried to create a Season that challenges and excites all of our current actors whilst appealing to new talent to join the theatre, as well as entertaining and enriching our ever expanding audience, and also a Season that ultimately will push the boundaries of the Altrincham Garrick Playhouse.

All productions will be cast from open auditions. Where possible, we are aiming to audition productions approximately two months before rehearsals begin, and details as well as an audition pack should be available about one month before the audition.

I have listed the audition and rehearsal dates for each production alongside character descriptions and ages but please keep in mind that these dates may change slightly, and a lot of information about characters has come from the authors or original producers and the Directors may see things slightly different, so please treat this as a guide.

As always, I would like to thank the Artistic and Casting Team for their continued support with casting and helping to organise this current Season and their valued contribution to the 2025/ 2026 Season. I would like to thank them for all their hard work, effort and commitment to the Theatre.

I look forward to seeing you all soon.

Joseph Meighan
Artistic Director



Autumn/ Winter 2025

A Chorus Line
Bleak Expectations
Charlie and the Chocolate Factory
It's A Wonderful Life
Goldilocks and the Three Bears - Pantomime
QUIZ

Spring/ Summer 2026

The Mirror Crack'd
Disney's Beauty and the Beast Jr.
EASTER PRODUCTION - UNDER EMBARGO
The Crucible
The Good Life
My Fair Lady

The Studio Season - A Series of Manchester Stories

A Taste of Honey
Voices of Manchester
Kindertransport
Pomona
Hobson's Choice
Punk Rock

A CHORUS LINE

Directed by Joseph Meighan
Musical Direction by Mark Goggins
Choreography by Louise Pettitt

11th - 20th September 2025
Altrincham Garrick Playhouse

Seventeen Stories. Eight Chances. One Singular Sensation.

New York City. 1975. On an empty Broadway stage, seventeen performers are put through their paces in the final, gruelling audition for a new Broadway musical. For everyone present, it's the chance of a lifetime. It's the one opportunity to do what they've always dreamed of – to have the chance to dance... but only eight will make the cut.

Told through captivating song, riveting drama and stunning choreography, the auditionees describe the events that have shaped their lives and their decisions to become dancers.

Based on real-life testimonies from late-night recording sessions with dancers, these are the lives of theatre's unsung heroes, as they tell searing stories of ambition, shattered hopes, and what it really costs to follow your dreams.

A Chorus Line is a musical masterpiece that revolutionised Broadway, winning nine Tony Awards, seven Drama Desk Awards, the New York Critics' Circle Award and the Pulitzer Prize for Drama. Now celebrating 50 years since **A CHORUS LINE** first graced the Broadway stage, it is time to experience a stunning new production full of heart, music and dance at Altrincham Garrick Playhouse.

Warning: This performance contains haze, loud music, strobe, theatrical smoke, discussion of bereavement, mention of physical violence and abuse, discussion of homophobia, discussion of discrimination, strong language, and discussion of sexual abuse. This production contains some references and language that may be unsuitable for younger children.

Auditions - Sunday 11th May 2025
Rehearsal Start Date - Sunday 27th July 2025

Rehearsals will take on Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays (7.30pm - 10pm) and Sundays (2pm - 5.30pm)

ZACH

CASSIE

DIANA MORALES

PAUL SAN MARCO

SHEILA

VAL

MIKE

AL

KRISTINE

RICHIE

MAGGIE

BEBE

CONNIE WONG

LARRY/LARA

DON

GREGORY

JUDY

MARK

BOBBY

ENSEMBLE

Playing Age 18-35

Perform entire opening sequence until cut. And Finale.

BLEAK EXPECTATIONS

By Mark Evans

Monday 29th September - Saturday 4th October 2025
(7.30pm each evening, with a 2.30pm matinee on 4th October)

Directed by Pete Brassington

The story Charles Dickens might have written after drinking too much gin...

Follow half-orphan Pip's extraordinary exploits with sisters Pippa and Poppy and best friend Harry Biscuit, as they attempt to escape the calculating clutches of the dastardly Mr Gently Benevolent, defeat the hideous Hardthresher siblings, and deflect disaster at every turn! Will evil be vanquished by virtue? Can love triumph over hate?

Mark Evans' stage play ***Bleak Expectations*** is a hilarious, chaotic caper, featuring dastardly villains, preposterous names, pulse-quickening romances, heart-rending death scenes, and definitely, probably, hopefully a happy ending.

Based on the award-winning BBC Radio 4 series, the play opened at The Watermill Theatre, Newbury, in 2022, directed by Caroline Leslie. It transferred to the Criterion Theatre in London's West End in 2023, where it featured a medley of many well-known actors and comedians.

Auditions - Tuesday 10th June 2025

Rehearsal Start Date - Sunday 24th August 2025

Rehearsals will take on Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays (7.30pm - 10pm) and Sundays (2pm - 5.30pm)

Sir Philip Bin: Male. 50s-60s

The Narrator. The inventor of the rubbish bin and the most celebrated Author in England!

Agnes Bin: Female. 40s-50s

The Mother of Pip, Pippa and Poppy who goes mad after her husband's death.

Flora Dies-early: Female. 20s-30s

Pip's first wife who, erm, dies early...

