

Audition Notice

Arcadia

by
Tom Stoppard

Audition Date	Sunday 14th May 2017 @ 2pm. Theatre
Read through	Tuesday 2nd May 2017 @ 8pm. Studio
Performances	October 26th – November 4th 2017
Rehearsals Start	Approximately August 30th 2017 (exact date to be agreed upon)
Director	Niall Monaghan (07850 639112) email niallmonaghan@mac.com
PA	Margaret Culver (01737 240868) email: margaretandvernon@btinternet.com

Scripts available from the PA

Plot: The play, which covers two different time periods, is set in an early-nineteenth-century English country house, Sidley Park, which, as we discover, becomes a hotbed of sex, gossip and mathematics. It opens in 1809 where a handsome young science graduate, Septimus Hodge, is tutoring the precocious 13-year old girl of the house, Thomasina Coverley, who is learning more from her tutor than algebra and Latin!

The action then shifts to the present day in the same room. Living in the house are: the current Lord and Lady Croom, and their children, mathematician Valentine, man-crazy Chloë, and the silent Gus. They also have visitors: a scholar named Hannah Jarvis, who is doing research for a book about the garden and its hermit and a patronising English don called Bernard Nightingale. He is convinced that Lord Byron; the great Romantic poet, who happened to visit the house in 1809; fought a duel and killed one of the guests.

Said to be one of Tom Stoppard's finest plays, "Arcadia" flips between the two periods in time throughout until the final scene when both periods are merged into one. It is an exploration of ideas, learning and discovery, touching on love, sex, horticulture, mathematics and quantum theory all rolled into a clever, intriguing comedy.

Cast Descriptions:

19th Century:

Thomasina Coverley – 13, then later 16. The precocious daughter of Lord & Lady Croom. Highly intelligent, verging on genius. This is a large role and therefore we will consider older actors in their 20's. (Page 1-3 Septimus "Oh no, it is much nicer than that" & page 79 - 80)

Septimus Hodge – Early 20's. Tutor to Thomasina, he is a witty, sometimes cynical, womaniser who is not only able to win the affections of most of the women of the house, but to also outsmart most of the men. (Page 1-3 to "Oh no, it is much nicer than that" & page 5, as Thomasina leaves to the bottom of page 7)

Jellaby – Middle aged or older. The distinguished butler of the Sidley Park. (Page 56 to exit on 58)

Ezra Chater – 30s. A cuckolded aspiring poet. (Page 5 As Thomasina leaves – page 7, to bottom and page 33 – 34 as Lady Croom enters)

Richard Noakes - Middle aged. Landscape gardener, responsible for the re-design of the estate gardens. (Page 73 to exit on page 74)

Lady Croom – Mid 30's. Bossy and perceptive of all things but not beyond entering into dalliances with various men around the house. (Page 58 as Jellaby exits to page 61, she exits & page 73 Noakes entrance, to bottom of page 74)

Capt. Brice – Mid 30's. Brother of Lady Croom, he is in love with Mrs Chater. (Page 33 – 34 as Lady Croom enters)

Augustus Coverly – 15. Augustus is double cast with Gus Coverly. Augustus only appears in one 1800's scene as Thomasina's unruly young brother. He appears several times in the modern-day scenes, but is mute. (Page 65 -66 until "I am a master of it at Eaton..." & page 76 until exit)

Modern day characters:

Hannah Jarvis – Late 30's. An author and academic feminist researcher, Hannah has sacrificed human relationships for her work. (Page 17 – 19 & page 62 – 64 "No stay" & page 76 – 78, Chloë's entrance)

Chloë Coverly – 18-20. Chloë Coverly is Thomasina's modern day equivalent, although not as well educated. (Page 13 – 14, exit & page 62 – 64 "No stay")

Bernard Nightingale - 30's. Bernard, a university don, is the modern equivalent of a fool and a fop. He is swaggering, overconfident, and obsessed with his theory about Byron. (Page 13 – 14, to Chloë's exit & page 17 – 19 & 76 – 78, Chloë's entrance)

Valentine Coverly – 25-30. Valentine, the son of the Coverly estate, is still supposedly a graduate student studying mathematics. (Page 62 – 64 "No stay" & page 76 – 78, Chloë's entrance)