

Altrincham Garrick Playhouse

Actor's Guide

2023 / 2024 SEASON



Altrincham Garrick
PLAYHOUSE

Introduction

Welcome to the Actor's Guide for the 2023/ 2024 Season at Altrincham Garrick Playhouse.

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

Once again, 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, but please keep in mind that these may change slightly, and at the moment this is a guide only.

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 2023/ 2024 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.

Best wishes,

Joseph Meighan
Artistic Director

Autumn/ Winter 2023

The Shawshank Redemption
Home, I'm Darling
Chitty Chitty Bang Bang
A Christmas Carol - A Ghost Story
Sleeping Beauty
The Girl on the Train

Spring/ Summer 2024

Let The Right One In
The Vicar of Dibley
Treasure Island
The Father
The Audience
Merrily We Roll Along

The Studio Season - A Series of All Female Plays

Bombshells
Pennyroyal
Unravelling the Ribbon
All The Little Lights
Di and Viv and Rose

The Shawshank Redemption

Adapted for the stage by Owen O'Neill and
Dave Johns

Thursday 14th - Saturday 23rd September 2023

Directed by Joseph Meighan

"Remember, hope is a good thing, maybe the best of things... and no good thing ever dies".

Based on the novella "Rita Hayworth and Shawshank Redemption" by Stephen King.

The Shawshank Redemption examines desperation, injustice, friendship and hope behind the claustrophobic bars of a maximum-security facility.

Despite protests of his innocence, Andy Dufresne is handed a double life sentence for the brutal murder of his wife and her lover. Incarcerated at the notorious Shawshank facility, he quickly learns that no one can survive alone.

Andy strikes up an unlikely friendship with the prison fixer Red, and things take a slight turn for the better. However, when Warden Stammers decides to bully Andy into subservience and exploit his talents for accountancy, a desperate plan is quietly hatched...

Auditions - Tuesday 27th June 2023

Rehearsal Start Date - Sunday 6th August 2023

Performances: Thursday 14th - Saturday 23rd September 2023

Thursday - Saturday & Tuesday - Saturday

(10 Performances with Matinees)

CHARACTERS:

ANDY DUFRESNE

Age: 30s

Andy is a fish out of water and in a place like the Shawshank, despite the brutality and injustice he receives, this quiet, very intelligent, softly spoken man manages to retain his humanity and his dignity, manipulate almost everyone in the Shank, exact his revenge on the Warden and break out by crawling through a sewer shit-pipe five football fields long.

RED

Age: 30s - 40s

Ellis Boyd Redding - aka RED. Before he came into the Shawshank he worked as a salesman in his father in-law's firm. Inside the Shawshank, Red is the 'guy who can get things' Over the years Red has learned almost every trick in the book to survive the Shank, which is why Andy is drawn to him.

WARDEN STAMMAS:

Age: 50s

Gregory Stammers. Described in the book as a "lean man with a tight wiry gut and the coldest eyes you ever saw". Stammers is a coward, a bully and a cheating hypocrite and will stop at nothing to get what he wants.

BRYAN HADLEY

Age: 30s - 40s

Bryan Hadley is the head prison warden at the Shank, described in the book as a "tall muscular shambling man with thinning brown hair, he sunburned easily and talked loud all the time and if you didn't move fast enough for him he'd cut you with his nightstick". There is not much subtlety to Hadley. He is in the pay of Stammers and is paid to watch his back at all times.

BROOKSIE:

Age: 60s

Brooks Hatlen. Described in the book as a "tough old con", Brooksie has been incarcerated in the Shank since the nineteen twenties. He became a model prisoner in the Shank and was in charge of the Library trolley. This was a status that Brooksie held on to for years, it defined who he was inside.

ENTWISTLE:

Age: 30s - 40s

Mert Entwistle is part of the furniture at the Shawshank. He's a yes sir, no sir, three bags full sir, Jobsworth. He follows in the scary shadow of his head warden Bryan Hadley who treats him like a slave.

BOGS DIAMOND:

Age: 40s

Described in the book as a "big hulking sister with a brooding expression". He is jealous of Andy, sees him as a challenge and tries his best to break him.

ROOSTER:

Age: 40s

Roger Coogan is serving two life sentences for beating his Stepson to death with a clawhammer when he threatened to tell his mother about Rooster's sexual advances. Rooster never wants to leave the Shank and glories in the fact that he's Bogs Diamond's 'Sister'.

RICO:

Age: 40s

Paul Rodriguez. Rico is originally from Portuguese stock and grew up in Detroit. His father was a Pastor and his mother a former prostitute who was 'saved' by his father's church. Rico is bi-polar. Rico is now a born again Christian.

TOMMY WILLIAMS:

Age: 20s

At twenty four years old, Tommy is the youngest con in the Shank and the best looking, which causes him problems with the 'Sisters'. He is a good kid at heart and is desperate to better himself and prove to his wife that he will be a good husband and father to their baby. Andy is a father figure to him and is helping him with his studies.

DAWKINS:

Age: 30s - 40s

Jordan Dawkins was born in Omaha Nebraska and is serving life for the murder of his two former associates. He has a short fuse and can be prone to violence but could be described as an ordinary decent criminal.

Home, I'm Darling

By Laura Wade

Monday 2nd - Saturday 7th October 2023

Directed by Su Mowat

Every marriage needs a little fantasy to keep it sparkling. But behind the gingham curtains, being a domestic goddess isn't as easy as it looks...

