



COURTYARD THEATRE
CHIPSTEAD PLAYERS

AUDITION NOTICE

Our Day Out – a play written by Willy Russell
Directed by – Debs Brooks, Beth Brooks & Bradley Adams
Movement and Physical Theatre – Kirsty Whelan
Production Manager – Britt Adams

Performances: Week One

Evenings Tuesday 5th April 2022 – Saturday 9th April 2022 plus a matinee 2:15pm on Saturday too

Play Read Through:

Tuesday 16th November 2021 : The Courtyard Theatre Chipstead, Rehearsal Room at 7:30pm

Cast Read Through: Tuesday 27th January 2022 – 7:30pm – 9:30pm
(Courtyard Theatre Rehearsal Room)

Rehearsals: Tuesdays & Thursdays from 7:15-9:30pm
Sundays – initially 5:30 to 7:30pm moving to 2:30pm-5pm from February
(*Cast must be available to rehearse least once over the Half Term holidays*)

Auditions:

Sunday 16th January 2022 - 2:30pm til 4:30pm at the theatre OR
Tuesday 18th January 2022 - 7pm-8.30pm at at the theatre

Audition pieces will be available on request, after the read through by emailing Britt at britt.adams@btinternet.com

SYNOPSIS:

Join the 'Progress Class' on a rare outing from the deprived area in South London. The children are the kind that all teachers dread to teach, with the ever questioning Carol and flirtatious Linda, the cocky older boys Digga and Reilly blag their way onto the trip. There's only one snag, the strict disciplinarian Mr Briggs is forced by the head teacher to keep an eye on them. Accompanied by their ever patient teacher Mrs Kay and over seen by the Mr Briggs the group cause havoc as they stop off at a zoo, castle and petrol station along their way to a theme park in Clacton-on-Sea.

Exploring themes of education, poverty and the ever present social glass ceiling, Willy Russell draws on his personal teaching experience of an inner city school with hilarious and heart breaking results. With a range of roles to choose from, this funny, gritty play is a great vehicle for our youth theatre.

THE CHARACTERS:

- Mr Briggs:** Strict, bombastic and hates children. He has an air of self-importance and a short fuse. On the trip after he complains about Mrs Kays' capability to manage the children in her care. **(Male but would consider older female) Ideal part for an older member of the youth theatre.**
- Mrs Kay:** Kindly teacher who teaches the Progress Class. She is not as naive as she first appears. Caring and patient with the children, she also has the capability to be resilient and put Mr Briggs in his place on behalf of her children. **(Female) Ideal part for an older member of the youth theatre**
- Colin:** A trendy young teacher in a relationship with Susan. He is the object of Linda's desire and spends much of his time embarrassed by her advances. **(Male) Ideal part for an older member of the youth theatre.**
- Susan:** A young, capable teacher in a relationship with Colin. She is not as naive as she seems and has a great scene where she challenges Reilly after he has spent much of the trip trying to embarrass her and Colin. **(Female) Ideal part for an older member of the youth theatre**

The Kids:

- Carol:** Carol has a tough life. She is quite quiet at the start of the play and spends much of her time asking questions of her teachers. She feels safe with Mrs Kay. Later in the play we hear more from Carol and see a more reflective and feisty side of her. **(Female)**
- Reilly:** A cocky older boy who has blagged his way on the trip. He is confident and rebellious and enjoys winding up Colin and Susan and embarrassing them about their relationship. Towards the end of the play we see a different side of his character. **(Male)**
- Digga:** Reilly's ever presents cocky side-kick **(Male or female)**
- Linda:** Flirtatious and self-confident, Linda is rebellious and hates Mr Briggs however she respects Mrs Kay. She has a crush on her teacher Colin and spends most of the trip flirting with him. **(Female)**
- Karen:** Linda's best friend who follows her around and joins in the flirting with Colin. **(Female)**
- Andrews:** Witty child from the progress class. Gets picked on by Reilly and Digga **(Male or Female)**
- Maurice & Milton:** Brothers who are sound like they have swallowed encyclopaedia's, a little brighter than the rest of the kids. **(Male or Female)**
- Other kids:** Several speaking roles which can be **Male or Female** which could also double with adult roles when not speaking in their scenes.

Other Adults: Each of the adult roles can be combined with another and could be Male or Female

Headteacher: Small role which could be doubled with another role in the piece.

Les the Lollipop Person: Grumpy old person who has an inflated sense of importance.

Ronnie the Driver: In most of the scenes but doesn't speak very often ideal for someone who likes being on stage and playing a character but does not want to speak much. Can also be doubled with another adult role.

Mac & John: Shopkeepers who try and fleece the children out of their sweet money

Mrs Roberts and Waitress: Cafe Owners who have a very specific idea of their ideal clientele and it does not include children.

Animal Keeper: Another adult that the children encounter and manage to annoy on their day trip.

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