

# **ACTOR'S GUIDE 2018/2019**

## **Welcome to the Altrincham Garrick's 2018/19 Actor's Guide.**

I hope it is useful to you in planning what you may wish to be involved in, in the upcoming season

We've put a lot of work into the season and we hope you like the results.

We're confident that there's something for everyone.

If you are interested in performing, or helping behind the scenes in any capacity on any of these productions, please register your interest.

You can do this by emailing,

**[admin@altrinchamgarrick.co.uk](mailto:admin@altrinchamgarrick.co.uk)**

stating clearly who you are, what you are interested in and your contact details.

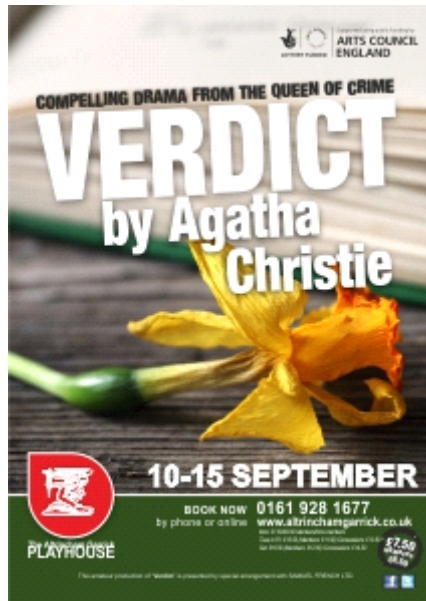
We have tried to be as accurate as possible in our descriptions, dates and character breakdowns, but please note that age ranges, genders, roles and dates are flexible and may be adjusted from how they appear in this guide. This allows directors, at their discretion, to make believable character matches among defined roles, and thereby align characters where appropriate.

**Neville Roby**

**Theatre Manager/Head of Casting**

# MAIN STAGE - PLAY 1

VERDICT by Agatha Christie



Monday 10th – Saturday 15th September 2018

Director: Parissa Zamanpour

Audition: 5th June 2018 1st Rehearsal: 5th August 2018

The Hendryks, refugees in England, have lost everything. Karl rebuilds their lives but his wife, Anya, is fatally ill and her old friend, Lisa, who secretly loves Karl, lives with them and runs the house. When headstrong Helen Rollander comes into their lives to take private lessons from Karl, she becomes infatuated with him but he isn't interested. Helen murders Anya and then commits suicide but the blame is put onto Lisa who is tried for murder. A superb Christie piece of theatre, it isn't the murder that intrigues the audience but the psychology of the relationships.

## CHARACTERS

Lester Cole (24)

Mrs Roper a shifty and unpleasant cleaning woman

Lisa Koletzky (35) a strong and enigmatic person

Professor Karl Hendryk (45) a virile and good looking man

Dr Stoner (60ish)

Anya Hendryk (38) invalid in wheelchair, fretful and faded

Helen Rollander (23) beautiful and self assured

Sir William Rollander

Detective Inspector Ogden

Sergeant Pearce

## MAIN STAGE - PLAY 2

**Around the World in 80 Days** by Laura Eason



Monday 24th – Saturday 29th September 2018

Director: Celia Bonner

Audition: 19th June 2018

1st Rehearsal: 19th August 2018

The fabulously wealthy Victorian gentleman, Phileas Fogg, wagers his life's fortune that he can circumnavigate the globe in just 80 days. Along with his hapless valet, Passepartout, he sets out on a dazzling escapade that takes him from the misty alleys of London to the sub continent and on to the wild west as they race against the clock on a dizzying succession of trains, steamers, wind propelled sleighs and an elephant! All the time being pursued by an Inspector from Scotland Yard who thinks Fogg is an escaped thief.

