

# BRIGHTON Little THEATRE

## AUDITION NOTICE

# Present Laughter

by Noël Coward

**Director:** Leigh Ward  
**Production dates:** 10<sup>th</sup> March – 17<sup>th</sup> March 2018 (7 performances – matinee on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> March, no performance Monday 12<sup>th</sup> March)  
**Auditions:** **Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> January 2018, 7pm**  
**Rehearsals:** likely to be Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays, Sundays (from 4<sup>th</sup> February 2018)

At the centre of his own universe sits matinee idol Garry Essendine: suave, hedonistic and too old, says his wife, to be having numerous affairs. His line in harmless, infatuated debutantes is largely tolerated but playing closer to home is not. Just before he escapes on tour to Africa the full extent of his misdemeanours is discovered. And all hell breaks loose.

Character	Description	Playing age
Daphne Stillington	Garry's recent dalliance. A pretty, gently-bred debutante who grew up absolutely idolizing Garry Essendine. Quirky and shrewd.	20s
Miss Erikson	The Swedish housekeeper. Unfazed and slow-moving. Superstitious and eccentric, she enjoys a séance to commune with the dead in her spare time. Ideally needs a Scandinavian accent...	50s upwards
Fred	Garry's valet. Cockney and cocksure. He's well-meaning and has found his own rhythm to work, regardless of how others might like to have him do things. His active love life, which he loves to boast about, has him spirited and jaunty.	30s
Monica Reed	Garry's secretary, pal, and confidant. Hard working and indispensable to Garry, she tries to be a taskmaster, but must instead be a bastion of patience, albeit with varying degrees of success.	40s upwards
Garry Essendine	A slightly fading suave matinee idol who has a web of tangled love affairs. Very much of the Noel Coward mould!	Late 30s/40s

For more information and audition pieces, please contact Leigh on  
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Liz Essendine	Garry's ex-wife. Stylish and able to hold her own at a party, alongside (or even in spite of) London's most celebrated, romantic leading man. Not easily shaken, gracious, witty, but when she lets her guard down, full hearted. Self-possessed and dignified.	Late 30s/40s
Roland Maule	An aspiring, experimental playwright who still lives with his parents in Uckfield. His unfulfilled ambition has left him loudly obsessive, quietly jealous, and secretly resentful.	20s/30s
Morris Dixon	Garry's manager. Smart but with a romantic streak. Enjoys being Garry's artistic sounding board, despite its tumultuous and circuitous challenges. He's fallen deeply and obsessively in love with Joanna and is carrying on with her behind Hugo's back, a deception that he's ill-equipped to keep together.	40s/50s
Joanna Lyppiatt	Henry's wife. A femme fatale whose appetite for social status is matched only by her other appetites. Savvy, coy, yet witty.	30s/40s
Henry Lyppiatt	Garry's producer. Shrewd and business savvy. Hospitable yet proud. After many years of working with Garry, he appreciates him, but would prefer Garry's petulance be managed by someone else. He feels he deserves a wife befitting his success, but doesn't mind indulging a few mistresses on the side.	40s/50s
Lady Saltburn	Daphne's aristocratic aunt. A model of English propriety. She has helped raise Daphne with the proper values befitting a young woman, but as a patron of the arts, she has indulged Daphne's hope of being an actress.	50s upwards

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