



Hangmen by Martin McDonagh

Performances: 7 - 12 November 2022 with a matinée on 12 November

Social Reading: Tuesday 31 May at 8pm in the Rehearsal Room

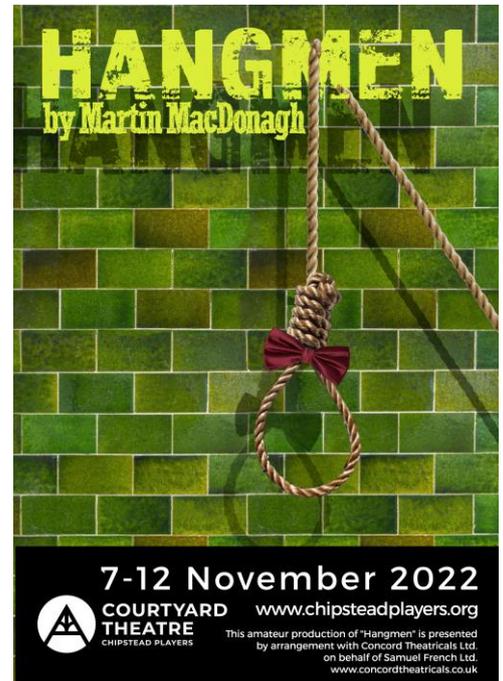
Auditions: Wednesday 8 June at 7.30pm
Saturday 11 June at 4pm in the Rehearsal Room

Rehearsals start: 6 September on Tuesdays & Thursdays,
with Sunday afternoon rehearsals from 2 October

Director: Anne Gregory - annegregory86@gmail.com

PA: Anne Thorn - anne44lane@yahoo.co.uk

email Anne G if you wish to audition, but cannot attend on the 8 or 11 June
Scripts will be available from Anne G.



There will be a dialect coach, so don't be put off by the Lancashire accent!

'I'm just as good as bloody Pierrepont'!

In his small pub in Oldham in the mid 1960s, Harry is something of a local celebrity. But what's the second-best hangman in England to do on the day they've abolished hanging? Amongst the cub reporters and sycophantic pub regulars, dying to hear Harry's reaction to the news, a peculiar stranger lurks, with a very different motive for his visit.

A dark comedy about vengeance with the top-notch twists, violence and laughs we have come to expect from the writer of plays including *The Beauty Queen of Leenane*, *The Pillowman*, *The Cripple of Inishmaan* and *The Lieutenant of Inishmore*, and the films *In Bruges* and *Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri*.

Hangmen premiered at the Royal Court Theatre in London in September 2015 and transferred to Wyndham's Theatre, London in December that year. It received the 2016 Olivier Award for Best New Play. After a two-year delay due to COVID, it finally opened on Broadway on 8 April this year.

Photos of the original production:

<https://www.playbill.com/article/why-building-functional-gallows-for-martin-mcdonaghs-hangmen-was-a-scenic-challenge-worth-tackling>

CHARACTERS AND AUDITION PIECES: There are no small roles, however the roles of Harry Wade and Peter Mooney have more lines than the other characters.

HARRY WADE-50's to 60's. The central character of the play. With his wife he runs the pub where the action takes place and is also a local celebrity, being the chief hangman on the day hanging is abolished. He is a bluff, blunt and proud Northerner. By turns aggressive, but ultimately insecure. Lancashire accent. (*Originally played by David Morrissey*)
Audition pieces: 11 to 15 (with Hennessey and Syd); 36 to 40 (with Clegg); 73 to 76 'Put that gin away'. (with Clegg and Alice); 106/7 (with Syd).