### **CHARACTERS**

Phileas Fogg (about 40) tall, handsome, calm and unresponsive

Passepartout A former circus performer, playful and honest with an adventurous nature

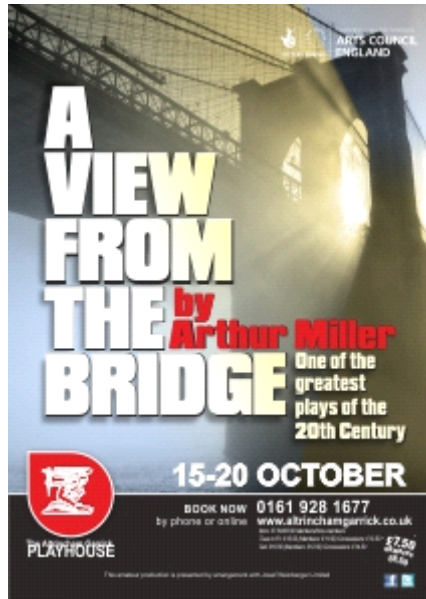
Inspector Fix, an over eager Inspector from Scotland Yard

Mrs Aouda a well educated, self possessed, beautiful widow

4 additional actors who play around 40 roles between them

## MAIN STAGE - PLAY 3

### A View From the Bridge by Arthur Miller



Monday 15th – Saturday 20th October 2018

Director: Mark Butt

Audition: 10th July 2018    1st Rehearsal: 9th September 2018

Longshoreman Eddie Carbone lives in Brooklyn with his wife Beatrice and orphaned niece, Catherine, who he has raised and loved as though she was his own daughter. When two of Beatrice's cousins arrive illegally in the country, Eddie agrees to shelter them and find work for them on the docks. But when one of the immigrants falls in love with Catherine, the kind and admirable Eddie suddenly becomes violently opposed to the romance, an opposition founded on a far too intense love for his niece and the stage is set for tragedy.

### **CHARACTERS**

Louis, a longshoreman

Mike, a longshoreman

Alfieri, a lawyer in his fifties

Eddie Carbone, fortysomething slightly overweight longshoreman

Catherine, Eddie's niece

Beatrice, Eddie's wife

Marco, 32 year old cousin of Beatrice, dark haired

Rodolpho, younger brother of Marco but very light haired, almost blonde

Tony, a friend of Eddie's

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## MAIN STAGE - PLAY 3 (CONTINUED)

1st and 2nd Immigration Officers

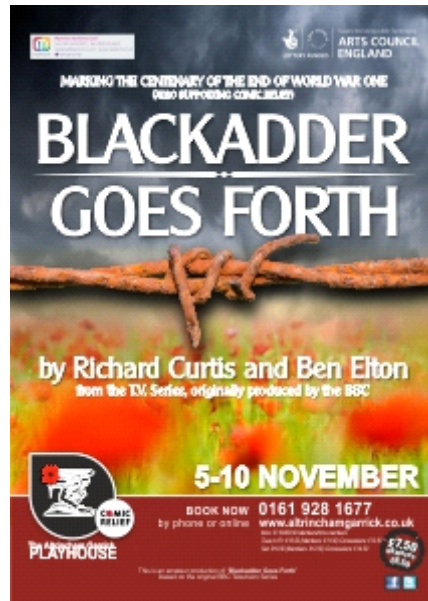
Mr Lipari, middle aged man

Mrs Lipari, his wife

Two other parts as 'Submarines'

## MAIN STAGE - PLAY 4

**Blackadder Goes Forth** by Richard Curtis & Ben Elton



Monday 5th – Saturday 10th November 2018

Director: Charlie Tomlinson

Audition: 31st July 2018    1st Rehearsal: 30th September 2018

It is 1917, and lunatic General Sir Anthony Cecil Hogmanay Melchett is leading the British troops at the front lines against the Germans, while everyone waits for Field Marshall Haig's big push. There are various emotions throughout the camp about it. For Captain Kevin Darling, Melchett's bull-dog-like right-hand man, it makes no difference, as it appears he will be safe and sound with the general when the big push occurs. For Lieutenant George Colhurst Saint Barleigh, he is overly excited at thrashing the Germans. For Private S. (probably for Sod-Off) Baldrick, it's a terrifying experience he is not looking forward to. For Captain Edmund Blackadder, however, it's something he's too cowardly to face. Self-centered, arrogant, and sarcastic, Blackadder is always constantly searching for a way out of this silly war, and will try various, often crazy, variations on escape, all of which will take a turn he never expected. Sharing a dugout with George and Baldrick, his main obstacle for escape is Darling, who will ensure everyone is present for the big push.

