

Woodford Players – Character Breakdowns for *Chinamen, Sat Love and Bothered and Bewildered*

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Chinamen

Chinamen is a one act play. It is a fast-paced farce concerning the dinner party from hell. It is a play for two people but between them they will be playing five characters! Their ages are somewhere between 30 – 50 but obviously must be compatible.

Because they are playing a variety of roles and on occasions a character will exit one side of the stage to reappear as a different character on the other side a certain amount of agility and dexterity will be needed! The differences between the characters will be emphasised with subtle changes of costumes and in the case of Jo becoming Alex, wigs.

The set will be relatively simple, three doors, stage left, right and centre stage and a window with curtains right back stage.

The characters are:-

Stephen – the husband. A bit dippy, forgetful and prone to panic. The actor playing Stephen will also play:-

Barney – who is a friend of the couple. Barney and his wife are separated and inadvertently Stephen has invited Barney to the same dinner party at which Barney's estranged wife and new boyfriend will be present.

Jo – the wife. More practicable than Stephen. She will play two additional parts:-

Bee – Stephen's estranged wife. Now going out with a man much younger than her and conscious that all their friends are talking about her. Prone to be tearful and drinks a lot.

Alex – the boyfriend. Younger than Bee. Hippy type (think Jonny Depp).

Playing dates 15th and 16th February 2019 as part of the Theatre Supper Evenings at Woodford Community Centre. SK7 1PS

Director John Lomax admin@woodfordplayers.co.uk

Sat Love

This is a one act play, running time approximately 35 minutes, for two actors, one male and one female. Set costume and props are minimal and much use will be made of lighting and sound effects.

“He” is a middle-aged man, he is affluent, successful, conceited and self-opinionated. He is “happily married” to Ginnie (not seen) and is carrying on an affair with Laura (also not seen). He is very proud of his new sat nav which he needs for a business trip to Ripon but he is unaware that this sat nav will be his nemesis.

“She” is the sat nav, initially a disembodied voice but as the play progresses, she gradually becomes more defined and visible until eventually she is revealed as a “real person”. “She” is not age specific.

“She” is a sat nav with a difference, she has a female silicon chip, a conscience and a set of moral values, she is all woman and a feminist to boot! Moreover, she is able to use a mobile phone and is able apparently to operate independently of her on/off switch.

“She” is very disapproving of “his” affair and does all she can to divert his car from Laura’s address and back to his own home where his wife awaits him. Her moral values and seemingly independent abilities contrive to make life very difficult for “him” with disastrous results and a nice and unexpected twist at the end.

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Director Derek Snowdon admin@woodfordplayers.co.uk

Bothered and Bewildered

Bothered and Bewildered - May 1 - 4 2019 Full Length play. A comic drama that follows Irene and her two daughters Louise and Beth as they begin a long journey in which the girls lose their mum in spirit but not in body. As her family struggle to come to terms with her Alzheimer's, Irene's past passion for romantic fiction blurs with reality. She discusses with her unseen and witty companion Barbara Cartland how best to write her memory book disclosing to Barbara long kept family secrets that she would never reveal to anyone else. This is a funny and moving play set in 2001 with various settings. The acting should be naturalistic with own voices used, no accents required (apart from Barbara Cartland).

Characters:

Irene: required age, 70+. Playing age 75, born in 1925 A great part for an actress who can get under the skin of Irene and is not afraid to lose her inhibitions. Very emotional playing required.

Beth: required age, 45/50. Playing age 50, born in 1950 Irene's eldest daughter and mother of Shelley.

Louise: required age, 40+. Playing age 45, born in 1955 Irene's youngest daughter.

Barbara Cartland: playing age 60/70. Died in 2000 age 98.

Dresses exactly as we remember her and is outrageous, decadent and aristocratic A wonderful character part

Jim: required age 18-25. Playing age 18

James: playing age 20, born in 1941

Jim and James to be played by the same person and are played in flash back 1940 and 1965

Jim is Irene's wartime lover, James is "the secret".

Young Irene/Shelley: required age 18-25. Playing ages 16 and 20 Young Irene and Shelley to be played by the same person.

Shelley is the daughter of Beth and granddaughter of Irene.

Young Irene is played in flashback 1940

The Doctor – Playing age any. Preferably male but could be female.

Playing dates 1st – 4th May 2019 at Woodford Community Centre. SK7 1PS

Director Sue Mooney admin@woodfordplayers.co.uk