When Judy sets out to become the perfect 1950s housewife, the Martins are living the dream. Johnny has a beautiful wife, a beautiful home, and a promotion on the horizon.

Judy is revelling in the joys of domesticity; making cakes, cocktails, and homemade marmalade. But cracks are starting to appear in this beautiful façade which threatens their domestic bliss.

Home, I'm Darling was first staged at The National Theatre in 2018, winning the Olivier Award for Best New Comedy and was nominated for the UK Theatre's Best New Play.

Laura Wade's clever play doesn't so much sing the praises of the good old days as show us that "*nostalgia ain't what it used to be*".

Auditions - Tuesday 11th July 2023

Rehearsal Start Date - Sunday 27th August 2023

CHARACTERS:

Judy

Judy is the central character of the play and she is on stage for the duration of the show. This is a wonderful role with full on 1950s retro feel. Judy is trying desperately throughout the play to keep together the façade she has built of being the perfect 1950s housewife.

Gender: Female

Age: 35 - 45

Johnny

Judy's husband who initially seems supportive of his wife's choice to live as a 1950s housewife and to live with the 1950s façade. He too has adopted the fifties lifestyle and clothing.

Gender: Male

Age: 35 - 45

Fran

Judy's good friend and recently married to Marcus. She is interested in Judy's lifestyle and appears to admire hers and Johnny's perfect relationship. She attends Jive weekends with Judy, Johnny and Marcus.

Gender: Female

Age: 25 - 40

Sylvia

Judy's mother - she is horrified by Judy's choice to become a housewife having brought Judy up in a commune and to be a feminist.

Gender: Female

Age: 65+

Alex

Johnny's boss at the estate agency firm. She wears modern dress. She is seen as somewhat opposite to Judy in both her appearance and attitudes.

Gender: Female

Age: Late 20s to mid 30s

Marcus

Fran's husband and friends with Johnny and Judy. He dances Jive with Judy. Marcus is an interesting role who has some controversial views. He is probably the least sympathetic character.

Gender: Male

Age: 30s - 40s

CHITTY CHITTY BANG BANG

Music & Lyrics by The Sherman Brothers
Music by Special Arrangement with Song / ATV Publishing
Adapted for the Stage by Jeremy Sams
Based on the MGM Motion Picture

Monday 23rd - Sunday 29th October 2023
(7.30pm Monday - Saturday, 2.30pm Saturday and 4.00pm Sunday)

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

Altrincham Garrick Playhouse presents the most Fantasmagorical musical, **Chitty Chitty Bang Bang**, for October Half Term... a high-flying, fun-filled adventure for the entire family!

An eccentric inventor, Caractacus Potts sets about restoring an old race car from a scrap heap with the help of his children, Jeremy and Jemima. They soon discover the car has magical properties, including the ability to float and take flight. Trouble occurs when the evil Baron Bomburst desires the magic car for himself. The family joins forces with Truly Scrumptious and batty Grandpa Potts to outwit the dastardly Baron and Baroness and their villainous henchman, the Child Catcher.

One of the world's favourite musicals, **Chitty Chitty Bang Bang** will have audiences of all ages flying high with its mixture of madness, intrigue and exuberance. Based on the beloved 1968 film version of Ian Fleming's children's book, and featuring an unforgettable score by the Sherman Brothers (*Mary Poppins*), **Chitty Chitty BangBang** is one family-friendly show that you'll find "Truly Scrumptious."

Auditions for Children/ Jeremy & Jemima / Adult Ensemble - Sunday 22nd July 2023
Auditions for Principals - Tuesday 18th July 2023
Rehearsal Start Date - Sunday 10th September 2023

CHARACTERS:

Caractacus Potts

An eccentric, brilliant, English inventor and loving father and son. His inventions and children are his life.

Gender: Male

Age: 35 - 50

Truly Scrumptious

Daughter of the famous candy maker, Lord Scrumptious. Strong and independent, but gentle. Falls in love with Caractacus.

Gender: Female

Age: 25 to 40

Grandpa Potts

Caractacus Potts's father, who is a former war hero. He loves to tell old War stories. A sort of second father to Jeremy and Jemima.

Gender: Male

Age: 60 to 75

Baron Bomburst

Tyrannical ruler of Vulgaria and a lover of toys. A man-child, he is very immature, needy, and whiney.

Gender: Male

Age: 40 +

Baroness Bomburst

Head of the Vulgarian Parliament and a hater of children. Tyrannical and dramatic.

Gender: Female

Age: 40 +

The Childcatcher

He makes sure that Vulgaria is child-free. Evil and manipulative. Hates children almost as much as the Baroness.

Gender: Male

Age: 40 +

The Toymaker

With all children outlawed in Vulgaria, this toy-making genius only works for the child-like Baron. Smart but frightened.

Gender: Male

Age: 45 to 65

Jeremy Potts

Caractucus's son. An adventurous boy with a vivid imagination. A total child at heart who loves his family.

Gender: Male

Age: 10 to 13

Jemima Potts

Caractucus's daughter. She is an adventurous girl with a vivid imaginations. A total child at heart who loves her family.

Gender: Female

Age: 10 to 13

Boris

One member of the two-person Vulgarian gang that works for the Baron and Baroness. Though he is not very smart, he is the leader.

Gender: Male

Age: 35 to 45

Goran

One member of the two-person Vulgarian gang that works for the Baron and Baroness. A dumb oaf.

