

THE PLAY THAT GOES WRONG

Written by HENRY LEWIS, JONATHAN SAYER & HENRY SHIELDS

Director - Brady Duffy
Mentor Director - Ryan Colburn

Auditions

July 22 @ 6:00
July 23 @ 6:00

Callbacks

July 23 @ 7:30
Possibly July 24 @ 6

Rehearsal Timeline

Regular rehearsals:

Monday - Friday
August 12th - Sept 19th

Tech Week

Sept 21 - Sept 26th

Performances

Saturday, Sept 28 (Champaign Opener)
Friday, October 4
Saturday, October 5
Friday, October 11
Saturday, October 12
Sunday, October 13
Friday, October 18
Saturday, October 19
Sunday, October 20

We will collect cast schedule conflicts/preferences and work to create a mutually agreeable rehearsal schedule, but performance dates are set.

Welcome!

Welcome to auditions for the opening show of the Driftwood Players 2024/2025 season — The play That Goes Wrong. This action packed comedy is a great way to kick off our next season and is sure to delight our audiences with one accident after another.

Whether you are auditioning for your 40th (or first!) Driftwood show, new in town and looking for some cool people to do theater with or just interested in trying something new - thank you for your interest in our production — we are excited to have you join us for auditions!

We understand auditions can be nerve-racking, this packet is intended to give you information about auditions, the play, characters and rehearsal process.

The Play

It's opening night of the Cornley Polytechnic University Drama Society's newest production, *The Murder at Haversham Manor*, where things are quickly going from bad to utterly disastrous. The Drama Society sets out to open their run of this 1920s whodunit, but everything you *never* wanted in a show—an unconscious leading lady, a corpse that can't play dead, and actors who trip over everything (including their lines) — starts to ensue. Nevertheless, the accident-prone thespians battle against all odds, poison, and peril to make it through to their final curtain call, with hilarious consequences! Part Monty Python, part Sherlock Holmes, this Olivier Award-winning comedy is a global phenomenon that's guaranteed to leave the cast exhausted and the audience aching with laughter!



This is PHYSICAL Comedy

It is important for actors auditioning for this show to know that many of these roles require physical comedy. Here is a list of special considerations for some of the characters.

Chris, Robert, Dennis: Be comfortable with standing and flailing on a raised platform...which partially collapses.

Jonathan: Our "corpse" get's knocked about, crawls around. Must be comfortable with heights and carefully climbing down from the platform... about 6 feet up.

Sandra: The two female actors duke it out. Sandra gets pulled through an open window and later shut in a grandfather clock for a few minutes (there is an escape hatch!).

Annie: Has a battle royale (WWE style) with Sandra!

The Cast

The script calls for 6 males and 2 females. Each actor plays a member of the drama society, who also has one or more roles in *The Murder at Haversham Manor*. It is important for the character flaws of the members of the drama society to come through as the play unravels.

Chris / Inspector Carter

Description: Chris is the head of the Cornley Polytechnic Drama Society and the director of the play within the play. He takes his role very seriously and is determined to maintain a semblance of professionalism, despite the numerous disasters unfolding around him. As Inspector Carter, he is meant to exude authority and confidence, but his attempts are often undermined by the chaos.

Personality: He is overly serious as a director and actor, meticulous, tightly wound, easily frustrated, and slightly pompous.

Robert / Thomas Colley Moore

Description: Robert is the society's oldest member, who often sees himself as the most talented (clearly!). He is meant to be the play's dashing and heroic figure, but his overacting and mishaps often lead to unintended...comedy.

Personality: He is confident, over-dramatic, hammy, and somewhat oblivious to his own failings (though keen on the mistakes of others)

Jonathan / Charles Haversham

Description: Jonathan plays the "dead" Charles Haversham, who is supposed to remain motionless on stage. However, he constantly finds himself in awkward situations that require him to move or react, often breaking the illusion of being a corpse.