Thomas Bin: Male. 40s-60s

The Father of Pip, Pippa and Poppy who also, erm, dies early...

Bakewell Havertwitch: Male. 40s-60s

An escaped convict.

Pip Bin: Male. 20s

The main protagonist, and the young Sir Phillip Bin. We follow the highs and lows of Pip's story.

Pippa Bin: Female. 20s

Pip's eldest sister. An intelligent and passionate woman.

Poppy Bin: Female. 20s

Pip's other sister, who dies early in the play.

Ripely Fecund: Female. 20s

Broadly's daughter and future wife to Pip.

Skinflint Parsimonious: Male. 40s-50s

Ironically, extremely generous!

Harry Biscuit: Male. 20s-30s

Pip's best friend. Loyal, brave, cheerful... and stupid.

Gently Benevolent: Male. 40s-60s

Pip's former guardian and nemesis. Pure evil.

Broadly Fecund: Male. 40s-60s

A Priest who helps Pip.

Wackwell Hardthrasher/Praygood Hardthrasher/ Chastity Hardthrasher/Solomon Hardthrasher: Male. 40s-60s

An evil family that support Gently Benevolent's evil doings.

CHARLIE AND THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY

By Roald Dahl

Music by Marc Shaiman.

Lyrics by Scott Whitman & Marc Shaiman.

Book by David Greig

Directed by Joseph Meighan

Musical Direction by Simon Mercer-Murray

Choreography by Emma Kay

The world-famous Willy Wonka is opening the gates to his mysterious factory...but only to a lucky few.

Charlie Bucket, an imaginative boy with a knack for making something out of nothing, dreams of acquiring a golden ticket to tour Willy Wonka's magical chocolate factory and can't believe his luck when it actually happens! Fellow contest winners: Veruca Salt, Violet Beauregarde, Mike Teavee, and Augustus Gloop, have no idea what they're getting themselves into, as they each learn valuable lessons from Mr. Wonka. Nobody leaves the same way that they arrived...

Discover a magical world full of amazement, innovation, sugary treats, and, of course, Oompa-Loompas!

Based on the famous novel by Roald Dahl, ***Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*** features an original score from the multi awarding-winning songwriters of ***Hairspray*** (Music by Marc Shaiman with Lyrics by Shaiman and Scott Wittman and a Book by David Greig), blended with songs from the 1971 motion picture including "Candy Man," "I've Got a Golden Ticket," "The Oompa Loompa Song," and "Pure Imagination" (Leslie Bricusse and Anthony Newley).

Performance Schedule:

Thursday 23rd October – 7.30pm

Friday 24th October – 7.30pm

Saturday 25th October – 2.30pm and 7.30pm

Sunday 26th October – 1.30pm and 6.30pm

Wednesday 29th October – 7.30pm

Thursday 30th October – 7.30pm

Friday 31st October – 7.30pm

Saturday 1st November – 2.30pm and 7.30pm

Sunday 2nd November – 4pm

Auditions - Charlie Bucket and Willy Wonka - Tuesday 13th May

Auditions - Principal Roles / Ensemble - Tuesday 20th May

Rehearsal Start Date - Sunday 7th September

Rehearsals will take on Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays (7.30pm - 10pm) and Sundays (2pm - 5.30pm)

WILLY WONKA

CHARLIE BUCKET

GRANDPA JOE

MRS. BUCKET

AUGUSTUS GLOOP

MRS. GLOOP

VERUCA SALT

MR. SALT

VIOLET BEAUREGARD

MR BEAUREGARD

MIKE TEAVEE

MRS. TEAVEE

GRANDPA GEORGE

GRANDMA GEORGINA

GRANDMA JOSEPHINE

CHERRY

JERRY

MRS GREEN

THE ENSEMBLE:

An exuberant mix of characters; from Oompa-Loompas, to News Reporters, to Townsfolk.

High energy, fun, and full of personality. Strong movers, actors and singers.

We will also be looking for additional strong dancers who will take on the brunt of the more complex choreography including the Dancing Squirrels in the Nut-Room at the Factory.

There are lots of opportunities for Cameo Roles within the Ensemble too, but this will be a busy and vibrant Ensemble show.

IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE

Adapted by Mary Elliott Nelson

Based on the Film ***IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE***

Directed by Charlie Tomlinson

Monday 17th - Sunday 23rd November 2025

(7.30pm each evening plus a 2.30pm matinee on 22nd November and a 6pm performance on 23rd November)

“You want the moon? Just say the word, and I'll throw a lasso around it and pull it down”

Christmas Eve, 1946, Bedford Falls. Down-on-his-luck banker George Bailey feels life has passed him by, and he's at the end of his rope.

But when George's guardian angel pays him a visit, he's amazed to discover what life in his beloved town would be like without him. Maybe it's a wonderful life, after all?

Based on the critically acclaimed Frank Capra movie, which is arguably the most popular Christmas film of all time, Mary Elliott Nelson's reimagining is a joyful story of love, hope and community.

A perfect way to begin the Festive period.

