

Enchanted April – Audition Notice

Reading	Tuesday 10 October, 8pm, in the Studio
Auditions	Sunday 29 October, 2pm, in the Theatre
Rehearsals start	Wednesday 13 December
Production dates	15-24 February 2018

Director Peter Shore solutions@shores.demon.co.uk 0771 231 5406
Contact Peter for audition scripts or if you cannot make the reading or audition dates.
PA Julie Cumbo juliecumbo1@gmail.com 07981 436980

Set in 1922, Matthew Barber's *Enchanted April* moves us from the drab and dreary misery of a post-war London winter to the sun drenched paradise of an Italian villa in springtime. Two women in search of escape from their bleak marriages recruit two other, very different, Englishwomen to share the cost and experience of their Italian adventure. All are transformed and learn new truths about themselves as they rediscover laughter and romance. This is an inspiring and often witty play that should bring pleasure to players and audience alike.

Players, Playing Ages & Audition Pieces

Lotty (25-30) The main part. It is through her and her refusal to settle for a dour and dutiful existence that the other characters find themselves extended and transformed. She is emotional, naively optimistic, infectiously vivacious and sometimes maddening. She brings joy to others and to herself. [P3 "The advertisement..." to P6 "...if we make it"]

Rose (35-40) Unhappily married and with a deep sadness within her, she is initially joyless and buttoned-up, committed to church and duty. Gradually, however, she finds herself transformed and finally liberated by Lotty's enthusiasm and by the enchantments of Italy. [P3 "The advertisement..." to P6 "...if we make it"]

Mellersh (30-35) Married to Lotty. A pompous, self-satisfied solicitor, he seeks to control and direct his wife, but is not cruel or without feeling. He eventually comes to understand and appreciate Lotty's true self. [P8 "Charlotte!..." to P10 "...Case closed"]

Frederick (40-45) Married to Rose. A poet and writer of "scandalous" novels, he tries hard to bridge the gap between himself and Rose before seeking happiness outside his marriage with potentially calamitous results. [P13 "Frederick." To P15 "I have it"]

Wilding (25-35) A portrait painter and owner of the Italian villa. Attractive, charming and considerate, but with an edge of sadness. Makes a surprise visit to the villa, where he finds unexpected happiness. [P30 "Oh yes, the wisteria..." to P32 "...talent with the female form"]

Mrs Graves (65-75) Stiff, severe and arrogant. Likes her own way and expects to get it. Seeks to dominate those around her but, towards the end of the play, we see a softer and kinder side to her nature. [P60 "Now who could be sending..." to P62 "...that's their fault"]

Lady Caroline (20-30) A beautiful socialite who is escaping the shallow hedonism of the London party scene and men who want her only for her looks. In Italy, her sadness nears despair, but she too eventually finds a way to be happy. [P60 "Now who could be sending..." to P62 "...that's their fault"]

Constanza (50-60) The Italian housekeeper. A small part which is essentially a comic turn, as she does battle with Mrs Graves. Virtually all her dialogue is Italian, so the actor must be able to render/learn a convincing accent. [P43 "What is this?!" to P44 "Signorina. Animale!"]