

Hansard

by
Simon Woods

Auditions and Information for Actors

Director:	Duncan Battman
Reading date:	Thursday 16 th April 2026, 7.30pm
Audition Date:	Tuesday 28 th April 2026, from 7.00pm for 7.30pm start
Performance Dates:	Monday 25 th January 2027– Saturday 30 th January 2027, with additional matinee performance on the Saturday 30 th January 2027.
Rehearsals:	Monday 7 th December 2026

About the play

This tremendous two-hander is a wonderful piece of writing – witty, insightful, tender and at times brutal. It offers interested actors, willing to take it on, the opportunity to experience and portray the complete range of emotions that theatre, at its best, takes us to. If the classic sock and buskin of Greek tragedy and comedy were employed, they would be spinning wildly and being passed like hot coals between the two characters. Laughter is at the heart of the play, and yet the humour is often barbed and cruel and intended to land like punches to the stomach. Behind everything is a tragedy that lies hidden for much of the play, and always under the surface of petty bitterness is the painful sadness of love.

Characters and Auditions

In conjunction with the play reading evening, the information below aims to help and encourage you to audition. It gives a brief guide to each character and details of what to prepare for the audition.

The two characters are Robin and Diana. Below are the author's notes on each.

It doesn't really matter how old they are ... somewhere between fifty and seventy. ... The important thing is that you should believe that they once adored each other, and that it might be possible again.

Robin – has the almost hysterical verbal energy of a man who has never confronted his feelings. He speaks in a series of Jack-in-the-box escapes from emotional intimacy or truthfulness. There has to be a relish and verbal exuberance to him.

Diana – is dazzling. She ought to have been something wonderful. But somehow, unbearably, here she is ...

(The original production in 2019 cast Alex Jenkins and Lindsay Duncan.)

Audition Preparation

The audition will comprise the reading of a set piece from the script as well as an additional piece of your own choice as detailed below,

Robin

Please prepare page 31 “Shall I tell you why we don’t read your novels, Diana”, to the bottom of page 32 “It’ll be illegal”.

Diana

Please prepare page 33 “Yes, Robin, that’s the point”, to the bottom of page 34 “Wasn’t it? Motherhood”.

Both

In addition, (in the style of Master Chef – having done the ‘skills test’) – we ask auditionees to prepare a short piece of their own, in the form of a monologue or soliloquy – to last no more than two to three minutes, but something that shows versatility.

Page numbers for audition pieces set out below are taken from the Samuel French edition if you wish to source copies yourself in advance or are unable to attend reading evening to collect a copy.

Other Useful Information

- **Reading Evening.** We would encourage anyone who may be interested in auditioning to come along to the reading evening to find out more, collect audition pieces and register your interest. If you are interested but unable to attend, please get in touch to let us know at pscc@greenroomwilmslow.org.uk
- **Who can audition?** Anyone is welcome to come along to the reading nights and auditions, you do not have to be a member. You will be required to join the Society as a member if you are offered and accept a role. We welcome auditionees and volunteers regardless of previous experience and of all ages (above the age of 18), genders, ethnicities, sexualities, disabilities and races.
- **What to prepare?** Copies of the audition pieces set out above will be available to take away on the reading night. Scripts will also be available for you to look at on audition night from 7.00pm before auditions start at 7.30pm.
- **What happens at the auditions?** On audition night, please arrive at the theatre anytime from 7.00 pm and register in the bar ready for a 7.30pm start. You will be called into the auditorium to audition in front of a panel comprising the Director and members of the Play Selection and Casting Committee. Auditions will start at 7.30pm.
- **How long will auditions take?** We will endeavour to make the audition process as quick and smooth as possible, but please be patient as it can take some time and there may be some waiting around.

- **When will I hear?** We will let you know as soon as possible after the auditions whether or not you have been successful, but whatever the outcome we hope that you will still audition for other productions and continue to support the Green Room. We will always welcome any offers of help with our productions in any other way.
- **When are rehearsals?** Rehearsals are usually held on Monday, Wednesday and Friday evenings and Sunday afternoons.
- **Do I need to attend every rehearsal?** It is expected that if you accept a role in the production you will be generally available throughout the rehearsal period. We do, of course, understand that sometimes other commitments or special occasions may arise, and we ask that you inform us of any dates you are not available as soon as possible so we can try to accommodate this. There may also be additional rehearsals the week before the production, so we ask that you are potentially available that week if called.

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

Thank you very much for your interest in this production and we hope to see you soon at the reading evening and at the auditions. If you're in two minds, why not just give it a go!

Break a leg!