

## Directors' Showcase - AUDITIONS

Sunday November 11<sup>th</sup> 2pm

BHT Bar

In order to give opportunities to those who may wish to direct at BHT in the future and to provide more acting opportunities for our members we are having a Directors' Showcase evening in March 2019.

Four directors will be showing 20-minute pieces – 3 extracts from longer plays and one complete piece.

We are looking for an ensemble of between 10 and 12 actors who together will appear in these pieces.

### **Blue Stockings** by Jessica Swale

Director - Cheryl DeBie

The year is 1896. Women are campaigning for equal education and the vote whilst prominent male figures predict the downfall of society should they succeed. Against this backdrop, a group of young women enrol at Girton College, Cambridge University. They become the latest "bluestockings", a derogatory term for female intellectuals. The ladies of Girton College struggle to balance career ambition, romance and their family duties in this extract from the first full length play by Jessica Swale.

**Tess** (20-25 playing age) - beautiful, passionate and full of life, Tess' privileged upbringing leaves her unprepared for the challenges of finding a loving husband whilst working toward her own career ambitions. She is quick witted and opinionated. This character will require energetic dialogue and emotional range.

**Maeve** (20-25 playing age) - quiet, studious and very intelligent, Maeve's talent for learning and hard work has earned her a scholarship as she strives to leave her poor and humble beginnings behind her. A very emotional scene takes place where her dreams are threatened and she fights to keep all she has worked to achieve.

**Miss Blake** (35+ playing age) - a teacher at the university, Miss Blake is all too familiar with the difficulties and sacrifices required for a woman striving to build a career. Her experience means she shows wisdom and consideration for the struggles of her girls and offers a strong role model and guidance. Requires the ability to convey authority, maturity and intelligence.

**Billy** (20-25 playing age) - brother to Maeve, Billy has had to work hard to support his family and I sides that Maeve fulfil her own family duties. A very emotional scene so range, energy and depth need to be quickly conveyed.

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## **A Quiet Night In – a script from an episode of Inside Number 9 by Reece Shearsmith and Steve Pemberton**

Director - Nicole King

A Quiet Night In – a script from an episode of Inside Number 9 by Reece Shearsmith and Steve Pemberton

Two inept burglars manage to break into a beautiful country mansion in an attempt to steal a valuable painting. On this particular evening the owner of the mansion and his wife are in the midst of an argument.

This piece is performed with minimum dialogue so actors must be able to convey thoughts and feelings and communicate through realistic movement and gestures

**Gerald M 40+** - owner of the house, onstage most of the time

**Ray M or F any age**– the smarter of the two burglars, onstage through most of the piece and a very physical role as s\he has to hide behind furniture and crawl out of sight.

**Eddie M or F any age** - the second of the two burglars , also very physical

**Sabrina F, Gerald’s younger wife**

**Kim M or F any age** – the maid who looks after Gerald and Sabrina

**Paul M or F any age** – deaf and dumb salesman, selling door to door products

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## **The Female of the Species by Joanna Murray-Smith**

Director -Jackie Mitchell

Thirty years ago feminist icon Margot Mason wrote her groundbreaking work ‘The Cerebral Vagina’ which garnered her worldwide acclaim. Numerous books later, she is struggling with writers block, when she is interrupted by ex-student Molly Rivers. An ex-fan, Molly is not happy with the impact Margot has had on her life and she brought a gun to prove it, the question is, will she pull the trigger?

The female of the species is a comic play from Joanna Murray-Smith, who wrote the brilliant Bombshells which played at the BHT earlier this year. The segment selected for the showcase features three female performers, with an optional additional male role if there is interest.

**Margot Mason** (older female ~50-70ish) – impressive but a monster  
**Molly Rivers** (young female ~20-30s) – bright and observant, but somewhat misguided  
**Tess Thornton** (middle-aged female ~30-50s) Margot’s daughter, a somewhat run-down mother of two  
**Bryan Thornton** (optional middle-aged male ~30-50s) Tess’s husband, a ‘nice guy’

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## **Hand To God by Robert Askins**

Director - Richard Webb

In the devoutly religious, relatively quiet small town of Cypress, Texas, Margery is a widow whose husband has recently died. To keep her occupied, her minister, Pastor Greg, has asked her to run the puppet club. Fundamentalist Christian congregations often use puppets to teach children how to follow the Bible and avoid Satan. The teenage members of the club are her son Jason; Jessica, the girl next door that Jason has a crush on; and Timmy, the neighbourhood troublemaker whose mother is attending Alcoholics Anonymous meetings at the church. Pastor Greg wants the puppet club to put on a performance at the church next Sunday. The characters become sexually attracted to each other. Jason's hand puppet, Tyrone, takes on a life of his own, announces that he is Satan, leads them into sin, and expresses secrets that the characters would rather have left unacknowledged.

Although 4 of the characters are teenagers they are to be played by older actors so actors of any age can take on the roles.

**Jason** -has a crush on Jessica and is a very anxious and nervous gawky teenager who has mastered the art of sock puppetry through the church group.

**Tyrone** -the alter ego foul-mouthed puppet that possess Jason’s arm

**Margery** -Mother of Jason and leader of the Puppet Ministry. Husband has recently died. She runs the group as she can’t sing, preach or bake brownies. Inspiring the young people is a welcome distraction and helpful coping mechanism

**Timmy** - teenager in the Christian puppetry group known troublemaker likes older woman and is a bit of a bully

**Jessica** -teenager in the Christian puppetry group, girl next door is secretly admired by Jason

**Pastor Greg** -a religious leader in the community joins the group in an effort to woo Margery