### **CHARACTERS**

Captain Edmund Blackadder

Private S Baldrick

General Sir Anthony Cecil Hogmanay Melchett

Lieutenant The Honourable George Colhurst St Barleigh

Captain Kevin Darling

Corporal Perkins

Sergeant Jones

Private Fraser

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## MAIN STAGE - PLAY 4 (CONTINUED)

Private Robinson

Private Tipplewick

Driver Parkhurst

Squadron Commander Lord Flasheart

Baron von Richthoven

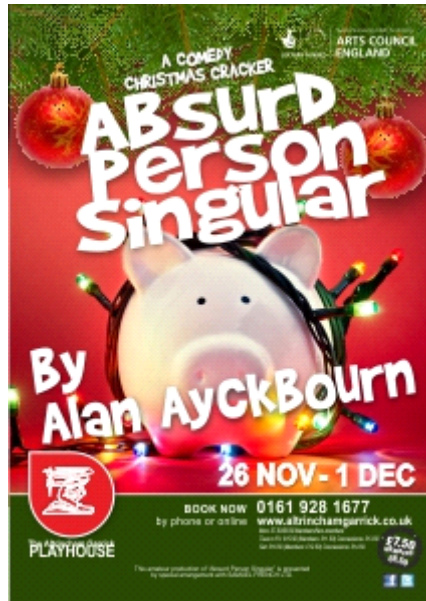
Lieutenant von Gerhardt

Nurse Mary Turnsouttobeaspyattheend

Brigadier Smith

## MAIN STAGE - PLAY 5

**Absurd Person Singular** by Alan Ayckbourn.



Monday 26th November – Saturday 1st December 2018

Director: Kathy Searcy

Audition: 21st August 2018

1st Rehearsal: 21st October 2018

**Three couples, three kitchens on Christmas Eve of three consecutive years. Running like a darker thread through the wild comedy of behind-the-scenes disasters at Christmas parties is the story of the advance of one couple to material prosperity and independence, and the decline of the others.**

### **CHARACTERS**

Sidney, thirties, dapper with a small moustache and a cheery manner

Jane, Sidney's wife, happiest when she is cleaning

Ronald, mid forties impressive but undistinguished man

Marion, Ronald's wife, younger, well groomed and better preserved than her husband

Geoffrey, mid thirties, good looking, easy going and confident

Eva, Geoffrey's wife, mid thirties, makes no concessions in either manner or appearance