Gender: Male

Age: 35 to 45

Lord Scrumptious

Owner of the Scrumptious Sweet Factory. Extremely busy, important, and decisive.

Gender: Male

Age: 40 to 55

Adult Ensemble

Inventors/ Soldiers/ Vulgarian Townspeople/ English Grand Prix Crowd/ Fun Fair Crowd

Age: 18 +

Children's Ensemble

Vulgarian Sewer Children

Age: 9 - 14

A Christmas Carol - A Ghost Story

Adapted by Mark Gatiss

Monday 20th - Saturday 25th November 2023

(Including a Saturday matinee)

Directed by Barry Purves

A winter ghost story? Bah humbug!

It's Christmas Eve. As the cold, bleak night draws in, the penny-pinching Ebenezer Scrooge is confronted by the spirit of his former business partner, Jacob Marley. Bound in chains as punishment for a lifetime of greed, the unearthly figure explains it isn't too late for Scrooge to change his miserly ways in order to escape the same fate. But first he'll have to face three more eerie encounters...

Mark Gatiss' spine-tingling adaptation is faithful to the heart and spirit of Charles Dickens' much-loved festive ghost story – with an emphasis on the ghostly.

Auditions - Tuesday 15th August 2023

Rehearsal Start Date - Sunday 15th October 2023

CHARACTERS:

- 12 Actors to play over 50 roles

Ebenezer Scrooge

Jacob Marley

Fred

Caroline

The Ghost of Christmas Past

The Ghost of Christmas Present

The Ghost of Christmas Yet To Come

Bob Cratchit

Mrs Cratchit

The Narrator

Tiny Tim

Belle

Miss Dimple

Mrs Boone

Young Scrooge

Mr Thrumphull

Fezziwig

Mrs Fezziwig

Young Marley

Father

Child

Belinda Cratchit

Peter Cratchit

Edwin Cratchit

Grace Cratchit

Martha Cratchit

Helmsman

Caroline

Topper

Poll

Miss Chokepear

Mr Chokepear

Mr Grub

Miss Grub

Ignorance

Want

Totterall

Old Joe

Mrs Dilber

Mrs Chitty

Mr Boswick

Mrs Boswick

Boy

SLEEPING BEAUTY

Directed by Dan Ellis
Musical Direction by Peter England
Choreography by Gemma Sales

Performance Schedule:

Friday 8th December - 7.30pm
Saturday 9th December - 1.30pm & 5.30pm
Sunday 10th December - 1.30pm & 5.30pm
Thursday 14th December - 7.30pm
Friday 15th December - 7.30pm
Saturday 16th December - 1.30pm & 5.30pm
Sunday 17th December - 1.30pm & 5.30pm
Thursday 21st December - 7.30pm
Friday 22nd December - 7.30pm
Saturday 23rd December - 1.30pm & 5.30pm
Wednesday 27th December - 1.30pm & 5.30pm
Thursday 28th December - 1.30pm & 5.30pm
Friday 29th December - 1.30pm & 5.30pm
Saturday 30th December - 1.30pm & 5.30pm
Sunday 31st December - 1.30pm
Tuesday 2nd January - 1.30pm & 5.30pm

Step into a fairy-tale world of magical castles, bewitched spinning wheels and an enchanted sleep that only true love's kiss can break...

Once upon a time in a land far away, a beautiful Princess is given a twenty-first birthday present by her evil aunt; the wicked Enchantress – Carabosse! By pricking her finger on an enchanted spinning wheel, she is placed under a cruel curse and forced to sleep for 100 years.

Packed with magic, songs, comedy, dance, special effects and more...
This is the dreamiest Garrick Panto of them all!!

Auditions (Principals): Tuesday 5th September 2023
Auditions (Ensemble): Tuesday 11th September 2023
Rehearsals: Sunday 29th October 2023

CHARACTERS:

FAIRY NUFF

The Good Fairy

CARABOSSE

The Wicked Fairy

LURGY

Carabosse's evil number two

PRINCESS BEAUTY

The beautiful princess who is placed under a spell

QUEEN DOREEN

Our lovable and cheeky Dame

CHESTER THE JESTER

The hapless, hopeless, but very sweet court jester

PRINCE FREDERICK THE FIRST

The most handsome Prince in all the land

ADULT ENSEMBLE/ DANCERS

CHILDREN ENSEMBLE/ DANCERS

The Girl on the Train

Based on the bestselling novel by Paula Hawkins and
DreamWorks film

Adapted by Rachel Wagstaff and Duncan Abel

Monday 15th - Saturday 20th January 2024

Directed by John Cunningham

Rachel Watson longs for a different life.

Her only escape is the perfect couple she watches through the train window every day, happy and in love. Or so it appears. When Rachel learns that the woman she's been secretly watching has suddenly disappeared, she finds herself as a witness and even a suspect in a thrilling mystery in which she will face bigger revelations than she could ever have anticipated.

Adapted from Paula Hawkins' novel – an international phenomenon selling over twenty million copies worldwide, this gripping new play will keep you guessing until the final moment.

A suspense mystery thriller!

Auditions - Tuesday 26th September 2023

Rehearsal Start Date - Sunday 3rd December 2023

CHARACTERS:

RACHEL WATSON

A demanding role and a huge part, since she is never off stage. Unstable for most of the play but works her way towards an understanding of herself and her history.