Auditions - Tuesday 1st July 2025

Rehearsal Start Date - Sunday 12th October 2025

Rehearsals will take on Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays (7.30pm - 10pm) and Sundays (2pm - 5.30pm)

We are looking for 10 or 12 Actors of varying ages and genders to play the following roles:

George Bailey
Young George
Clarence (George's Guardian Angel)
Mary (George's Wife)
Angel Gloria
Ruth (Sam's Wife)
Uncle Billy
Sam
Young Sam
Mr Martini (Local Bar Owner)
Angel Joseph
Mr Jethro Potter (George's Nemesis)
Bert the Cop
Harry Bailey (George's Brother)
Young Harry
Mr Gower (Drugstore Owner)
Violet (Local Good timer)
Young Violet
Mrs Thompson (Customer)
Mrs Davies (Customer)
Child
Woman
Ed
Charlie
Tom
Randall
Welch

GOLDILOCKS AND THE THREE BEARS

A Pantomime by Tom Whalley

Directed by Joseph Meighan
Assistant Direction by Helen Horridge
Musical Direction by Peter England

Friday 5th December 2025 - Sunday 4th January 2026

Performance Schedule:

[Thursday 4th December (Preview) 7.30pm]

Friday 5th December	7.30pm
Saturday 6th December	1.30pm & 5.30pm
Sunday 7th December	1.30pm & 5.30pm
Thursday 11th December	7.30pm
Friday 12th December	7.30pm
Saturday 13th December	1.30pm* & 5.30pm
Sunday 14th December	1.30pm & 5.30pm
Thursday 18th December	7.30pm
Friday 19th December	7.30pm
Saturday 20th December	1.30pm & 5.30pm
Sunday 21st December	1.30pm & 5.30pm
Monday 22nd December	7.30pm
Tuesday 23rd December	7.30pm
Saturday 27th December	1.30pm & 5.30pm
Sunday 28th December	1.30pm & 5.30pm
Monday 29th December	7.30pm
Tuesday 30th December	7.30pm
Wednesday 31st December	1.30pm
Friday 2nd January	7.30pm
Saturday 3rd January	1.30pm & 5.30pm
Sunday 4th January	1.30pm & 5.30pm

**Relaxed Performance*

Dame Gertie Dollop runs a Circus show with her son - Silly Billy, but they have fallen on hard times particularly with the dastardly Ringmaster Heinkel, owner of the rival 'Circus of Horrors' up to his devious old tricks. Goldilocks dreams of running away with the circus but her father the debt-collecting Baron Wasteland won't allow it and demands the overdue pitch fees from Gertie and Billy.

They need a miracle however after their honeypot full of money is taken in the middle of the night by three porridge hungry, talking bears. Could the bears be the new star

attraction Dame Gertie has been searching for? And can Mystic Sharon with her crystal ball see a future for the Circus and save the day?

Well, there's only one way to find out!

Auditions (Principals) - Sunday 6th July 2025

Auditions (Ensemble) - Sunday 6th July 2025

Rehearsal Start Date - Sunday 26th October 2025

MYSTIC SHARON

An eccentric fortune teller and soothsayer.

RINGMASTER HEINKEL

The wicked owner of the rival circus - "The Circus of Horrors"

SNOT

His well-meaning, slightly idiotic sidekick.

GOLDILOCKS

The feisty porridge lover with a heart of gold.

SILLY BILLY

The silly son of Dame Gertie. An aspiring clown.

DAME GERTIE DOLLOP

The Dame. Circus Mistress.

BARON WASTELAND

Father of Goldilocks. A bombastic, local landowner.

DADDY BEAR

MUMMY BEAR

BABY BEAR

COLOSSUS

The world's shortest giant.

MAGICAL KEITH

A 'magician'

ADULT ENSEMBLE / DANCERS

YOUNG ENSEMBLE

(Aged 8 - 16)

QUIZ

By James Graham

Directed by Joseph Meighan

Monday 3rd - Saturday 8th February 2025
(Matinee at 2.30pm on Saturday 8th February)

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.

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.

Auditions - Tuesday 23rd September 2025

Rehearsal Start Date - Sunday 14th December 2025
(Breaks over Christmas period)

Rehearsals will take on Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays (7.30pm - 10pm) and Sundays (2pm - 5.30pm)

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 – Army Major
DIANA INGRAM – Quiz fanatic, his wife
TECWEN WHITTOCK – 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
CHRIS TARRANT – TV and radio personality, the host of the quiz show

Various **JOURNALISTS, ARMY OFFICERS, STUDIO TECHNICIANS, PUNTERS, CITIZENS** and other minor characters

THE MIRROR CRACK'D

By Agatha Christie
A New Adaptation by Rachel Wagstaff

Directed by Mike Shaw

Monday 23rd February - Sunday 1st March 2026

(7.30pm each evening, Monday - Saturday, with a 2.30pm matinee on Saturday 28th February and a 6pm performance on 1st March)

1960s England, and a wind of change is blowing through the land. It has even reached the sleepy village of St. Mary Mead. There's a new housing estate to make the villagers curious and fearful. And even stranger, a rich American film star has bought the Manor House.

Jane Marple, confined to a chair after an accident, is wondering if life has passed her by. Then there is a vicious murder, and Miss Marple must unravel a web of lies, tragedy and danger.

