

BRIGHTON Little THEATRE

AUDITION NOTICE

The 39 Steps

by Patrick Barlow

Director: Harry Atkinson

Production dates: 10th – 11th & 14th – 18th December 2021 with Matinees 11th, 12th and 18th.

Auditions: Sunday 5th September from 6.30- recalls Sunday 12th at 2.30

I will see people outside these times by arrangement.

Rehearsals: Starting November 1st, Sunday, Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

Sunday rehearsals will start a 6pm and weekdays at 7.30.

The narrative is based on the adventure novel of the same name by John Buchan, but everything is turned on its head to make it a supremely funny play. The indomitable Richard Hannay of the book is turned into the hapless hero of the play, and the villainous spies and indefatigable police into clumsy idiots. All this results in a chaotic, frenzy of mistakes and catastrophes, which will render the audience (and the cast) breathless. The original cast of this adaptation was three males and one female with the actors playing between them all other parts. However, this is not what we will do. The casting I envisage will be flexible as follows: Richard Hannay will be played by one actor, one female actor will play Annabella, Margaret and Pamela, and the rest of the cast will be paired in three or four pairs (depending on who auditions), which means six or eight actors – eight or ten in total. The pairs can be male or female, but once in a pair they will usually appear together. Ages are flexible, but this is a very physical, fast paced play, so you need to be reasonably fit to be cast. You can specify that you wish to audition for Hannay or for the three main female characters, but there is no other specific character that you can audition for, since you will be auditioning for multiple roles.

Character	Description	Playing age
Richard Hannay	Upper class English gentleman, hapless innocent abroad.	30s – 40s
Annabella, Margaret, Pamela	Annabella, slinky, sexy spy with a German accent. Margaret, Scottish lassie with a dreadful husband, falls helplessly in love with Hannay. Pamela, upper class English lady very independent, feisty, spikey, reluctantly falls in love with Hannay	20s – 30s
Compere and Memory Man	Musical Hall act - they are central to the plot.	Any age

**For more information and audition pieces, please contact director on 07766405959 (m)
or**

Atkinsonwilliam2003@yahoo.co.uk email

Milkman/Mrs Higgins	Cockney Milkman. Mrs Higgins must be able to scream loudly as per Edgar Lustgarten 1930s/1940s crime films (e.g. as when the cleaning lady finds the body).	Any age
Travelling Salesman 1 and 2	Both sell ladies underwear and have a penchant for lewd jokes.	Any age
Policemen 1,2,3,4.	Blundering, must be able to run around the stage and jump about.	Any age
Porter/Paper Boy	Stereo typical from 1930s/40s films.	Any age
Scottish Crofter	Margaret's husband insanely jealous and a religious freak, full of hellfire and brimstone.	Must be older than Margaret
BBC radio announcer	1930s/40s plummy voice.	Any age
Pilots 1 and 2	RAF Wizard prang types.	Youngish
Mr and Mrs Jordon	Villainous German spies who will stop at nothing.	Any age
Sheriff and Inspector	Neither are very bright must have a Scottish accents.	Any age
Dunwoody and McQuarrie	Representatives of an unspecified political party. Haven't a clue about what they're doing.	Any age
Mr and Mrs McGarrigle	Scottish proprietors of the McGarrigle hotel. A bit "wink wink nudge nudge say no more" when they realise Hannay and Pamela aren't married.	Any age
Heavy 1 and Heavy 2	Ruthless assassins who never seem to get their man.	Any age

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