Gender: Female

Age: 20s - 30s

ANNA WATSON

Appears to be in the perfect relationship but as the narrative unfolds, we find serious conflicts between her and Tom. She is initially annoyed by Rachel but becomes an ally at the end.

Gender: Female

Age: 20s - 30s

MEGHAN HIPWELL

The object of Rachel's admiration and of her longing to be like her. But in fact Meghan is a deeply conflicted and disturbed woman.

Gender: Female

Age: 20s - 30s

TOM WATSON

Presents as a pleasant, caring, straightforward man, but is in effect devious and a serial abuser of women.

Gender: Male

Age: 20s – 40s

SCOTT HIPWELL

Rather out of his depth with Meghan, quick tempered and will resort to physical violence.

Gender: Male

Age: 20s – 40s

KAMAL ABDIC

Meghan's psychiatrist and her lover. He becomes a suspect in the murder of Meghan. (We are looking for a male actor of Asian or Middle Eastern heritage to play this role.)

Gender: Male

Age: 20s – 40s

D I GASKILL

Methodical, able to keep an open mind, not your conventional detective.

Gender: Male

Age: 30s – 50s

Let The Right One In

A Stage Adaptation by Jack Thorne

Based on the Swedish novel and film by John Ajvide Lindqvist

Monday 5th - Saturday 10th February 2024

Directed by Joseph Meighan

Performed by The Garrick Ensemble

“Are you going to invite me in? ...Can I come in?”

Oskar is a bullied, lonely, teenage boy living with his mother on a housing estate at the edge of town, when a spate of sinister killings rocks the neighbourhood.

Eli is the young girl who has just moved in next door. She doesn't go to school and never leaves the flat by day. Sensing in each other a kindred spirit, the two become devoted friends. What Oskar doesn't know is that Eli has been a teenager for a very long time...

A dark and visceral coming-of-age vampire love story, based on the acclaimed novel by John Ajvide Lindqvist and cult film.

Jack Thorne's adaptation of ***Let The Right One In*** premiered in June 2013 at the Dundee Rep Theatre in a production by the National Theatre of Scotland, before transferring to London's Royal Court Theatre in November 2013. It won the South Bank Sky Arts Award for Theatre in 2014.

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 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 10th October 2023

Rehearsal Start Date - Wednesday 3rd January 2024

(A few rehearsals will take place in December)

CHARACTERS:

Eli

Gender: Female

Eli can seem somewhat cold and distant, but her relationship with Oskar exposes a warmer side of her personality. The actor playing Eli needs to be extremely agile and hard working. This is a wonderful part quite unlike any other but requires a strong actor with a dance/gym background due to the physical aspects of the part.

Oskar

Gender: Male

A lonely, bullied young boy. His troubled home life and struggles with school render him quiet and vulnerable. However, his relationship with Eli draws out a soft, playful, and also resilient aspect of his character. We watch Oscar blossom into who he is capable of being when free from the control of those who torment him.

Halmberg

Gender: Any

Police chief investigating the murders which are a little more than they ever expected to have to deal with in this sleepy town.

Oskar's Mum

Gender: Female

Only has Oskar in her life but struggles to look after him or herself and still has anger and resentment towards Oskar's father which she struggles to hide.

Hakan

Gender: Male

Appears to be Eli's guardian or parent but this is not the case. Hakan loves Eli very deeply, and consequently kills people for blood to feed her, so is condemned to a half-life and desolate existence.

Avila

Gender: Male

PE teacher. Recognises Oskar's troubles, but finds it difficult to help him.

Jonny

Gender: Male

School bully, takes pleasure in making Oskar's life miserable.

Micke

Gender: Male

Jonny's sidekick, sympathises with Oskar but too weak to stand up to Jonny.

Kurt

Gender: Any

Shopkeeper, the first to sense Oskar's pain and tries to reach out to him.

Oskar's Dad & Jocke

Gender: Male

Estranged from Oskar and his mum, finds it difficult to relate to his son. Doubles with Jocke. A passer by who tries to help Eli but gets fatally attacked. Strong physical actor required.

Nils & Stefan

Gender: Any

Hospital receptionist doubled with train guard.

Janne & Torkel

Gender: Male

Partner of Oskar's Dad, one short scene doubled with Torkel who is fatally attacked in one scene. Strong physical actor required.

Jimmy

Gender: Male

Bully. Brother to Jonny.

Small Ensemble

The Vicar of Dibley

A stage play by Ian Gower and
Paul Carpenter

Adapted from the original TV series by Richard Curtis and
Paul Mayhew-Archer.

Monday 26th February - Saturday 2nd March 2024

(Including a Saturday matinee)

Directed by Pete Brassington

Based on the much-loved BBC sitcom, this stage adaptation brings a selection of the best episodes of this multi-award-winning show to the Altrincham Garrick Playhouse.

When the new vicar arrives at the sleepy English village of Dibley, the last thing the locals are expecting is a woman. But the irrepressibly cheerful Reverend Geraldine Granger soon wins over the hearts and minds of her flock.

Featuring everyone's favourite eccentric cast of characters including star-crossed lovers Alice and Hugo, colonically-challenged farmer Owen, pompous chairman David Horton, and will Jim Trott be there? ...no, no, no, no, no...YES!!

The Vicar of Dibley is a heart-warming comedy and full of larger-than-life characters that audiences will immediately love.