## MAIN STAGE - PLAY 6

### Cinderella by Alan Clements



Saturday 15th December 2018 – Sunday 6th January 2019

Director: Alan Clements

Audition: TBC

1st Rehearsal: 28th October 2018

**Our Traditional Pantomime.**

### **CHARACTERS**

Fairy Godmother

Cinderella

Baron Hardup, Cinderella's father

Trafford and Etihad, the stepdaughters

Prince Charming

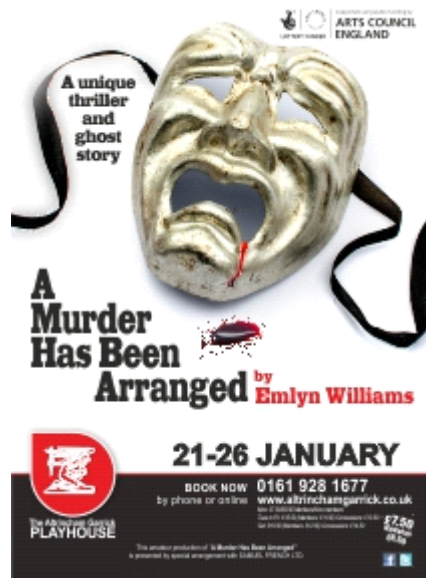
Dandini, the Prince's Equerry

Buttons, the Baron's bellboy

Chorus of courtiers, citizens, fairy tailors, hordes, footmen etc

## MAIN STAGE - PLAY 7

### A Murder has Been Arranged By Emlyn Williams



Monday 21st – Saturday 26th January 2019

Director: Mike Shaw

Audition: 11th September 2018

1st Rehearsal: 9th December 2018

In this unique thriller that has playgoers gripping their seats, Sir Charles Jasper is an eccentric who delves into the mystical. He is due to inherit two million pounds on his fortieth birthday and plans to celebrate the occasion with a party on the stage of the St. James' Theatre, supposedly haunted because of several mysterious deaths years ago. The merriment is interrupted by Maurice, the Sir Charles's hitherto missing nephew and the recipient of the legacy in the event of his death. Maurice, who claims to be a novelist, induces his uncle to write what he claims to be a chapter for his new book. It is too late when it dawns on Sir Charles that he is writing a suicide note for he has just drained a fatal drink concocted by the nephew. In the third act, the birthday guests employ subtle and ingenious tactics to force Maurice to confess.

### CHARACTERS

Miss Groze, 30ish, pretty and smartly dressed

Mrs Wragg, a cook, fat and middle aged

Jimmy North, good looking and boyish

Beatrice Jasper, 20s and very pretty

Mrs Arthur, mother of Beatrice, a handsome 45 year old not quite well bred and a born bully

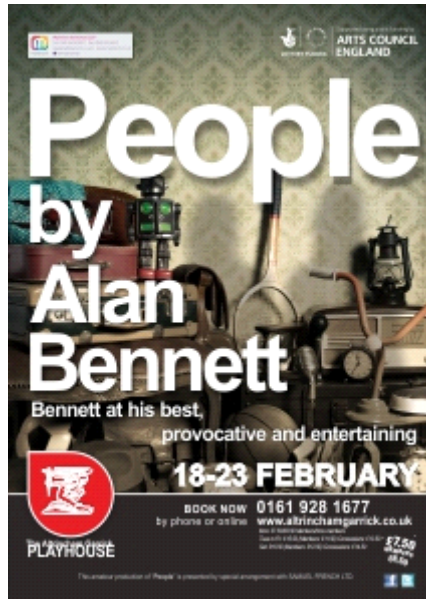
Sir Charles Jasper, mild professorial with grey hair

Maurice Mullins, a bland and charming young man

A Woman, slim and dark, any age

## MAIN STAGE - PLAY 8

### People By Alan Bennett



Monday 18th – Saturday 23rd February 2019

Director: TBC

Audition: 13th November 2018

1st Rehearsal: 13th January 2019

**People hinges on the future of a stately pile. Dorothy, a peer and ex-model, lives in this mouldering mansion with her companion, Iris, and shrinks from the idea of it being opened to the public gaze; she is even tempted by an offer from a valuer, working on behalf of a shadowy consortium, to transport the whole house to Dorset or Wiltshire.**

**Meanwhile, Dorothy's gruff archdeacon of a sister, June, is close to doing a deal with the National Trust, which will both make the house a piece of English history and fill it with racily interactive features.**

**But a third possibility arises when a film company turns up to use the site as a location for a porn movie.**

### **CHARACTERS**

Theodore

Dorothy Stacpoole, 70 tall and grand

Bevan, 30ish middle class

Iris, 70 downtrodden

June Stacpoole, younger sister of Dorothy, archdeacon

Ralph Lumsden

Bishop

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## MAIN STAGE - PLAY 8 (CONTINUED)

