

ARUNDEL PLAYERS: AUDITION NOTICE

‘THE SUSPICIONS OF MR WHICHER’ (adapted for the stage by Alexandra Wood)

Audition Date: Wednesday 15th May 2024 at 7.00 p.m. at the Priory Playhouse, London Road, Arundel BN18 9AT

Performance Dates: 21st to 26th October 2024 (inclusive)

It is the Summer of 1860 and in the outside privy of an elegant country house the dead body of a small boy is found, strangled and stabbed. Shockingly, clues point to the murderer being a member of his well to do family.

Celebrated detective Jonathan Whicher from Scotland Yard is called to investigate but this case challenges him in ways he never expected.

20 years later, still haunted by the case and on the eve of his retirement, Whicher visits the murderer and as they replay the past the terrible truth is revealed.

The Suspicions of Mr Whicher is an adaptation of the 2008 novel by Kate Summerscale; it was also made into a TV mini-series, airing in 2013/14.

There is a cast of 20 plus characters: Maids, a cook, a Policeman, a Governess, a Vicar and even a nun!

In the original stage production of 2023, eight actors (4m and 4f) told this intriguing story, many playing different age ranges – from 15 to 60. There are some lovely character parts with plenty of opportunity for drama and intrigue. Parts are also adaptable to accommodate a smaller or larger cast and there are opportunities for anyone new to acting who would like a small part.

Two characters, one male (Jonathan Whicher) - approximately 50-60) and one female (Constance who is in her late 30s but reenacts scenes as a young girl and a young woman), remain the same throughout the play.

Rehearsals will begin in late August / September 2024 and rehearsal evenings will vary according to cast availability.

If you would like to see a script, or are unable to come to the audition, please email me. I can let you have a script/arrange an alternative date for audition.

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I look forward to seeing you all at the audition which is open to all whether or not you are an existing member of the Players.

Yasmin Nixon