



AUDITION NOTICE

THE BIRTHDAY PARTY

By **HAROLD PINTER**

Directed by Gill Lambourn

Audition Date: Wednesday 11th and/or Monday 16th November 2026

Production dates: Monday 5th – Saturday 10th April 2027 at 7.30

The play is set in the 60s but the ages of the main characters make their behaviour much more pre-war than swinging Carnaby Street. In true Pinter style there is no specific violence but the underlying tension and threatening dialogue realises so much more than the swearing and bodily harm used by many modern playwrights. We never discover the truth about either Stanley, the two men who arrive unexpectedly with “a job” to do or the relationship between them, but it matters not. We are left to imagine whatever we like and admire his characters, dialogue and ability to create situations and atmospheres that grip us totally.

Goldberg and McCann really need to be on the ball with line learning as much of their dialogue is slick, quick fire one liners that follow no noticeable story line. Stanley has to remain an enigma, with whom we vaguely empathize despite his surliness that descends into outright unkindness to Meg on occasion. The Boles represent innocence and goodness from a past era and Lulu is an accidental presence at the party who becomes the perfect dupe for Goldberg.

CHARACTERS:

Petey Boles – 60s: Pleasant and easy going. He works hiring deckchairs on the beach. He asks little of life and lets most of his wife's repetitive conversation drift over his head whilst he reads his daily paper.

Meg Boles – 60s: Meg is a kind but innocent woman not blessed with the highest IQ. We soon realise she has an almost childlike crush on long time lodger Stanley and has the sort of sexual feelings you'd have found in the average young unsophisticated teenager in the 40s

Stanley – 30s/40s: Stanley is the Boles long term lodger. He is unwashed, unshaven and out of work although claiming to be a successful concert pianist. He is relentlessly grumpy, until confronted by a past that terrifies him to the edge of sanity.

Lulu - 20s/30s: The next door neighbour, she half heartedly flirts with Stanley, mainly to boost her ego. Goldberg uses her to amuse himself. This is a small part but there is much to be made from her need to be noticed and loved.

Goldberg – 50s/60s (Jewish accent): A clever, manipulative and dominating character. He is, as his name implies, Jewish and to the casual observer would be the typical successful business man. The driver in every situation, no blame will ever be laid at his door.

McCann – 40s/50 (Irish accent): Goldberg's sidekick, he is typical of the gangland hard man. Ask no questions, just go along with Goldberg's instructions. He carries out this duty well whilst occasionally drifting into story telling and Irish blarney.

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