

# AUDITION NOTICE



## PLAY READING

Tuesday 21 November 2023, 8pm in the Studio

## AUDITIONS

Sunday 3 December 2023, 2pm in the Theatre

## FIRST REHEARSAL

Wednesday 24 January 2023

## PERFORMANCES

21 - 30 March 2024, 8pm

Matinée: Saturday 30 March at 2.30pm

## DIRECTOR

**Michael Cooke** michael@camptonfs.co.uk

## PA

**Denise Scales** denise.scales4@gmail.com

Scripts available from Denise

A classic of its genre and the most popular play by one of Britain's most successful twentieth century playwrights.

The play takes place over the course of 2 years just prior to the First World War. Ronnie Winslow, *The Winslow Boy*, is expelled from Naval College for stealing a postal order, despite him insisting his innocence. Denied the right of appeal his father Arthur takes up a prolonged action against the Admiralty, Judiciary and ultimately the British Establishment, demanding that his son receives a fair hearing. The course of events undermines Arthur's health, and costs his family their financial security and societal status. Arthur receives the indefatigable support of his daughter Catherine and the not-insubstantial expertise of barrister Sir Robert Morton, who's motivation throughout is that "right is done".

The play is a fascinating exploration of Edwardian family loyalties, women, patriarchy, principles and sacrifice, culminating with a satisfying feel-good factor.

## CHARACTER DESCRIPTIONS:

### ARTHUR WINSLOW – 60

Family patriarch. Man of principal when principals were all important. Product of a Victorian upbringing now struggling to maintain social status in a changing Edwardian landscape. Deteriorating health during the course of the play.

**Audition Pieces:** Page 56 "Oh, Kate, Kate!..." to Page 58 "I'm afraid we will."  
Page 89 "Father. Sir Robert thinks..." to Page 90 "Balderdash!"

### GRACE WINSLOW – 50s

Arthur's supportive wife whose patience deteriorates as the cost of her husband's principled action takes its toll on the family's status and finances.

**Audition Piece:** Pages 79 "Grace, dear - " to Page 82 "It's unfair..."

### CATHERINE WINSLOW – Late 20s

Suffragist matriarchal daughter and family lynchpin. Central character through much of the play, she is motivated as much by grievances with intransigent Edwardian scruples as familial loyalties.

**Audition Pieces:** Page 56 "Oh, Kate, Kate!..." to Page 58 "I'm afraid we will."  
Page 126 "That is very kind" to Page 129 "...may I leave the witness box?"

### DICKIE WINSLOW – Early 20s

Mildly feckless and frivolous elder son, his failing University career is curtailed by the families worsening financial straits.

**Audition Piece:** Page 41 "This correspondence must now cease – Editor. Damn!" to  
Page 43 "...fall in love with Ramsay Macdonald."

### RONNIE WINSLOW – 14 at the beginning to 16 at conclusion

Eponymous "Winslow Boy", expelled from Naval College for stealing. Fearful of his father but honest and straightforward in his interactions.

**Audition Pieces:** Page 35 "Come in." to Page 37 "Replace receiver? Certainly."  
Page 65 "How old are you?" to Page 68 "Yes, sir."

### SIR ROBERT MORTON – 40s

High-flying barrister and opposition Member of Parliament, he takes up the brief of defending Ronnie. Initially mistrusted by Catherine, who disagrees with his politics and suspects his motivation to be self-serving, he earns her respect through selflessly arguing the family's case.

**Audition Pieces:** Page 73 "I suggest there is barely one single word of truth" to  
Page 75 "I accept the brief."  
Page 126 "That is very kind" to Page 129 "...may I leave the witness box?"

### DESMOND CURRY – 40s

Family solicitor unrequitedly in love with Catherine.

**Audition Piece:** Page 114 "I have a question to put to you Kate" to Page 115 "My love for you will never fade."

### JOHN WATHERSTONE – 30

Catherine's fiancé motivated by the social mores of the period and anxious to preserve financial security.

**Audition Piece:** Page 97 "Well now, look." to Page 99 "...nothing so stupid and trivial could possibly come between us."

**VIOLET** - 50+

Elderly maid of 24 years standing. Treated informally as a member of the family.

**Audition Piece:** Page 122 “Oh, Miss Kate...” to Page 123 “...now it’s all over”.

**MISS BARNES** - 40

Lady reporter at a time when journalism was dominated by men.

**Audition Piece:** Page 48 “Mr Winslow?” to Page 49 “What a shame”

**FRED**

A listless newspaper photographer.

**Audition Piece:** Page 52 “Afternoon, all” to Page 53 “Quite still, please”.