PETER MOONEY-20's. Applies for a room in Alice's pub (why?!) and befriends Shirley. Charismatic and somewhat mysterious with an odd sense of humour. London accent. (*Originally played by Johnny Flynn*)
Audition pieces: 45 to 48 (with Shirley); 66 to 69 (with Syd); 82 monologue

SYD ARMFIELD-50's. Harry's assistant. Northern. He is somewhat inept at his job and stutters when he's stressed. Craftier than he appears. Has an unusual penchant! Lancashire accent. (*Originally played by Reece Shearsmith*)
Audition pieces: 11 to 15 (with Hennessey and Harry); 66 to 69 (with Mooney) 106/7 (with Harry).

ALICE WADE-50's. The landlady. Alice runs the pub with her husband Harry. She's a proud woman who gives as good as she gets. Her attempts to bond with her teenage daughter Shirley are not as gentle or kind as she thinks they are. Sometimes her emotions overwhelm her, and she's fond of a gin or two to calm the nerves. Lancashire accent. (*Originally played by Sally Rogers*)
Audition pieces: 40(start Sc 4) to 43 'I'll mope over here'.(with Shirley);73 to 76 'Put that gin away' (with Harry and Clegg).

SHIRLEY WADE-15. The teenage daughter of the publicans. She is plain, rather shy, accused of being very moody and has a quiet, dry sense of humour. She is written as plump but could be an actress of any size. We are looking for an actor 18+ who can play 15. Lancashire accent.
Audition pieces: 40 (start Sc 4) to 43 'I'll mope over here'. (with Alice); 45 (top) to 48 'The bastards'. (with Mooney). 102 'Alright, I know' to 104 'over tea?' (with Alice).

DEREK CLEGG-20s. Sly. Out of his depth. Clegg is a cub reporter who has come to interview Harry about his role as a hangman and his thoughts on the abolition of hanging. He is gentle and inexperienced, but with a little help finds his journalistic side. He is teased for his baby-face. Lancashire accent.
Audition pieces: 36 to 40 (with Harry); 73 to 75 (with Harry and Alice)

INSPECTOR GEORGE FRY-50's. Plain clothes police inspector. Physically intimidating - high status. Loner. Weak deep down. Lancashire accent. Also plays a **PRISON GUARD** with a London accent.
Audition pieces: 21 ALICE: 'So what were up' to 24 'are you still here, lad?' (with Harry and Alice)

Arthur, Charlie and Bill are referred to as 'the three cronies'
Audition pieces: top of 17 to 21 'something something something'.(with Harry and Clegg); 76 'Mind that bloody umbrella' to 79 'who's died?' (with Harry and Alice)

ARTHUR- 60 to 75. Arthur is a regular at the bar. A touch deaf and slow on the uptake, he spends a lot of his time having jokes repeated and explained to him, and then laughing despite everyone else having moved on. Dry, deadpan and tactless. Lancashire accent. Also plays the **PRISON GOVERNOR** with a London accent.

CHARLIE- late 30's to early 50's. Northern. The mediator between others in the group. Engages by laughingly repeating what the others say. Lancashire accent. Also plays a **PRISON GUARD** with a London accent.

BILL- late 30's to early 50's. Northern. The pub's innocent. Alcoholic. Lancashire accent. Also plays the **PRISON DOCTOR** with a London accent.

ALBERT PIERREPOINT-60's. Appears only in the final scene, but is referred to throughout the play. Northern. High Status. Very, very smartly dressed. Quick witted. Dangerous and Harry's nemesis. He shows up at the pub at the most inopportune moment and takes command. He is a charismatic and dominating presence, putting Harry in his place. Lancashire accent. (*Originally played by John Hodgkinson*)
Audition pieces: 94 'Open bloody up!' to 102 'shall we?' (with Harry, Alice, Fry, Syd and the three cronies.)

JAMES HENNESSY 20's. Cheeky. Emotional. Hennessy is a young man in jail waiting to be hanged. He protests his innocence to the end and has to be physically restrained before he will go to his death. A young wheeler-dealer who finds himself in a lot more trouble than he bargained for. Physically demanding role. Must have a good Cockney accent.
Audition pieces: 11 to 15 (with Harry)