

AUDITION NOTICE

Goodnight Mister Tom by David Wood, based on a novel by Michelle Magorian

Directed by Hannah Millsted-Bowdery – email: hcmillo@gmail.com

Assisted by Penny Parker & Frances Kelly (Movement Directors)

Play reading	Tuesday 12 October, 8pm
Auditions	Sunday 24 October, 2pm (adult cast) Childrens audition TBC – will be a workshop style
Performances	Thursday 3 – 12 March 2022, 8pm Matinee on Saturday 12 March, 2.30pm

Details:

Many of us will be familiar with the story of *Goodnight Mister Tom*; either from the John Thaw film or reading the novel. It is a story beloved by so many, and this adaptation by David Wood is extremely charming, and moving.

Set as the world prepares for World War Two, the story follows young Evacuee William Beech as he finds himself evacuated to an idyllic countryside village, hosted by Tom Oakley, the village recluse. In Mister Tom William finds a father figure, friend, confidant; and amongst the other characters in the village William sees a new way of life. Things seem to be changing for the better until William is called back to London at the request of his sickly mother; and the realities of the war set in alongside his mothers deteriorating health.

There are songs throughout the production, but this is not a musical – the songs merely accompany some of the action and move the story forward. For this reason you may be asked to sing a couple of lines at the audition if required. This production will be set in the round, and the ensemble will be key to the movement and transient nature of the story – so be prepared for more time on stage than off even in the ensemble!

Due to the length of run, and child ensemble cast we will be looking to double cast many of the children's roles. Doubling of adult roles is a possibility, but equally if there is enough interest, I would be happy to cast these roles individually.

We will also be requiring 2-3 puppeteers to operate our puppets under instruction from Penny Parker. These roles will be non speaking, but will require acting and plenty of movement.

Characters:

William Beech (playing age 10) William is a shy, introverted boy at first who finds his confidence during his stay with Mister Tom. This is a large and emotionally demanding role, touching on themes such as abuse and trauma so to be considered by any potential auditionees. London Accent.

AUDITION PIECES: p23 'What about me bible mister?' to 'Goodnight, Mister Tom'.

Zach Roach (Playing age 10/11) A gregarious larger than life character, the son of theatrical parents and also from a Jewish family. Dance skills (specifically tap) would

be beneficial in this role as the character is quite the showman! London Accent.
AUDITION PIECES: p 90 'Zach where do babies come from' to 'I love you too boy'.

Other Children's roles: George, Carrie, Ginnie, Miss Miller (playing ages 10-17)

These are all smaller roles but still with plenty of lines, and all would require a west country accent if possible. These roles may be multi-rolled with other ensemble characters if possible.

AUDITION PIECES: p48 'Sorry I'm late mister Oakley' to p52 'Delumptious'

Tom Oakley (60+) Large role, seemingly distant and reclusive individual, clearly loved and well known by other villagers but perhaps has a gruff persona. Finds Will to be the son he never had. West Country Accent.

AUDITION PIECES: p26 'Whats the problem?' to p27 'On the house'

David Hartridge Recently married RAF pilot and friendly villager when Will arrives.

AUDITION PIECES: p28 'It won't hurt you' to p29 'Bye William'

Mr Miller (30s/40s) Local shop keeper.

AUDITION PIECES: 'p71 'Mornin Mr Oakley' to p72 'Right Sammy'

Dr Little (30s/40s) Local Doctor, has importance to the story but not a huge role.

AUDITION PIECES: p26 'Whats the problem?' to p27 'On the house'

Charlie Ruddles/Vicar/Mr Stelton (20s+) Country ARP warden, Country vicar roped into the am dram society, London psychiatrist.

AUDITION PIECES: p19 'Mr Oakley' to p20 'shut it!'.

Mrs Beech (late 20s-30s) Williams mother based in London. Abusive to Will, but must be portrayed as abusive through brokenness, not simply as a bad person. Very vulnerable. A small part but extremely challenging role.

AUDITION PIECES: p68 'You steal this?' to p 69 'Blasphemer!'.

Mrs Annie Hartridge (Late 20s) Local friendly schoolteacher, who encourages Will to pursue learning and inspires him.

AUDITION PIECES: p28 'It won't hurt you' to p29 'Bye William'

Miss Thorne (20s+) Local librarian who runs the am dram society.

AUDITION PIECES: p31 'mr Oakley!' to p32 'Well done William'

Mrs Fletcher (40s) Local housewife, mother of George.

AUDITION PIECES: 'p71 'Mornin Mr Oakley' to p72 'Right Sammy'

Other roles that may be multirolled: Policeman, Air Raid Warden, Ticket Collector, Nurse, Billeting Officer, Social Worker