Bruce, grip

Louise, wardrobe lady

Nigel, assistant director

Les, cameraman

Colin, young man, actor

Brit, actress

Ensemble 3 women and 2 men

## MAIN STAGE - PLAY 9

### Brontë by Polly Teale



Monday 11th – Saturday 16th March 2019

Director: TBC

Audition: TBC

1st Rehearsal: 3rd February 2019

The play begins with three actresses in modern dress discussing the Brontës and their work. As they don their costumes they assume the identities of Emily, Charlotte and Anne. Without a chronological structure, the characters move back and forth in time recounting scenes from their lives both as documented and as imagined by the author. Throughout the play, the story of the three women and their brother is entwined with appearances from the characters from their writing. The play also shows the difficulties the writers had in their private and literary lives, not least of which was the inherent chauvinism entrenched in Victorian society, the hardship of life as an unmarried woman and the poor health of all four of them which lead to their untimely deaths.

### CHARACTERS

Charlotte

Emily

Anne

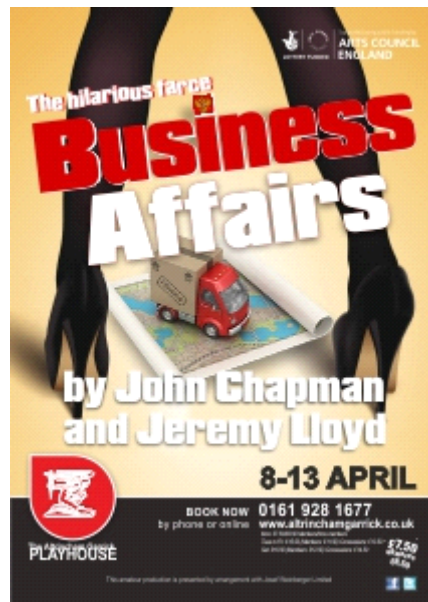
Bertha/Cathy

Branwell/Arthur Huntingdon and Heathcliffe

Patrick/Bell Nicholls/ Rochester and Mr Hege

## MAIN STAGE - PLAY 10

**Business Affairs** by John Chapman and Jeremy Lloyd



Monday 8th – Saturday 13th April 2019

Director: John Chidgey

Audition: 4th December 2018    1st Rehearsal: 10th March 2019

To smooth the impending sale of their failing haulage business to a pair of European businessmen, Stanley and Norman arrange to complete the deal in a suite at a smart London hotel. At the request of the new buyers, Kurt and Sven, they even arrange for the services of two “sophisticated ladies of the night” to help the new owners celebrate once the deal is completed. But Kurt and Sven have other ideas and intend to knock down the agreed price at the last minute.

All appears to be going to plan until Norman and Stanley’s wives Hilda and Rose arrive unexpectedly at the hotel to wish them luck. Things are then thrown into chaos when the escort girls suddenly cancel, and Kurt and Sven mistake Hilda and Rose as the evening’s “entertainment”. With the sale of the business at stake, the wives decide to play along - much to the consternation of their husbands - so when the real escort girls arrive due to a change in circumstances, pandemonium ensues and an ever-spiralling series of deceptions and lies keeps everyone on their toes.