With kind permission of Tiger Aspect Productions
In Support of Comic Relief

Auditions - Tuesday 21st November 2023

Rehearsal Start Date - Sunday 21st January 2024

CHARACTERS:

REVEREND GERALDINE GRANGER

Geraldine is the bouncy, bubbly, curvy female Vicar of Dibley. She has a keen sense of moral correctness and will stand up for injustice; she also has a deep love of the people of Dibley despite their many flaws! She has an even greater love of chocolate and ice-cream... especially when upset or angered and she would love to find a male partner.

FRANK PICKLE

Frank is very "English" in appearance: highly eccentric in both manner and dress, and outstandingly well-spoken. However, whilst he speaks exceptionally well linguistically, most of the Dibley inhabitants wish he would speak a little - no - a lot less, and has been known to bore people to sleep when he speaks!

JIM TROTT

Jim has a very unfortunate stutter, insofar as he precedes almost every statement with "No, no, no, no, no...". Needless to say the other residents find this annoying, time-consuming and confusing when trying to gain a straight answer from him! This aside, Jim spends a lot of time generally dithering anyway and so rarely manages to achieve much.

DAVID HORTON

David is one of those people who enjoys being in charge and assumes he is: he might even be described as being a bit power-trippy. He's a pompous, Cambridge educated, upper-class, millionaire and although divorced, an upholder of stern traditional family values especially his own. He longs for tradition, law and order and the status quo.

HUGO HORTON

Poor Hugo is the veritable puppet of his controlling father. He was brought up only by David for the majority of his childhood, and it becomes quickly apparent that that upbringing was emotionally abusive. He aims to avoid conflict, and always aims to please, and does not know how to express his feelings towards Alice.

ALICE TINKER

Alice is a few sandwiches (and cakes, and pork pies, and sausage rolls...) short of a picnic. She has a heart of gold but doesn't understand many of the common issues of life, nor Geraldine's jokes. She's very sensitive and easily upset - but too thick and vague to be easily offended!

OWEN NEWITT

Owen is the local farmer. He regularly suffers with gastric health complaints and describes these in disgustingly graphic detail. He's a bachelor with broad tastes... he often hints at both desiring after and having had previous relationships with animals, as well as women. Like many of the other male residents of the village, he lusts after Geraldine.

LETITIA CROPLEY

Letitia is a very caring lady who longs to provide nourishing refreshment and sustenance to her close friends and neighbours, and ensures the church is full of attractive flower arrangements during Sunday worship. The problem is her creativity could be described as rather eccentric: her mourning flower arrangement included pineapple! Her palette is a bit odd too, as she's created countless dishes which require, shall we say, an acquired taste?

WOMAN

The Woman has two lines at the end of the play and objects to Alice and Hugo getting married and then realises she is at the wrong wedding.

CHILDREN (aged 6 - 8 years old)

Dressed as Teletubbies for Alice and Hugo's Wedding.

Treasure Island

By Robert Louis Stevenson
Adapted by Bryony Lavery

Wednesday 3rd - Sunday 14th April 2024

Directed by Joseph Meighan

Avast there, me hearties! It's time to set sail with the Altrincham Garrick Playhouse this Easter Holiday for an action-packed, swashbuckling adventure on the high seas to **TREASURE ISLAND!**

It's a dark and stormy night. Jim, the inn-keeper's granddaughter, opens the door to a terrifying stranger. At the old sailor's feet sits a huge sea-chest, full of secrets. Jim invites him in - and her dangerous voyage begins...

Gathering a motley crew of sailors and pirates, Jim sets sail on the mighty Hispaniola bound for a lost island and untold fortunes. The ship's charming cook, Long John Silver quickly befriends Jim but as the island draws near, danger lurks beneath the surface. Will Jim and her friends find the buried gold, or will the one-legged pirate be the death of them all?

This thrilling new adaptation by Bryony Lavery of **Treasure Island** premiered at the National Theatre, London, in December 2014.

Robert Louis Stevenson's classic story of murder, money and mutiny is the perfect treat for all the Family! Oh... and feel free to bring your parrot along too!

Auditions - Tuesday 9th January 2024

Rehearsal Start Date - Sunday 18th February 2024

CHARACTERS:

Jim Hawkins Gender: Female Age: 18 - 25

Jim has been living and working in her grandma's pub for as long as she can remember. Naturally resourceful, intelligent and adventurous, she yearns for a more exciting life. Treasure Island is Jim's coming-of-age story and how her life will be defined.

Grandma Hawkins Gender: Female Age: 50+

Grandma Hawkins is the doughty landlady of the Admiral Benbow Inn, and she has to be, with her dodgy clients. Her relationship with Jim is the springboard for the adventure, and provides the 'heart' in the story that motivates her grand-daughter.

Doctor Livesey Gender: Female Age: 30+

Magistrate and doctor, used to having their own way

Squire Trelawney Gender: Male Age: 30+

Headstrong and posh, the Squire is tempted by the money and an overwhelming sense of superiority.

