

A Bob Hope Theatre Actors' Company Production

Audition Notice

STOP PRESS!! CHANGES TO AUDITION DATES

Readthrough 11am Sunday 11th May 2025 (CANCELLED)

Due to unforeseen circumstances auditions will now be held on the following dates:

Auditions Dates:

SUNDAY 1st JUNE 2025 at 11am

MONDAY 2nd JUNE 2025 at 7.30pm

AT THE BOB HOPE THEATRE, WYTHFIELD ROAD, ELTHAM SE9 5TG

THE GHOST TRAIN

A Play by Arnold Ridley

An Amateur production by arrangement with Concord Theatricals Ltd

DIRECTED BY KEITH NEVILLE

Performance dates are 26th - 29th November 2025

Arnold Ridley's classic drama was first produced in 1925 and filmed no less than three times with the 1941 version starring Arthur Askey being the most well-known.

The plot introduces a group of passengers who are stranded at a small Cornish wayside station after they missed their connection because a very silly young man accidentally pulls the emergency cord on the train. Despite the psychic Stationmaster's weird stories of a Ghost Train, they decide to ignore his warnings and stay the night in the waiting room. Soon they regret this decision as ghostly and not so ghostly apparition materialize before the young man becomes a hero and reveals the true reason behind the night's events.

THE CAST In the order of their appearance, descriptions of Playing Age serve as only a guide and as an opening for a wider opportunity to all...

Saul Hodgkin: (The Station Master - assists the stranded passengers to the Station Waiting Room and delivers the eerie story of the Ghost Train. A simple man who is only doing his job). Playing Age 50 to 70.

Richard Winthrop: (Passenger and a rather bad tempered upper middle-class gentleman who is unhappy with the stupid antics of the culprit who stopped the train leaving them stranded. Marriage to Elsie is at breaking point). Playing Age 30 to 50.

Elsie Winthrop: (Passenger and Richard's wife. She is prepared to criticise her husband for his attitude and won't put up with him. Won't let the ghost story frighten her either). Playing Age 25 to 40.

Charles Murdoch: (Passenger and Newlywed, simple and honest. Puts on brave face in view of this is not their ideal honeymoon being spooked by ghosts). Age 25 to 40.

Peggy Murdoch: (Passenger and Newlywed, again similar character to that of her husband Charles and does not make too much of a fuss over the honeymoon delay). Playing Age 20 to 30.

Miss Bourne: (Passenger. Middle aged spinster, a little eccentric with a parrot in a cage. Has some very witty lines). Playing Age 50 to 65.

Teddie Deakin: (Passenger and the upper-class fool who is responsible for stranding the passengers at the ghostly station. Ends up being the hero). Playing Age 25 to 40.

Julia Price: (Unexpected visitor to the station (in Act2), in a distressed state whilst trying to escape the clutches of her brother and the Doctor. Afraid of the ghost train). Playing Age 20 to 40.

Herbert Price: (Suspicious character in pursuit of his sister Julia who ends up having some explaining to do). Playing Age 35 to 60.

Dr Sterland: (Price's accomplice in the pursuit of Julia whose credentials are not what they are meant to be). Playing Age 50 to 65.

Jackson: (Policeman, only a few lines and appears towards end of Play). Playing Age 30 to 60.

Policeman: (non-speaking role at the end of the Play. Could be played by a member of the crew). Any playing age.

For further information regarding the characters, audition pieces and viewing a script etc.....or even if you would like to work on the production, please contact Keith Neville (DIRECTOR) at auditions@bobhopetheatre.org.uk