### CHARACTERS

Stanley Bigley, 40s smartly dressed businessman

Norman Harris, 40s of a nervous disposition

Hilda Bigley, late 30s brisk and outgoing

Rose Harris, late 30s more reserved

Kurt, tanned, good looking 40s, German

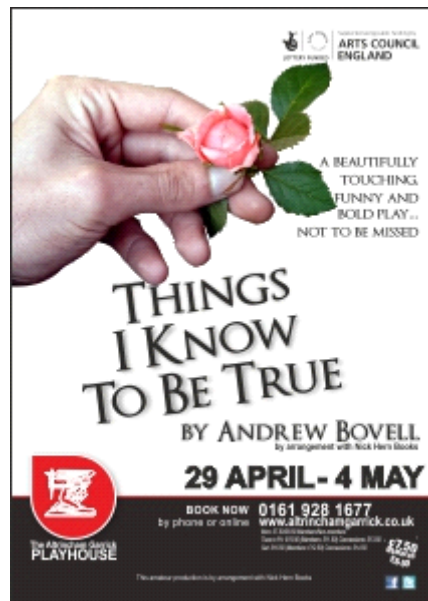
Sven, smart handsome 40s, Swede

Sabrina, English, big girl, lady of the night

Valerie, Australian, big girl, lady of the night

# MAIN STAGE - PLAY 11

**Things I Know to Be True** by Andrew Bovell



Monday 29th April – Saturday 4th May 2019

Director: Carole Carr

Audition: 8th January 2019    1st Rehearsal: 17th March 2019

The play begins with a monologue from Rosie Price, explaining that she'd been on a European getaway during her gap-year. She reveals that she had met a man called Emanuel while she was in Berlin, but found that he'd run away when she woke up one night - forcing her to return to Australia.

As Rosie returns home, we see the rest of the family come to meet her. While this is all happening, it is revealed that Pip, Rosie's elder sister, has decided to leave her husband and two children behind to live in Vancouver; her mother, Fran, disapproves, especially after she found out that Pip had been cheating. Fran is particularly disappointed, as she states that she saw a lot of herself in Pip. Later in the play, Pip has moved to Vancouver and had written a letter to Fran, finally emotionally connecting with her after a rather abusive childhood. It takes hundreds of miles for the two characters to finally be together emotionally.

In another angle of the plot, the Price's second child, Mia, then presenting as a man and using the name Mark, reveals that she is a transgender woman. This comes as a shock to the rest of the family, with Fran again being particularly displeased. She reveals that she wishes to move to Sydney to begin hormonal therapy. We do not see Mia presenting as a man again, but see her presenting as woman later.

Another sub-plot is that Fran had been saving around \$250,000 as a get-out fund for her relationship with Bob, stating that it is "hard to love someone for 30 years straight." She admits to Bob that she once thought of running away - like Pip had just done - but stayed together for the sake of their children. Fran then says that she now saves it for them to treat themselves. She asks Bob where he'd most like to go and he replies Kruger National Park. To his surprise, she agrees to go, yet they never do.

The final sub-plot of this play is centered around the younger son, Ben, and his father, Bob. Bob finds a European car parked

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outside; it turns out to be Ben's and Bob wants to know how he found the money, with Ben answering that he worked hard for it. This appears to be insignificant, until later in the play Ben returns home, sweating and speaking quickly. Rosie is the only person indoors at the time and she realizes quickly that Ben had been taking drugs. Bob and Fran then enter, now even more curious about his money situation. Bob asks Ben what drugs he'd taken, to which Ben replies, "It'd be easier to ask which ones I haven't." Bob then snaps, shouting and swearing at Ben - it is at this moment that Ben reveals that he had been skimming, and that's where he'd retrieved the money for the drugs and flashy car.

As all this is happening, however, tragedy strikes. It is revealed that Fran had been involved in a car crash and was pronounced dead on arrival. She passes away without reconciling with Mia, emotionally connecting with Pip in person, forgiving Ben and taking Bob to South Africa. The children return to Adelaide to meet Bob and Rosie for Fran's funeral.

## **CHARACTERS**

Mark Price, 32 an IT specialist

Fran Price, mother of the family, 57, a senior nurse

Pip Price, 34 an education department bureaucrat

Bob Price, 63 father of the family, a retrenched auto factory worker

Rosie Price, 19 doesn't know who she is or what she wants to be

Ben Price, 28 a financial services worker



MAIN STAGE - PLAY 12

# CATS

by Andrew Lloyd Webber

Monday 20th – Saturday 25th May 2019

Choreographer: Debbie Norris

Audition: TBC

1st Rehearsal: TBC

**Midnight. Not a sound from the pavement. Suddenly an explosion of music and lights reveals a larger-than-life junkyard.**