Red Ruth	Gender: Female	Age: 30+
A salty sea dog, loyal to the bloody end.		
Job Anderson	Gender: Male	Age: 25+
Sailor, who stands up to John Silver and dies honourably and gruesomely.		
Lucky Micky	Gender: Male	Age: 30+
A treacherous villager and sailor, driven by self-interest and the easiest way.		
Silent Sue	Gender: Female	Age: 30+
Never to be found too far from Red Ruth, her apparent timidity finds voice in her expressive and over the top gestures. Lots of comic and tragic potential.		
Bill Bones	Gender: Male	Age: 40+
Haunted by his past, Bill Bones has to keep moving to stay alive. But he knows his time will come...		
Black Dog	Gender: Male	Age: 30+
Scuttling and scary, black through to the very heart. There is no redeeming a pirate like Black Dog.		
Blind Pew	Gender: Male	Age: 50+
A terrifying villain, half-dementor, half-Quasimodo.		
Captain Smollett	Gender: Male	Age: 30+
An honourable sailor, whose untimely death threatens our heroes' very existence.		
Long John Silver	Gender: Male	Age: 35+
Loveable rogue or bloodthirsty villain? John Silver has to manage to be both things, and command attention as the ship's cook, and the pirate ringleader.		
Joan the Goat	Gender: Female	Age: 30+
A fighter, a brawler, a lover. Not a lover. Just a fighter and a brawler. And a pirate.		
Israel Hands	Gender: Any	Age: 25+
Ideally speaks a non-English language. An enigmatic character who you might assume to be bad to the bone... but who has some surprises up their sleeve.		
Dick the Dandy	Gender: Male	Age: 30+
Pirate, used to the better things in life.		
Killigrew the Kind	Gender: Male	Age: 30+
A large hand and gentle natured murderer, who finally gets a moment of redemption.		
George Badger	Gender: Male	Age: 30+
A pirate, who likes to grumble and stir up trouble. Notices things a bit quicker than others.		
Grey	Gender: Male	Age: 40+
A hapless and forgettable sailor, of somewhat mystic nature.		
Captain Flint (puppeteer)	Gender: Any	Age: 18+
The parrot, Captain Flint, has lines and will engage with the audience as it flies around. A great opportunity for interaction and physical comedy.		
Ben Gunn	Gender: Male	Age: 20s
Abandoned cabin boy, who has gone wild on the island, Ben Gunn lives in fear of the pirates and needs to summon up all his courage to confront them.		

THE FATHER
By Florian Zeller
Translated by Christopher Hampton

Monday 6th - Saturday 11th May 2024
Directed by Charlie Tomlinson

The Father (Le Père) is a play about a man called André. Now 80 years old, André was once a tap dancer. He lives with his daughter Anne and her husband Antoine. Or was he an engineer whose daughter Anne lives in London with her new lover, Pierre? The thing is, he is still wearing his pyjamas, and he can't find his watch. He is starting to wonder if he's losing control...

A sobering and realistic family story, and an unsentimental, emotionally intense look at the world through the eyes of a man experiencing dementia.

The Father, in this English translation by Christopher Hampton, was commissioned by the Ustinov Studio, Theatre Royal, Bath and premiered in October 2014. The production transferred to the Tricycle Theatre, London, in May 2015, and subsequently to Wyndham's Theatre in the West End. *The Father* was awarded the Moliere Award for Best Play and the Olivier and Tony Awards for Best Actor. In 2020 a film version called ***The Father*** was released starring Anthony Hopkins and Olivia Colman, which won the Academy Award for Best Adapted Screenplay, while Hopkins won the Academy Award for Best Actor.

Rehearsal Start Date - Sunday 24th March 2024

CHARACTERS:

Anne

André

Man

Woman

Laura

Pierre

***THIS PRODUCTION WAS POSTPONED FROM
FEBRUARY 2023 AND THE ORIGINAL CAST WILL BE
PLAYING THE ROLES.***

***NO AUDITIONS WILL TAKE PLACE UNLESS ROLES
BECOME AVAILABLE AGAIN.***

The Audience

By Peter Morgan

Monday 20th - Saturday 25th May 2024

(Including a Saturday matinee)

Directed by Mike Shaw

“Every week the Queen of the United Kingdom has a private audience with her Prime Minister. It is not an obligation. It is a courtesy extended by the Prime Minister to bring her Majesty up to speed.”

Spanning sixty years from the 1950s through to the 21st century, Peter Morgan’s ***The Audience*** vividly illustrates what might have happened between the late Queen Elizabeth II and her Prime Ministers behind closed doors during their weekly meetings.

From young mother to grandmother, these private audiences chart the arc of the second Elizabethan Age. Politicians come and go through the revolving door of electoral politics, while Queen Elizabeth II remained constant, waiting to welcome her next Prime Minister.

The Audience has received sell out runs in both London and on Broadway. Altrincham Garrick Playhouse are thrilled to present this multi-award winning play by the acclaimed writer Peter Morgan (“The Queen” and Netflix’s “The Crown”).

Auditions - Tuesday 20th February 2024

Rehearsal Start Date - Sunday 14th April 2024

CHARACTERS:

Queen Elizabeth II Gender: Female Age: 50+
She is proud of the nation she rules and the Commonwealth over which she presides. She is intelligent and kind and goes out of her way to put her Prime Ministers at ease during their meetings. The actor will need to portray Elizabeth between the ages of 25 and 86.

Sir Anthony Eden Gender: Male Age: 50+
Anthony Eden is the Queen's second Prime Minister. He is overworked and takes medicine to give him energy to keep going.

Margaret Thatcher Gender: Female Age: 50+
Margaret Thatcher is Queen Elizabeth's eighth Prime Minister. She is a tough, formidable woman, and clearly finds it hard to have to defer to the Queen. She has risen to the top in a male-dominated political world, where no other woman has.

Winston Churchill Gender: Male Age: 60+
Winston Churchill is Queen Elizabeth's first Prime Minister. He is used to dealing with men in positions of power and influence. When he comes to his first private meeting with the Queen, he is stiff and formal.