This adaptation of Agatha Christie's 1962 novel, ***The Mirror Crack'd***, brings real emotional depth and psychological insight to a thrilling story of revenge and the dark secrets that we all hide.

But can anything be hidden from Miss Marple, the sweet old lady with mind like a steel trap?

Auditions - Tuesday 4th November 2025

Rehearsal Start Date - Sunday 18th January 2026

Rehearsals will take on Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays (7.30pm - 10pm) and Sundays (2pm - 5.30pm)

Miss Jane Marple

Playing Age: 65+ : The astute and observant amateur detective, known for her shrewd understanding of human nature. Miss Marple is elderly but sharp, with a keen eye for detail.

Cherry Baker

Playing Age: Late Teens: Miss Marple's enthusiastic and well-meaning help. Croydon accent.

Heather Leigh

Playing Age: Late 30s – 40s: A lively and enthusiastic fan of Marina Gregg. She is full of energy and somewhat oblivious to the impact of her words.

Dolly Bantry

Playing Age: 60+: A friend of Miss Marple and the former owner of Gossington Hall, where the murder occurs, a source of all the local gossip.

Marina Gregg

Playing Age: Late 40s/Early 50s: A famous movie star, glamorous yet troubled. She has returned to England after a long career in Hollywood and is at a pivotal point in her life, dealing with personal and emotional struggles.

Ella Zielinsky

Playing Age: 30s – 40s: The efficient personal assistant, sharp and ambitious. Polish.

Lola Brewster

Playing Age: 20s: A young film actress, with her own dark past! American accent.

Chief Inspector Craddock

Playing Age: 40+: A classic 'Christie' police officer, behind the times and workman like in his approach.

Cyril Leigh

Playing Age: Late 30s – 40s: Heather's gentle and rather hen-pecked husband, a small but significant comic role.

Jason Rudd

Playing Age: 50s: Marina Gregg's devoted husband and film director. He is protective of Marina and is trying to help her through her difficulties while maintaining their public image. American accent.

Giuseppe Renzo

Playing Age: 40+: Marina Gregg's butler, very protective of her. Italian accent.

PRODUCTION TBA - Under Embargo

Directed by Su Mowat

8th - 19th April 2026

Performance Schedule:

Wednesday 8th April – 7.30pm
Thursday 9th April – 7.30pm
Friday 10th April - 7.30pm
Saturday 11th April – 1.30pm & 5.30pm
Sunday 12th April - 3pm

Wednesday 15th April – 7.30pm
Thursday 16th April – 7.30pm
Friday 17th April - 7.30pm
Saturday 18th April – 1.30pm & 5.30pm
Sunday 19th April - 3pm

Our Easer Production for 2026 is currently under embargo and we are unable to announce until September 2025. Please watch this space.

Auditions - Tuesday 6th January 2026

Rehearsal Start Date - Sunday 22nd February 2026

Rehearsals will take on Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays (7.30pm - 10pm) and Sundays (2pm - 5.30pm)

THE CRUCIBLE

Written by Arthur Miller

Directed by Joseph Meighan

Monday 11th - Sunday 17th May 2026

(7.30pm each evening, Monday - Saturday, with a 2.30pm matinee on Saturday 16th May and a 6pm performance on 17th May)

“We are what we always were...”

Betty Parris lies in a trance after a childish game spins out of control, and accusations of witchcraft are quickly manipulated by those with something to gain.

However, when false allegations reach fever pitch, the devout community of Salem, Massachusetts descends into a cauldron of hysteria, manipulation and paranoia it can never return from...

What lies are the townspeople prepared to tell themselves in order to survive?

Speak of the devil and he appears. Nobody is safe.

Written in the 1950s when the insidious fear of communism gripped America, “**The Crucible**” is a devastating portrayal of the human cost of tyranny and vengeance, and a timeless warning to us all.

An intense and revolutionary piece by Arthur Miller (Death of A Salesman, A View From The Bridge, All My Sons) - inspired by the 1692 Witch Trials in Salem.

Auditions - Tuesday 17th February 2026

Rehearsal Start Date - Sunday 29th March 2026

Rehearsals will take on Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays (7.30pm - 10pm) and Sundays (2pm - 5.30pm)

John Proctor

Male - Mid 30s - Early 40s. Honest farmer forced to defend his wife and himself against witchcraft charges. While his wife was ill, he succumbed to temptation and was intimate with Abigail Williams, a beautiful but malevolent 17- year-old. Although Proctor later rejects Abigail and admits his wrongdoing to his wife, Abigail continues to pursue him.

Elizabeth Proctor

Female. Late 20's - Late 30's. John Proctor's loyal and upright wife.

Rev. Samuel Parris

Male. Playing Age: 40's. Salem's current minister. He at first attempts to silence rumours of witchcraft because his own daughter, Betty, and his niece, Abigail Williams, were involved in conjuring rites.

Betty Parris

Female. Playing Age: 18 - 25. Daughter of the Rev. Parris. At the beginning of the play, she lies in a stupor supposedly caused by witchcraft.

Abigail Williams

Female. Playing Age: 18 - 25. Seventeen-year-old orphan whose parents were killed by Indians. Seductive and malevolent.