**Probing car lights tear across the darkened landscape of bottles and boxes, briefly catching the darting image of a running cat.**

**Tonight is the one special night each year when the tribe of Jellicle Cats reunites to celebrate who they are.**

**They emerge singing of their unique abilities and special traits. The cats are at first suspicious and proud, reluctant to allow an audience into their domain.**

**In “The Naming of Cats”, however, they begin to reveal themselves and that cats have three different names: the one the family uses daily, a more dignified name, and a secret name. It is the contemplation of these secret names that keeps felines deep in thought.**

## **CHARACTERS**

Victoria, Macavity, Skimbleshanks, Jennyanydots, Rum Tum Tugger, Mister Mistoffeles, Bustopher Jones, Mungojerrie, Rumpleteazer, Grizabella, Old Deuteronomy, Minkustrap, Rumpus Cat, Growltiger, Demeter and Bombalurina

**All Dancers**

# LAURISTON STUDIO - PLAY 'A'

Playhouse Creatures by April De Angelis



Wednesday 29th August – Tuesday 4th September 2018

Director: Barry Purves

Audition: 15th May 2018

1st Rehearsal: 22nd July 2018

The year is 1669 a bawdy and troublesome time. Theatres have just reopened after seventeen years of Puritan suppression. There is a surge in dramatic writing and the first English actresses appear on stage. Playhouse Creatures focuses on five of the most famous (Nell Gwyn, Elizabeth Farley, Rebecca Marshall, Doll Common and Mary Betterton) to provide a moving and often comic account of the precarious lives of Restoration actresses.

## CHARACTERS

Doll Common, over 60 a vagrant

Nell Gwynn, a 16 year old girl

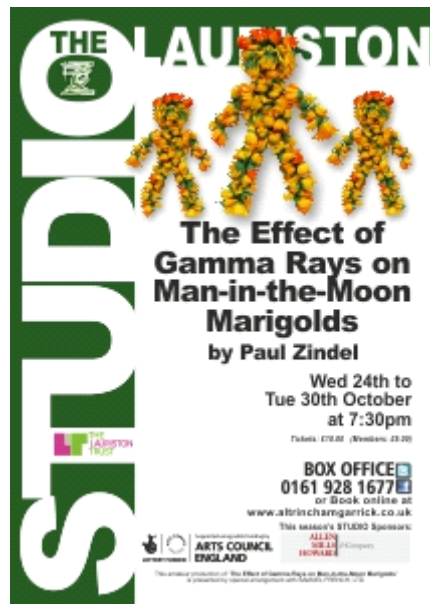
Mrs Farley, an actress in her early twenties

Mrs Betterton, an actress of fifty

Mrs Marshall, an actress in her late twenties

## LAURISTON STUDIO - PLAY 'B'

**The Effect of Gamma Rays on Man-in-the-Moon Marigolds** by Paul Zindel



Wednesday 24th – Tuesday 30th October 2018

Director: Mark Edgar

Audition: 17th July 2018

1st Rehearsal: 16th September 2018

**Middle-aged widow Beatrice Hunsdorfer and her daughters Ruth and Matilda are struggling to survive in a society they barely understand. Beatrice dreams of opening an elegant tea room but does not have the wherewithal to achieve her lofty goal. Epileptic Ruth is a rebellious adolescent, while shy but highly intelligent and idealistic Matilda seeks solace in her pets and school projects, including one which gives the film its title.**

**Matilda's science experiment is designed to show how small amounts of gamma radiation from cobalt-60 affect marigolds; some die, but others transform into strange but beautiful mutations completely unlike the original plants. Similarly, Matilda has managed to muddle through a grim existence in a dilapidated, debris-ridden house in a lower middle class neighborhood, learning to deal with her embarrassing mother while managing to avoid becoming anything like her, a future for which her sister seems fated.**