Personality: He is committed, earnest, unlucky, and physically comedic.



This Set Has a Mind of its Own!

The set of this production is a sort of like a fluffy but devious cat - its a large, beautiful, but complicated piece of scenery that pretty much does whatever it wants.

It will require 2 or 3 "technical actors" to make it come alive and completely ruin the good intentions of the drama society. Part set crew, part actor - this team will at times be seen by the audience and frequently interact with the stage actors from behind the set.

From falling mantelpieces, fire and sound effects, to a collapsing set platform and run-away furniture, this team is a crucial component to this production.

If you are interested in being one of our technical actors, please let us know!

Sandra / Florence Colley Moore

Description: Sandra is a drama queen and she is the leading lady of the society. Playing Florence Colley Moore, Thomas's sister and the fiancée of the murder victim, she aims for a glamorous and emotional portrayal, but her vanity and clumsiness often derail her intentions.

Personality: She is quite vain, self-absorbed, melodramatic, and hyper competitive.

Max / Cecil Haversham / Arthur the Gardener

Description: Max is an enthusiastic but inexperienced actor, known for breaking the fourth wall by seeking audience approval. As Cecil Haversham, Charles's brother, and Arthur the Gardener, he brings an innocent charm and naivety to his roles, often overacting in every scene.

Personality: He is cheerful, naive, eager to please, and easily distracted.

Annie / Stage Manager

Description: Annie is the society's stage manager, who reluctantly steps into the role of the second Florence Colley Moore when Sandra is unable to continue (i.e. knocked unconscious). Though initially hesitant, she gradually finds herself enjoying (and taking) the spotlight, adding to the chaos with her inexperience and newfound thirst for the stage.

Personality: She is practical, initially shy, resourceful, and increasingly confident.



The Arena

Our auditions will be cold readings held in an arena style format. This means Actors should come interested in reading for one or more roles. We will give you the scene script, a few minutes to look it over and then hear actors read for each role. We will do this "arena style" where all the actors will be in the theater and will watch and cheer each-other on.

But that means someone else will see me audition! Yep, that is true - it's a great opportunity to learn from others, see how different actors approach a role and get up there in front of others to show your stuff.

Relax, have fun, it's all good.

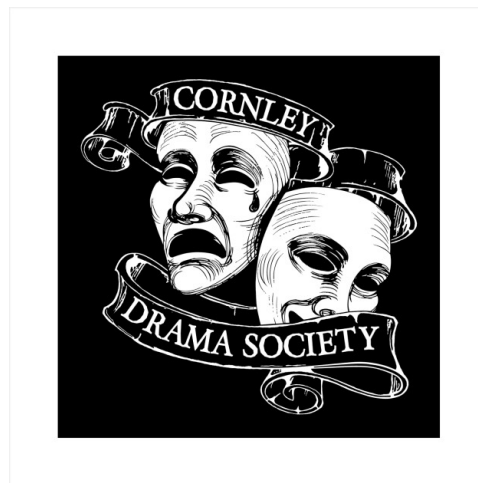
We are happy to accommodate you if you require a different set up, just let us know at auditions.

Trevor / Lighting and Sound Operator

Description: Trevor is the society's tech and lighting crew member, who prefers being behind the scenes but is often pulled into the chaos on stage. He is responsible for the many technical mishaps that occur, from missed sound cues to misplaced props. **Personality:** He is easily flustered, absolutely indifferent to the play's success, laid back (but not in a good way) and occasionally mischievous.

Dennis / Perkins

Description: Dennis is a novice actor, eager but not very talented. As Perkins, the butler, his performance is riddled with mistakes, mispronunciations, and an inability to stay in character. He tends to read and think stage directions aloud, adding to the play's chaos. **Personality:** He is earnest, well-meaning, awkward, and nervously enthusiastic.



Join us!

It all takes place at the Driftwood Theater

120 E. 3rd Street, Aberdeen, WA

We hope to see you there!