Tituba

Female. Playing Age: 30s. Slave of the Rev. Parris.

Thomas & Ann Putnam

Playing Age: 40's. Wealthy husband and wife who use the witchcraft frenzy implicate rivals and enemies.

Rev. John Hale

Male. Playing age: 30s/ 40's. Expert in detecting spirits. Well educated, he takes pride in his knowledge of the occult, but he is fair-minded.

Rebecca Nurse

Female. Playing Age: 60's-70s. Charitable Salem resident whom Ann Putnam accuses of witchcraft.

Mary Warren

Female. Playing Age: 18 - 25. Servant of the Proctors who took part in the conjuring rite in the forest. She first agrees to testify against Abigail and the others. But, under pressure from her peers and the court, she renounces her testimony and sides with Abigail.

Deputy Governor John Danforth

Male. Playing Age: 40-60's. Presiding judge who conducts the witchcraft hearings and trials. Authoritative and imposing.

John Hathorne

Male. Playing Age: 40's-60's. Associate Judge.

Giles Corey

Male. Playing Age: 70's-80's. Innocent citizen accused of witchcraft after he attempts to

defend his wife, Martha, and expose scheming John Putnam. A courageous 83-year-old who defies the court, he is pressed to death with heavy stones. Strong willed and full of life.

Mercy Lewis

Female. Playing Age: 18 - 25. Teenage servant of the Putnams who took part in the conjuring rite in the forest.

Susanna Walcott

Female. Playing Age: 18 - 25. Teenager who took part in the rite in the forest.

Sarah Good

Female. Playing Age: 60s. Poor woman accused of witchcraft.

Francis Nurse

Male. Playing Age: 70s. Husband to Rebecca.

Ezekiel Cheever

Male. Playing Age: 30s+. Appointed by the Court to arrest those accused of Witchcraft.

Marshal Herrick

Male. Playing Age: 30 +. The Marshall of Salem, responsible for bringing defendants to Court. He comes to disbelieve the witchcraft accusations.

Hopkins

Male. Any Age. A Guard of the Jail

The Good Life

By Jeremy Sams

Original Authors - John Esmonde and Bob Larbey

Directed by Dan Ellis

Monday 1st - Sunday 7th June 2026

(7.30pm each evening, Monday - Saturday, with a 2.30pm matinee on Saturday 6th June and a 6pm performance on 7th June)

When Tom and Barbara Good decide to exchange the pressures of the rat race for an alternative, more sustainable way of living, they set about turning their suburban home in Surbiton into a model of self-sufficiency. They grow their own fruit and veg, keep livestock in the garden, make their own clothes, and even generate their own electricity from manure.

It's the good life for them – but not for Margo and Jerry Leadbetter, who live next door, and are desperately trying to maintain the Surbiton status quo.

Jeremy Sams' stage play, based on the hugely popular sitcom by John Esmonde and Bob Larbey, reunites the well-loved characters (not forgetting Geraldine the goat) as they get themselves into and out of scrapes – some old, some new, all hilarious.

Tapping into issues that resonate now more than ever, ***The Good Life*** is a witty reimagining of a television classic, with a wellyful of laughs that's sure to delight audiences everywhere.

Auditions - Tuesday 24th February 2026

Rehearsal Start Date - Sunday 26th April 2026

Rehearsals will take on Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays (7.30pm - 10pm) and Sundays (2pm - 5.30pm)

Barbara Good

Female. Playing Age: 30s - early 40s. Quick witted, kind, down to earth.

Tom Good

Male. Playing Age: Mid 30s - mid 40s. Cheerful, determined and sometimes stubborn.

Margo Leadbetter

Female. Playing Age: 30s - early 40s. Busybody, concerned about appearance/opinions of others, little sense of humour but good hearted.

Jerry Leadbetter

Male. Playing Age: Late 30s - late 40s. Traditional/ conservative, plays golf, wants an easy life so tries to keep Margo happy.

These smaller parts are very funny – could easily be doubled up:

Milkwoman

Sir

Jerry's boss

Felicity

Wife of Sir

Margaret

Sir's secretary

Dr Joe

GP known to Jerry - brought in to help with pregnant pig!

Mary

The receptionist of Dr Joe

Harry

Pig man

Policeman

MY FAIR LADY

Book and Lyrics by Alan Jay Lerner
Music by Frederick Loewe
Adapted from George Bernard Shaw's Play
and Gabriel Pascal's Motion Picture Pygmalion

Directed by Joseph Meighan
Musical Direction by Mark Goggins

Monday 22nd - Sunday 28th June 2025

(7.30pm each evening, Monday - Saturday, with a 2.30pm matinee on Saturday 27th June and a 4pm performance on Sunday 28th June)

What a smashing, positively dashing finale to the 2025/2026 Altrincham Garrick Season - **Lerner** and **Loewe's** classic rags to riches tale, **MY FAIR LADY**.

MY FAIR LADY follows Eliza Doolittle, a cockney flower seller in Covent Garden, who by chance meets phonetics professor, Henry Higgins. As part of a wager with a fellow phonetician, Higgins sets out to teach Eliza how to speak like a lady of high society – but learns a few lessons of his own along the way.