### **CHARACTERS**

Tillie

Beatrice

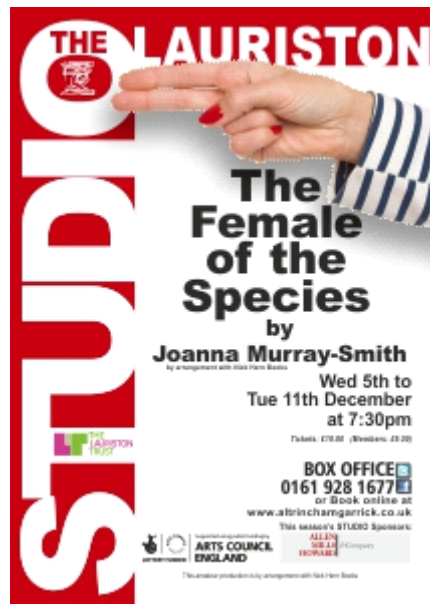
Ruth

Nanny

Janice Vickery

# LAURISTON STUDIO - PLAY 'C'

The Female of the Species by Joanna Murray-Smith



Wednesday 5th – Tuesday 11th December 2018

Director: Tracy Burns

Audition: 4th September 2018

1st Rehearsal: 28th October 2018

**Margot Mason is a feminist writer suffering from writer's block; she can not meet the deadlines for her next book. Molly Rivers, a deranged former student of Margot's, arrives unexpectedly at her country home with a gun and handcuffs Mason to her desk. Molly blames Margot for warping her mother's mind with her hit book The Cerebral Vagina. Following Margot's advice, Molly's mother gave Molly away as a baby so that she wouldn't be enslaved by motherhood and then killed herself.**

**Molly has had herself sterilized to preserve her creativity, only to be told by Margot that she has no talent.**

**Margot's daughter Tess arrives, exhausted from her house full of children. Margot has accused Tess of throwing her life away to embrace the role of housewife. Tess agrees that her mother should be shot. Tess's sensitive stockbroker husband, Bryan also arrives to debate the virtues of Margot's best-sellers, her inconsistent philosophy, and her inability to "mother". Even a macho taxi driver (Frank) and her flamboyantly gay publisher (Theo) comment on Margot's feminist failings.**

## **CHARACTERS**

Margot, late middle aged woman

Molly, young woman kookily dressed

Tess, attractive 30 something

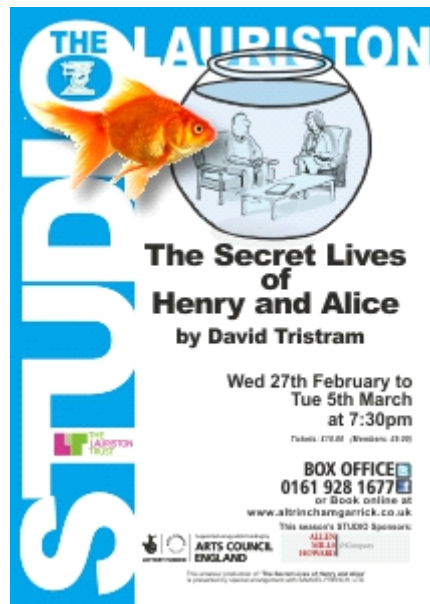
Bryan, handsome thirtyish husband of Tess

Frank, attractive, very masculine, early thirties

Theo, dapper, handsome, sixty year old

## LAURISTON STUDIO - PLAY 'D'

**The Secret Lives of Henry and Alice** by David Tristram



Wednesday 27th February – Tuesday 5th March 2019

Director: Nick Sample

Audition: 23rd October 2018

1st Rehearsal: 20th January 2019

**For Henry Smith - actor, raconteur, sporting hero, leading socialite, business tycoon, secret agent, casanova and acting President of the United States - life was rarely dull. For Alice Smith, housewife - life was rarely anything else. Secret passions explode. And two worlds which seem a million miles apart are suddenly on a collision course.**

### **CHARACTERS**

Henry, any age from 30 to 50 plus

Alice, any age but similar to Henry