Gordon Brown Gender: Male Age: 50+
Gordon Brown is Queen Elizabeth's eleventh Prime Minister. He is dour and grumpy. Brown was not elected but took over the office when Tony Blair, his predecessor, resigned. Brown greatly respects the Queen and the role she has held with dignity for so many years. Scottish accent required.

The Equerry Gender: Male Age: 50+
The Equerry is the Queen's servant and formerly served in the British Armed Forces. He announces the arrival of the Prime Ministers for the private meeting each week. He is respectful of the Queen and admires her greatly. He also often warns her of potential problems. The Equerry plays a key role in acting as the narrator of the show.

Young Elizabeth Gender: Female Age: 12
The young Elizabeth is future heir to the throne as her father has just been made King. Her life has changed as the family has moved from their home, into Buckingham Palace. She does not understand why she must now call her father 'Sir' and why she cannot be alone with her friends. She hates that they have to call her by her official title and curtsy to her as she now feels alienated from girls her own age.

Harold Wilson Gender: Male Age: 50+
Harold Wilson is the Queen's fifth Prime Minister and is from a working class background, which he is keen to emphasise. Wilson has a photographic memory and amazes the Queen with his ability to memorise whole pages of text. Yorkshire accent required.

John Major Gender: Male Age: 45+
John Major is Queen Elizabeth's ninth Prime Minister. Major believes that the monarchy should be more accessible to the public. He is gloomy and depressed as he does not like the pressure and notoriety that comes with being Prime Minister.

David Cameron Gender: Male Age: 40s
David Cameron is the Queen's twelfth Prime Minister. He is full of energy and charisma. Although he respects her views, Cameron does not understand the Queen's devotion to the Commonwealth and tries to make her understand that, while they have such ties, it is difficult to forge future alliances.

Bobo MacDonald Gender: Female Age: 50+
Bobo MacDonald is Young Elizabeth's nanny and later was a dresser for the Queen. Scottish accent required.

Ensemble

Merrily We Roll Along
Book by George Furth
Music and Lyrics by Stephen Sondheim

Monday 17th - Saturday 22nd June 2024

(Including a Saturday matinee)

Directed by Joseph Meighan

Musical Direction by Mark Goggins

“It's our time, breathe it in... Worlds to change and worlds to win”

Spanning three decades in the entertainment business and told in reverse order, ***Merrily We Roll Along*** charts the turbulent relationship between composer Franklin Shepard and his two lifelong friends — writer Mary and lyricist & playwright Charley.

A powerful, moving, thrilling and compelling fable about friendship, compromise and the high price of success.

An inventive, cult-classic ahead of its time, ***Merrily We Roll Along*** features some of Stephen Sondheim's most celebrated, personal and beautiful songs including “Good Thing Going”, “Not A Day Goes By” and “Our Time”.

This unmissable Musical Comedy is a spirited and cautionary tale for anyone who has ever pursued a dream.

Originally opening on Broadway in 1981, and having countless revivals and and revisions along the way, ***Merrily We Roll Along*** found great success in 2013 when London's Menier Chocolate Factory produced the production, which subsequently transferred to the Harold Pinter Theatre to critical acclaim - the most five-star reviews in West End history - and winning the Olivier Award for Best Musical. It has most recently returned to Broadway, starring Daniel Radcliffe.

Auditions - Sunday 17th March 2024

Rehearsal Start Date - Sunday 5th May 2024

CHARACTERS:

Franklin Shepard

His character ranges from an influential songwriter and film producer to an innocent, bright-eyed optimist in NYC. Talented and handsome but misled, tragic, and tormented.

Gender: Male Age: 25 to 40

Charley Kringas

A stubborn, intense man with average looks. He ranges from a successful lyricist and Frank's long-time friend to a bright-eyed optimist creating his own opportunities in NYC.

Gender: Male Age: 25 to 40

Mary Flynn

A middle-aged theatre critic. Her character arcs to the youthful, gorgeous 20-something living in NYC with best friend Frank. Sardonic, bitter, and witty.

Gender: Female Age: 30 to 45

Trio - Pasquale, Giuseppe and Ciccio.

Meg Kincaid

Starry-eyed starlet who is naive and ambitious. At the start of the show, she is Frank's newest fling.

Gender: Female Age: 18 to 25

Gussie Carnegie

The flamboyant, self-invented actress. Her character begins at the end of her relationship with Frank, but throughout the show we see her grow more and more helplessly in love with him. Greedy and seductive.

Gender: Female Age: 25 to 35

Joe Josephson

Big-talking Broadway producer and husband to Gussie. He later becomes pathetic and poor.

Gender: Male Age: 35 to 50

Beth

A naive and insecure middle-American who is the mother of Frank's son. She arcs from a down-trodden housewife at her wits end to a hopeless romantic at the beginning of her engagement to the man of her dreams.

Gender: Female Age: 25 to 35

Ensemble

Party Guests, Artists, Students, Narrators

The Studio Season 2023/ 2024
A Series of All Female Stories

BOMBSHELLS

By Joanna Murray-Smith

Tuesday 26th September - Sunday 1st October 2023
Directed by Carole Carr

Six women on the edge - of greatness, of love, and their sanity.

