

# AUDITION INFORMATION FOR "MURDER BY APPOINTMENT"

A BRITISH MYSTERY BY FRANK WILLIAMS  
PRODUCED BY SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT WITH SAMUEL FRENCH, INC.

## AUDITION DATES & TIMES

**DATES:** December 13th & 14th, 2009      **TIME:** 7:00 PM  
**LOCATION:** Oyster Mill Playhouse      **DIRECTOR:** S. F. J. Martin

## SHOW DESCRIPTION

Family secrets can be deadly. A grisly murder has trapped the Langfords and their two sons in a web of lies, mistrust and shame. How far will a mother go to protect one of her own? Will the revelation of long-hidden truths force the murderer to kill again? In the tradition of great British mysteries, *Murder by Appointment* keeps audiences guessing until the final dark and stormy moment.

## ACTORS NEEDED

The cast for **MURDER BY APPOINTMENT** includes a total of 4 men and 2 women. The production is a psychological murder mystery set in 1970 in a small British seaside town. It contains mature themes but no offensive language, vulgarity or nudity. A young man's body has been found. He had been beaten and murdered. Suspicion centers around the family of the editor of the local newspaper. All of the ages listed in the descriptions are "playing ages".

## CHARACTER DESCRIPTIONS

**David Langford:** A refined young man in his early twenties. David is gay but not effeminate. His family is more or less aware of his sexuality but he is otherwise in the closet. He is a bit brooding but not morose. Since finishing his education he has reluctantly worked as a reporter for his father's newspaper.

**Charles Langford:** David's Brother, a young man of 18. Charles is an outgoing young man on summer break from boarding school where he is in his last year. He has a reputation as a heartbreaker among the young ladies of his social class. He is also something of a bully, relishing the corporal punishment that the senior students are permitted to inflict upon their errant juniors.

**Richard Langford:** Father of David and Charles, he is in his early to mid 50s. He is the well-respected editor of the local newspaper. A bit stern but not humorless.

**Joan Langford:** Mother of David and Charles; wife of Richard. 40 something. A reserved, dutiful wife and caring mother, she is also astutely observant and intelligent.

**Celia Masefield:** A comely young girl but no great beauty. She is around 16-17 and is also home from boarding school for the summer. She is an air-headed but manipulative flirt with her sights set on Charles.

**Detective Sergeant Bradley:** Local police detective between 25 and 30. Not quite of the same social status as the Langfords or perhaps as educated. He is nevertheless a smart and skilled detective.

## DIRECTOR'S NOTES

As this piece is set in Great Britain, an English accent will be necessary. The director notes, however, that a proper British accent can be learned without too much difficulty. Given the social status of the characters, the accent should be upper-middle class, not cockney or other regionally identifiable dialect. In this regard, auditioning actors/actresses are advised to practice articulating precisely when they speak and subverting any regional Americanisms that may creep into their everyday speech. Specific British pronunciations can then be more easily learned. At auditions, the ability to take direction and to develop an accent will be as important as having already mastered a British accent.

The BBC television series *As Time Goes By*, broadcast on public television on Saturday nights is a good source to listen to the kind of British accent the director is looking for.

## SHOW DATES AND TIMES

**Public Performances:** March 5, 6, 12, 13, 19, 20 and 21 @ 8 PM

**Public Performances:** March 14 and 21st @ 2 PM

**Benefit Dates:** Possible benefit dates are March 7, 9, 11 and 16 (Times TBD).

## SCRIPT INFORMATION

- ↗ **Click here** to send an email if you have any questions about auditions.
- ↗ Scripts may be available before the auditions.
- ↗ If you would like your own copy, you can buy one from **Samuel French, Inc.**

