



COURTYARD THEATRE

CHIPSTEAD PLAYERS

Audition Notice

Goodnight Mister Tom

Director: Ian Brown. Production Manager: Anne Thorn.

A play by David Wood based on the novel by Michelle Magorian

Performance dates: Wednesday 5th – Sunday 9th and Wednesday 12th – Saturday 15th January 2022
Rehearsals: Will begin in late October.
Read through: Tuesday 14th September at 7.30pm.
Audition Dates: Tuesday 21st September at 7.30pm.
Sunday 26th September at 2.30pm.

Production Manager: **Anne Thorn** - anne44lane@yahoo.co.uk – 07798 812719

The Story

Set during the dark and dangerous build-up to the Second World War, *Goodnight Mister Tom* follows sad young William Beech, who is evacuated to the idyllic English countryside and builds a remarkable and moving friendship with the elderly recluse Tom Oakley. All seems perfect until William is devastatingly summoned by his mother back to London.

This is a charming adaptation of the book and will be a real Christmas treat for our audiences.

Although this is not a musical, there are several songs in the production. You will therefore be required to sing a few unaccompanied lines during the audition.

Please note: ages are an indication of character age only and roles are open to actors outside these ages. Most roles except for Tom, Will and Zach will require you to be part of an ensemble to make up the villagers, evacuees, Londoners, nursing staff, and possibly the puppeteers of a squirrel and a bird.

Please come to the auditions with holiday dates /availability and if possible, bring a small photograph. We are all very excited about this production and hope to have a great turn out at the auditions. If you can't attend on the audition dates, please contact Anne and we will try to arrange to see you at another time.

All children/teens under 16 will need to be chaperoned during dress rehearsals and performances.

The families of those taking part might be asked to undertake chaperone training and support the production as chaperones. Please be aware of this commitment when auditioning.

Character Descriptions:

Child Roles

William Beech: (playing age 10) – Very large role – requires a confident young actor with an unbroken voice. William is an emotionally demanding part; the character faces abuse, loss and trauma. London accent. Sings.

Zach: (playing age 11) – Large role – a Jewish boy from a theatrical family – requires an enthusiastic performer with an unbroken voice. Zach is a born performer with tap dancing, singing and acting skills. London accent/well-spoken.

Teen Roles

Actors aged between 11-17 are invited to audition for these roles. They will also play an active role in the ensemble.

George: (playing age 10) – Medium role – youngest son of Mrs Fletcher, West Country accent.

Carrie: (playing age 11) – Medium role – the ‘academic’ twin. West Country accent.

Ginnie: (playing age 11) – Medium role – the ‘practical’ twin. West Country accent.

Miss Miller: (playing age 15-17) – Smaller role – local teen who supports her family in the shop. West Country accent.

Adult Roles

All doubling is flexible. All those auditioning for ensemble roles will need to perform with both a West Country and London accent.

Tom Oakley: (60s) – Very large role – Grief-stricken recluse who finds love and companionship through his relationship with Will. West Country accent.

David Hartridge/Policeman: (20s-30s) – recently married RAF pilot / London Policeman.

Mr Miller/ARP Warden: (30+) – local shopkeeper / London Air Raid Warden.

Dr Little/Ticket Collector: (40+) – local doctor / London Ticket Collector.

Charlie Ruddles/Vicar/Mr Stelton: (any age) - Country ARP warden / Country Vicar roped into local amateur dramatics/ Mr Stelton, psychiatrist.

Mrs Beech: (late 20s-30s) – smaller role – William’s religious and abusive, mentally disturbed mother (London accent).

Mrs Annie Hartridge/Nurse: (20s-30s) – Local friendly schoolteacher / London nurse.

Miss Thorne/Billeting Officer/Sister: (30+) – Local librarian who runs the local amateur dramatics group / local billeting officer / London nurse who stands no nonsense. Sings.

Mrs Fletcher/Glad/Social Worker: (40+) – Mrs Fletcher- local housewife, mother of George / Glad – warm hearted Londoner/ social worker. Sings.

Puppeteer: (any age) is required to play Sammy the dog who is an integral part of the play – large, non-speaking role.

Audition pieces:

William and Tom – p23 “What about me Bible Mister?” – p25 “Goodnight Mr Tom”

William and Mrs Beech - p66 “This is for you, fruit cake” – p67 “No! And that’s enough questions.”

William, Zach and (Mr Miller) – p34 “Calloo Callay!” – p36 “As soon as I see someone I like, I talk to them.”

William, Zach and Tom – p90 “Zach where do babies come from?” – p92 “I love you too boy”

George, Carrie and Ginnie A section from: p48 – “Sorry I’m late Mr Oakley” – p52 “Delumptions

Dr Little and Tom – p26 “What’s the problem?” – p 27 “On the house!”

Miss Miller and Mr Miller - p36 “Ere, wot you want? Eh?” – p37 “No ‘ard feelings eh?”

Mr Miller, Mrs Fletcher, Tom - p71 “Mornin’ Mr Oakley” – p72 “Right, Sammy, London”

Mr Stelton, Tom - p83 “Mr Tom is it? My name’s Stelton.” – p84 “So long as they don’t disturb the children. Good day.”

Ticket Collector, Tom - p73 “Ticket?” - “Ope ‘e ain’t a German spy.”

Mrs Hartridge, Mr Hartridge, (William) - p28 “It won’t hurt you” – p29 “Bye William”

Mrs Thorne, (Tom, William) - p31 “Mr Oakley!” – p32 “Well done, William”

Charlie, Tom - p19 “Mr Oakley” – p20 “Shut it!”

Vicar - p38 “Eh, ladies and gentlemen, if you could kindly take your places”... – p40 “New members very welcome”

Glad, Warden, Tom - p75 “Room for a tiddler” – “I don’t even think his own mother’s fond of him.”

Puppeteer (Sammy) – A physical actor is required for this role. Please come prepared to show your movement skills.