Filled with comedy, romance, and dazzling songs such as *The Rain in Spain*, *Wouldn't It Be Lovely* and *I Could Have Danced All Night*, this will be an unmissable production.

A beautiful musical adaptation of **George Bernard Shaw's** 1913 play PYGMALION, **MY FAIR LADY** was first performed on Broadway in 1956 starring Julie Andrews and adapted into a 1964 Oscar-winning film starring Audrey Hepburn.

It's going to be bloomin' lovely!

Auditions - Sunday 15th March 2026
Rehearsal Start Date - Sunday 10th May 2026

Rehearsals will take on Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays (7.30pm - 10pm) and Sundays (2pm - 5.30pm)

Eliza Doolittle

A flower girl who works outside Convent Garden. Strong willed and Cockney.

Female
Playing Age: 20s to 30s
Vocal range top: G5
Vocal range bottom: A3

Henry Higgins

A world renowned phoneticist of the upper class British society.

Male
Playing Age: 35 to 60
Vocal range top: E4
Vocal range bottom: B2

Colonel Pickering

A former British officer and author. Friends with Henry Higgins and a fellow phonetics enthusiast.

Male
Playing Age: 50 to 70
Vocal range top: D4
Vocal range bottom: C3

Freddy Eynsford-Hill

A young, upper class British man who falls in love with Eliza.

Male
Playing Age: 20s to 30s
Vocal range top: F4
Vocal range bottom: C3

Alfred P. Doolittle

Eliza's boisterous and charismatic father.

Male
Playing Age: 50 to 70
Vocal range top: E4
Vocal range bottom: G3

Harry

A friend of Alfred P. Doolittle's.

Male
Playing Age: 30 to 60

Jamie

A friend of Alfred P. Doolittle.

Male

Playing Age: 30 to 60

Mrs. Pearce

Higgin's housekeeper.

Female

Playing Age: 40 to 60

Vocal range top: G4

Vocal range bottom: E4

Mrs. Eynsford-Hill

Freddy's mother and a friend of Mrs. Higgins.

Female

Playing Age: 40 to 70

Mrs. Higgins

Henry's mother.

Female

Playing Age: 60 to 80

George

A bartender at the Tottenham Court Road Pub.

Male

Playing Age: 20 to 50

Mrs. Hopkins

A Cockney woman.

Female

Playing Age: 30 to 60

Ensemble

Cockney men and women, townspeople, servants, stewards, lords, ladies.

altrincham **garrick** **studio**

Altrincham Garrick Studio Season 25/26

A Series of Manc Stories

A TASTE OF HONEY

Written by Shelagh Delaney

Directed by Carole Carr

Tuesday 23rd - Sunday 28th September 2025
Altrincham Garrick Studio

Living in a filthy tenement bedsitter, 17-year-old Jo is deserted by her nagging peroxidized mother, Helen, who is unaware that her daughter is pregnant by a black sailor.

To soothe, clean and cook for Jo is Geoff, an effeminate art student, with whom she makes a temporary home. Bruised by insensitivity and rejection, the boy and girl find a very real comfort in each other.

A stunning portrayal of the complex bond between a mother and daughter, who – despite their sharp bickering – are both holding on for that taste of honey.

This iconic play is a sharply observed portrait of working-class life in Salford in the late 1950s.

Warning: this production contains themes of alcohol abuse, racism, domestic violence, sexual themes, teenage pregnancy, homophobia, sexism, and ableism.

Auditions - Tuesday 3rd June 2025
Rehearsal Start Date - Sunday 17th August 2025

Rehearsals will take on Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays (7.30pm - 10pm) and Sundays (2pm - 5.30pm)

Jo

Female. Playing Age: 17

A schoolgirl who has led a very transitory life with her mother and tries to make the best of her situation.

Helen

Female. Playing Age: 40s

A single parent who is very aware of her feminine charms and knows how to use them to her advantage

Jimmy

Male. Playing Age: Early 20s

A black sailor doing his national service; the father of Jo's unborn baby

Peter

Male. Playing Age: 30s

A brash car salesman and Helen's current boyfriend, but he has no real feelings for her.

Geoff

Male. Playing Age: Early 20s

A sensitive arts student who wants to look after Jo.

Voices of Manchester

Written by Duncan Battman. Commissioned by Joseph Meighan

Directed by Duncan Battman

Tuesday 11th - Sunday 16th November 2025
Altrincham Garrick Studio

Six Monologues. Six Mancs.

A Tram. A Pub.

The beating heart of the greatest City.

Mad Fer It.

Rendezvous - Jennifer
Dad – Duncan
I Don't Like Coffee – Lillian
A Dog in the Road – Mick
Gigging – Siobhan
The Streets – Jimmy

Auditions - Tuesday 3rd June 2025
Rehearsal Start Date - Sunday 5th October 2025

Rehearsals will take on Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays (7.30pm - 10pm) and Sundays
(2pm - 5.30pm)

Rendezvous

Female Character: Jennifer, a lady in her fifties, well-kept and well-spoken but in a Manchester sort of way.

Dad

Male Character: Duncan, a man in his sixties, again, as above, well-spoken and educated.

I Don't Like Coffee

Female Character: Lillian, an elderly lady with a north Manchester accent.

