

Audition Notice - *Pressure* by David Haig

Directed by Jane and Nick Foster

Performances Monday 22nd May to Saturday 27th May 2023

Read-through Tuesday 24th January 2023 at 8.00 pm
(in the Rehearsal Room)

Auditions Monday 13th February and Wednesday 15th February 2023 at 8.00 pm
(in the Auditorium)

Rehearsals will be on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 14th March 2023 and Sundays after Easter

If you can't make the read-through, but would like to audition, please contact Jane or Nick for a script (phone 07971 179952 or e-mail jane_foster16@hotmail.com).

If you want to audition, but can't make either of the audition dates, please let us know and we will arrange another time to see you.

Synopsis

June 1944. Allied forces are massing for the biggest amphibious landing in history. 7,000 vessels, 5,000 aircraft, 350,000 men. General Eisenhower and three of his chiefs of staff are meeting in top secret at Supreme Allied Headquarters in Portsmouth. The invasion is planned for Monday, 5th June – D-Day. But everything depends on the weather, calm seas, light winds, good visibility.

Dr James Stagg is the Chief Meteorological Officer for the Allied Forces, and reports to Eisenhower. But Ike has brought his own weather expert, Colonel Krick, and the two experts can't agree on anything. Stagg is forecasting storm force wind, driving rain, rough seas, low cloud. Krick predicts a balmy summer's day with blue skies and calm seas. Ike has to decide who to trust – and the stakes couldn't be higher.

From this true story, David Haig has created a play that is full of tension, conflict, warmth and emotion.

Characters and audition pieces

Please note that the ages given in the descriptions below are not critical. Also, the (unnamed) Naval Meteorologist could be either male or female (a number of Wrens served in this role during the war – we've checked!) There is scope for some of the smaller parts listed below to be doubled, but this will be decided after the auditions. Also, the script includes a number of non-speaking roles, but these could be omitted – again, we will decide after the auditions.

Dr James Stagg

Middle-aged, Scottish accent (Edinburgh). Chief Meteorological Officer for the Allied Forces. Focused, direct to the point of rudeness. Key role, involved throughout the play.

Audition pieces: (1) (with Kay) p41 "All right, sir?" to p43 "That would be good, wouldn't it?"; (2) (with Ike) p49 "Stagg, what in hell is going on?" to p52 "do it – now"; (3) (with Krick) p63 "Surely, surely now you cannot contend" to p65 "Goddamit, we should have left you to the Germans"; (4) (with Kay) p73 (top of page) to p76 "Not at all."

Lieutenant Kay Summersby

Around 35, English or Irish accent. Eisenhower's chauffeur, unofficial aide and confidante. Key role, involved throughout the play.

Audition pieces: (1) (with Stagg) p41 "All right, sir?" to p43 "That would be good, wouldn't it?"; (2) (with Ike) p44 "How long?" to p47 "it will be in no small measure down to you"; (3) (with Stagg) p73 (top of page) to p76 "Not at all."

General 'Ike' Eisenhower

50's, American accent. Abrasive, demanding, bears overall responsibility for the D-Day landings. Key role, in most scenes.

Audition pieces: (1) (with Kay) p44 "How long?" to p47 "it will be in no small measure down to you"; (2) (with Stagg) p49 "Stagg, what in hell is going on?" to p52 "do it – now"; (3) p102: "I ordered a car" to p103 "I will feel every one of their deaths."

Colonel Irving P Krick

30's or 40's, American accent. Chief Meteorologist for the US Armed Forces, constantly at odds with Stagg. Key role, though not in all scenes.

Audition pieces: (1) p19 "Jesus Christ, they call this a forecast room?" to p20 "Shall we start?"; (2) p24 "You done?" to p26 "Compromise requires movement on both sides"; (3) (with Stagg) p63 "Surely, surely now you cannot contend" to p65 "Goddamit, we should have left you to the Germans."

Flight Lieutenant Andrew Carter

Junior RAF officer, British accent. Young meteorologist, in awe of Stagg. Smaller part, in several scenes.

Audition pieces: (1) p9 "Welcome to Southwick House, Dr Stagg" to p11 "The midday reading was 92.4"; (2) p99 "Congratulations, sir" to end of scene.

Naval Meteorologist

Could be male or female. British accent. Smaller part, in several scenes.

Audition piece: p10 "Latest thermograms, sir" to bottom of page.

Captain Johns

Middle-aged, British accent. Army adjutant. Small role in 3 scenes, very few lines.

Electrician

Around 60, British accent. Garrulous. Strong character part, but only in one scene.

Audition piece: p31 "They phoned me a week ago" to p32 (bottom of page).

Admiral Sir Bertram 'Bertie' Ramsay

Middle-aged, British accent. Commander-in-Chief, Allied Naval Forces. Appears in two scenes.

Audition piece: p84 (top of page) to p85 (end of scene).

Air Chief Marshal Sir Trafford Leigh-Mallory

Middle-aged, British accent. Commander-in-Chief, Allied Expeditionary Air Force. Appears in two scenes.

Audition piece: p84 (top of page) to p85 (end of scene).

General 'Tooey' Spatz

Middle-aged, American accent. Commander, US Air Force in Europe. Appears in two scenes.

Audition pieces: (1) p38 "Ok, Stagg, what have you got for us?" to p40 (end of scene); (2) p84 (top of page) to p85 (end of scene).

Commander Franklin

Any age, British accent. Naval meteorologist. Appears in one scene.

Audition piece: p92 "Commander Colin Franklin" to p94 "260 degrees, 102 knots at 18,000."

Lieutenant Battersby

Any age, British accent. Naval meteorologist. Appears in one scene.

Audition piece: p92 "Commander Colin Franklin" to p94 "260 degrees, 102 knots at 18,000."