These monologues showcase six women balancing their inner and outer lives with humour, poignancy and depth. Meet Meryl who fears she is the world's worst mother; Tiggy who has taken refuge in her local cacti-appreciation society; Mary who refuses to be upstaged by her arch-nemesis; Theresa who couldn't be more excited to be in her wedding dress; Winsome who has grown tired of being 'one of the widows'; and, finally, Zoe who wants you to know that despite what you've heard, she's back and better than ever!

Delve into each character's life as they bare their most urgent wishes and thoughts - at times hilarious and, at others, heart breaking.

Bombshells tells riveting personal stories that everyone can find themselves in, for better or worse...

Auditions - Tuesday 4th July 2023
Rehearsal Start Date - Sunday 20th August 2023

CHARACTERS:

Meryl Louise Davenport - 30s - A mother of three and a wife

Tiggy Entwhistle - 40s - Her husband has left her for a younger woman

Mary O'Donnell - 18 - 25 - School Girl

Theresa McTerry - 20s - 30s - A Bride

Winsome Webster - 60s - A Widow

Zoe Struthers - 40s - A Diva!

PENNYROYAL

By Lucy Roslyn

Tuesday 23rd - Sunday 28th January 2024
Directed by Celia Bonner

"I think of my body sometimes like it's stubborn. We're not good friends. Like it's a spooky hotel, and I'm a ghost haunting it. 'Cause you don't live in a hotel, you just pass through."

When Daphne is diagnosed with Premature Ovarian Insufficiency at the age of nineteen, her sister Christine steps in to help in the only way she knows how: by donating her eggs. For a while, the world seems corrected. But as the years go by – and Daphne sets out on the long road of IVF – the sisters' relationship begins to twist.

Pennyroyal is a heartrending new play by Lucy Roslyn about sisterhood and motherhood, enduring love, and regrets many years in the making.

Inspired by Edith Wharton's 1922 novella *The Old Maid*, it premiered at the Finborough Theatre, London, in 2022.

Auditions - Tuesday 17th October 2023
Rehearsal Start Date - Sunday 10th December 2023

CHARACTERS:

Daphne (Daff) - Christine's Sister - 20s

Christine - Daff's Sister - 30s

UNRAVELLING THE RIBBON

By Mary Kelly and Maureen White

Tuesday 19th - Sunday 24th March 2024
Directed by TBA

The touching - and frequently hilarious - story of three women whose lives are touched by breast cancer.

Rose is thirty-four and lives on a farm with her husband and two children. She worries she may have married too young. Lola is fifty and wants to sell her home. Nobody ever calls and she has stopped opening her post. Lyndsey is eleven and her best friend has stopped sitting beside her in art class.

When breast cancer touches their lives, everything starts to unravel - Rose's marriage falls apart, Lola gets arrested and Lyndsey hides a cooked ham in a thorn bush...

A moving and powerful tale of friendship and survival.

Auditions - Tuesday 28th November 2023
Rehearsal Start Date - Sunday 11th February 2024

CHARACTERS:

Rose - 34 years of age. A hairdresser who lives on a farm with her husband, Mike, and her children, Lyndsey and Malcolm

Lyndsey - 11 years of age. Rose's daughter. We will cast an actor above the age of 18, but who can portray younger on stage, for this role.

Lola - Lola is in her 50s.

ALL THE LITTLE LIGHTS

By Jane Upton

Tuesday 23rd - Sunday 28th April 2024

Directed by Meg Brassington

*"I know you want what everyone else wants. A family. A home. But you'll never have it.
Cos of what's inside you."*

In a world where nobody wants you, what would you do to survive?

Joanne and Lisa were like sisters. Then Lisa left. Now they're back together for one last birthday party by the railway tracks. But can they salvage their friendship, or will ghosts from the past haunt them forever?

Poignant, moving and darkly funny, All the Little Lights is the searing story of young girls slipping through the cracks in society, desperately searching for friendship, family and themselves.

Auditions - Tuesday 30th January 2024

Rehearsal Start Date - Sunday 10th March 2024

CHARACTERS:

Amy - 12 years old - The youngest and newest member of the friendship group. Amy is naive, silly and energetic.

Joanne - 16 years old - The oldest of the friendship group and misses Lisa, who she has been friends with for a long time. She wishes she could see Lisa more. Joanne is very direct.

Lisa - 15 years old - Second oldest of the friendship group and longest friend of Joanne. She has been away for a while due to being in foster care. She has had to grow up quicker than expected, and comes across as the most mature.

We will cast actors above the ages of 18, but who can portray younger on stage, for these roles.

DI AND VIV AND ROSE

By Amelia Bullmore

Tuesday 4th - Sunday 9th June 2024

Directed by Carole Carr

“How do you want to live here? I mean we could come and go and lead separate lives. Or we could really live together. What do you think?”

Three women are thrown together in their late teens. They are very different people but it isn't long before they are living in each other's pockets. Life is a blast and together they can do anything. But life also has unexpected plans for them...

A funny, moving and surprising story of friendship's impact on life, and life's impact on friendship.

Auditions - Tuesday 12th March 2024

Rehearsal Start Date - Sunday 28th April 2024

CHARACTERS:

Rose

Fun, bubbly and usually the impulsive instigator of “plans”. Rather promiscuous and not shy about it!

Viv

Intelligent, determined, works hard...and tries to keep the others in check, at least to start with. Can be quite abrupt.

Di

Sporty, rather shy underneath a veneer of confidence (and hasn't come out to her mother), wants to find someone to love.

All three actors span from 18 - 45 in the play.



Altrincham Garrick
PLAYHOUSE