A Dog in the Road

Male Character: Mick, a bit of a lad in his thirties.

Gigging

Female Character: Siobhan, an Irish girl in her early twenties.

The Streets

Male Character: Jimmy, a man in his forties with a faint Scottish accent.

KINDERTRANSPORT

Written by Diane Samuels

Directed by Barry Purves

Tuesday 20th - Tuesday 27th January 2026
Altrincham Garrick Studio

Between 1939 until the outbreak of World War II, nearly 10,000 Jewish children were taken from their families in Nazi-occupied Germany and sent to live with foster families in Britain. Diane Samuels' seminal play, *Kindertransport*, imagines the fate of one such child.

Nine-year-old Eva is taken from her home in Germany and sent to Manchester to live with the Miller family. At first she clashes with her foster mother, Lil, but slowly a bond of trust forms between them. After she learns that her parents have failed to escape Germany, the Millers become her family and a new identity begins to form. After the war is over, she changes her name to Evelyn and acquires British citizenship. Over thirty years later, her now grown-up daughter, Faith stumbles across some old letters in their attic and Evelyn is forced to confront her traumatic past.

Samuels deftly weaves together Evelyn's past and present as she explores the devastating impact of the Holocaust on three generations.

Now widely considered a modern classic, *Kindertransport* has been read and studied all over the world.

Tuesday 27th January (the final performance) is Holocaust Memorial Day.

Auditions - Tuesday 16th September 2025
Rehearsal Start Date - Sunday 7th December 2025

Rehearsals will take on Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays (7.30pm - 10pm) and Sundays (2pm - 5.30pm)

Eva

Female. Playing Age: 18 - 25

A young German Jewish girl
(she ages from 10-17)

Helga

Female. Playing Age: 30s - 40s

Eva's German mother

Evelyn

Female. Playing Age: 40s - 50s

Eva, much later

Faith

Female. Playing Age: 20s

Eva/ Evelyn's daughter

Lil

Female: Playing Age: 50s - 70s

Eva/ Evelyn's British foster mother

The Ratcatcher

Male. Playing Age: 20s - 40s

A mythical character who also plays Nazi Border Official, English Organiser, Postman and Station Guard.

POMONA

Written by Alastair McDowall

Directed by Mark Goggins

Tuesday 24th - Sunday 29th March 2026
Altrincham Garrick Studio

Step into the haunting depths of Manchester's underbelly, where evil lurks and danger is around every corner. Welcome to **Pomona** – a place where dreams are overshadowed by darkness.

Join Ollie on her desperate quest to find her sister, who has mysteriously vanished. As she navigates this treacherous world, she encounters a cast of unforgettable characters, each hiding secrets that twist reality in unexpected ways. In **Pomona**, nothing is as it seems.

Here at the centre of everything, journeys end and nightmares are born.

Warning: this production strong and offensive language, and contains scenes that some audience members may find disturbing including violence, blood, kidnapping, death, forced pregnancy, human trafficking, and references to pornographic content, sexism, sexual assault, suicide, and abuse.

Auditions - Tuesday 25th November 2025
Rehearsal Start Date - Sunday 15th February 2026

Rehearsals will take on Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays (7.30pm - 10pm) and Sundays (2pm - 5.30pm)

Zeppo

Male

Owens a lot of the city, including the mysterious Pomona. Zeppo spends most nights driving the ring road, eating chicken nuggets. He seems to know something about the bad things that are happening but doesn't like to get involved.

Ollie

Female

Has come to Manchester to look for her missing sister and has just started working as a prostitute.

Fay

Female

Works as a prostitute. Fay tries to help Ollie when she first arrives at the brothel. Eventually, she stands up to Gale when she learns what has been happening. She has experienced violence from her ex-partner in the past.

Keaton

Female, small

Mysterious and quite reserved. Keaton doesn't say much but somehow seems dangerous. She makes friends with Charlie when she attends one of his Dungeons and Dragons nights.

Gale

Female

Runs the brothel where Ollie and Fay work and also Charlie and Moe's boss. Gale works for the mysterious people in charge of Pomona. She is mean and ruthless, but also clearly terrified of her superiors.

Moe

Male

Works as a security guard outside Pomona with Charlie and gets ordered to kill someone. Moe takes things seriously. He talks less than Charlie and generally seems more suited to his job. He has a history of violence.

Charlie

Male

Works as a security guard outside Pomona with Moe and gets ordered to kill someone. Charlie likes role playing games and doesn't have many friends. He behaves in a naive, childlike way, which seems at odds with his job.

HOBSON'S CHOICE

Written by Harold Brighouse

Directed by Ros Greenwood

Tuesday 28th April - Sunday 3rd May 2026
Altrincham Garrick Studio

Salford. 1880. A father and daughter go head to head in this classic comedy.

Widower Henry Hobson is struggling to handle his three grown-up daughters, each seeking a husband and an escape from the family boot-makers' shop. But with the domineering Hobson spending more time boozing in the Moonraker's Arms than on the business, the future of the firm and the family is in the hands of eldest daughter, the no-nonsense Maggie.

When she sets her sights on the talented boot-maker Willie Mossop, it's the start of an unlikely partnership that threatens to ruin Hobson's trade. Reluctantly, he's forced to make a choice...

