

BOB HOPE THEATRE ACTORS' COMPANY

THE REVLON GIRL AUDITION NOTICE

By Neil Anthony Docking

Performance dates: 6th – 9th October 2021

Directed by Sarah Howard

It's been a tough winter for us all, so it's with much delight that I'm now able to announce the following rescheduled audition to hopefully re-open our much-missed theatre season!

The Revlon Girl will be performed at The Bob Hope Theatre from Wednesday 6th – Saturday 9th October 2021.

Play Synopsis: On 21st October 1966, in the Welsh mining village of Aberfan, the 'tips' (man-made hills of colliery waste) dangerously piled on top of a hidden stream, collapsed, sliding down onto the village below, killing 144 people in just a few minutes. The avalanche struck Pantglas Junior School, demolishing and engulfing the classrooms. 109 children and 5 teachers were killed.

Set 8 months after the Aberfan Disaster, The Revlon Girl tells the real-life story of a group of bereaved mothers who met every week, in a function room above the Aberfan hotel to talk, cry and even laugh without feeling guilt. At one of their meetings, they secretly arranged for a representative from Revlon to come and give them a talk on beauty tips.

This is a play packed with character and heartache, entwining the restraints, gossip and sometime irrationality of a small-town community, with the poignancy of a mother's loss. Much of the sadness in The Revlon Girl comes from the fact these women are trapped by the etiquette of grieving, but due to the relationship and affinity between these five individuals, there are many humorous, uplifting and hopeful moments, allowing this mini masterpiece to bring much emotion and entertainment to its audience.

Characters:

Sian – late twenties, bright, hopeful and eager to help. Sian is very much the instigator (and defender) of the evening's event and is desperate for it to go well.

Marilyn – early to mid-thirties, Marilyn is introverted, tense and fearful of change. Though outwardly innocent, she is very focused.

Revlon Girl – around the same age as Sian. Revlon is smart, well-groomed, well-bred, trusting and clearly does not come from a Welsh working-class mining village.

Rona – early to mid-thirties, Rona is fiery, foul-mouthed and indomitable. She finds strength in rage, rejects authority and is easily set alight.

Jean – early to mid-thirties, Jean is stately, conservative and sociable. Though she hails from the same background as Marilyn and Rona, Jean is now the wife of a respected church minister and therefore regards herself as a pillar of the community.

Jackie (unseen) – the hotel's part-time receptionist/bar maid, helpful, but inattentive. This role can be doubled with one of the other characters.

Please note: the character ages reflect the likely ages of the real-life women at the heart of this story. The important thing is that Marilyn, Rona and Jean should be cast similarly in terms of age as they were in school together, so please audition for these roles if you are in your thirties to early forties. Sian and Revlon are a few years younger, so please audition for these roles if you are between mid-twenties and mid-thirties.

Accent is key to this story, so Sian, Marilyn, Rona and Jean will be played with a Welsh accent and the Revlon Girl will be played with a Bristol accent. Please do not panic if this isn't something you've tried before. Marston York (Voice Play Ltd) will be providing vocal training throughout the rehearsal process.

Audition dates to be held at the Bob Hope Theatre:

Friday 4th June from 7.30pm – 10pm & Saturday 5th June from 2pm – 5pm.

To maintain social distancing, we will be providing audition time slots. Please contact Sarah Howard at sarahhow@hotmail.co.uk to book a date and time to attend. Thank you.

This production will be auditioned following the current social distancing guidelines. We will be taking every measure to provide a safe environment to work creatively.

Sarah Howard