Auditions - Tuesday 20th January 2026
Rehearsal Start Date - Sunday 15th March 2026

Rehearsals will take on Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays (7.30pm - 10pm) and Sundays (2pm - 5.30pm)

Henry Horatio Hobson

Overbearing, controlling, and a drunk. Runs his business with bluster and threats, but is also human, and the victim of his own follies – a man for whom we can have some sympathy.

Maggie Hobson

Hobson's oldest daughter. Determined, clever, sensible – an efficient organiser. Mistrusts anything sentimental, but is warm-hearted and just.

Alice Hobson

Hobson's middle daughter. Keen to improve her position with a strategic marriage. She is courting Albert Prosser, and meeting him behind her father's back. Fashion-conscious.

Vickey Hobson

Hobson's youngest daughter. Head- strong and argumentative. Charming and pretty, she uses this to her advantage. Fashion-conscious, like her older sister.

William Mossop

A talented but timid bootmaker who lacks confidence and ambition until Maggie takes him under her wing. He has a meteoric rise from fool who scuttles below stairs, to hero with wisdom and confidence.

Albert Prosser

Lawyer, and admirer of Alice Hobson. Understands the law, but is no match for Maggie's intellect. Keenly conscious of dress and reputation.

Fred Beenstock

In love with Vickey. Respectable son of a respectable businessman. He works for his father at Beenstock Corn Merchants.

Tubby (Timothy) Wadlow

Foreman in the Hobson's workshop. Knows his craft and respects the business. A faithful worker.

Jim Heeler

A grocer, drinking partner and loyal friend to Hobson.

Mrs Hepworth

A woman of wealth and influence. A long-standing customer of Hobson's bootmaker shop. Doesn't suffer fools gladly.

Ada Figgins

Rather needy. Wants William Mossop to wed and look after her.

Dr. MacFarlane

Domineering doctor who is not afraid to speak the truth to his patients.

PUNK ROCK

Written by Simon Stephens

Directed by Meg Brasington

Tuesday 9th - Sunday 14th June 2026
Altrincham Garrick Studio

“I hate normal people. Normal people should be eviscerated.”

Tucked away in a library in a Stockport grammar school, half-a-dozen sixth formers, on the cusp of adulthood, are whiling away the hours...

A clatter of teenage thoughts tumble out between the friends. Dreams of Oxbridge, contempt for the locals and of course: sex, sex, sex.

But as exams approach and pressures rise, real brutality emerges from behind their playful barbs. And soon there is nothing left but violence.

From Manchester power-house playwright, Simon Stephens, ***Punk Rock*** is a brutal and urgent examination of contemporary adolescence.

Intelligent. Articulate. F***ed.

Warning: This production contains strong and offensive language, and discussions of self-harm, sexual abuse, racism, homophobia, ableism, body shaming, gun violence, murder, and mental health issues.

Auditions - Tuesday 10th March 2026
Rehearsal Start Date - Sunday 3rd May 2026

Rehearsals will take on Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays (7.30pm - 10pm) and Sundays (2pm - 5.30pm)

William Carlisle:

A complex character. A self-doubting fantasist, highly intelligent but deeply troubled with a tendency to bend the truth. He befriends newcomer Lily only to discover her relationship with Nicholas which breaks something within him. We identify with William as a victim with whom we sympathise.

Bennett Francis:

A malicious bully and terrifying with it. Cruel and vindictive, a fiercely aggressive individual. He has the air of a privileged young man accustomed to getting what he wants. Testing the boundaries of what he can get away with. When he spits at one of his classmates he does so simply to see what it feels like.

Chadwick Meade:

Coldly omniscient, Chadwick's school survival strategy involves distancing himself from the world he seems poorly designed to fit into; humanity, he declares in a powerful monologue, is a lost cause. His ambition to study Maths at Cambridge further removes him from forming a close bond with any his peers aside from a mutual hate of Bennett. Yet he can't be touched by taunts or threats. He is beyond all that.

Lilly Cahill:

A newcomer to the school, her arrival is the axis upon which the play turns. There is definitely more to her than we might initially presume, including a secret relationship with Nicholas. A practised air of confidence masks her insecurities. She does care for William but struggles to cope with his difficult personality.

Cissy Franks:

Bennett's girlfriend, she is quick to defend him and his actions yet her affections are often ignored by Bennett himself and even she is not safe from his aggression. Driven by a fear of failure, she is desperate to leave Stockport despite giving the air of a spoilt little rich girl whose uncaring attitude makes her an unlikable and untrustworthy character. Like her boyfriend she is plagued by personal insecurity.

Nicholas Chatman:

The star sportsman of the school and the supposed sexual dynamo yet who is in fact a virgin before his relationship with Lily. His unobtrusive character can be easily overlooked and underestimated but it is centrally important within the play with regard to his relationship with William which we will look to develop.

Tanya Gleason:

She is Cissy's best friend yet is the victim of much of Bennett's bullying as she defends those around her. Tanya has not been in private grammar education all her life and this is a world that she sometimes does not fully fit into. Her desires for her History teacher create a light relief within the play, definitely the most likeable character within the play

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