

Wadhurst Dramatic Club Audition Pack

For

'Allo 'Allo

A comedy by Jeremy Lloyd and David Croft (by permission of Samuel French)

Directed by Russ Kirton (Contact: russ.kirton@btinternet.com / 07824 306331)

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SHOW SYNOPSIS

Based on the hugely popular TV series this hilarious comedy comes straight from the pen of the original script writers Jeremy Lloyd and David Croft and closely follows the TV show's original format featuring all the most popular characters.

This stage version of 'Allo 'Allo follows the adventures of René Artois, a hapless café owner in Nazi-occupied France, and his wife, Edith, who entertains their patrons with her special brand of "cabaret".

René must keep many secrets; he has concealed a priceless portrait in a knockwurst sausage on behalf of the Nazis (but plans to keep it for himself), he is reluctantly hiding two British Airmen for The French Resistance, and there will be big trouble if his wife discovers his amorous affairs with his young waitresses.

Matters come to a head with the news that the Führer is to visit the town, and the café becomes filled with tricksters intending to impersonate or assassinate Hitler. René will need all the wit he can muster to save his café and his life!

SHOW DATES / PRODUCTION WEEK - 20th – 27th May 2018

Venue: **The Commemoration Hall, Wadhurst**

Saturday	19	Set Building	12am
Sunday	20	Set Building	10am
Sunday	20	Full Show Rehearsal	2pm - 5pm
Monday	21	Technical Rehearsal	6pm
Tuesday	22	Day off or Rehearsal	?
Wednesday	23	Final Dress Rehearsal	6pm
Thursday	24	Live Show	6pm
Friday	25	Live Show	6pm
Friday	25	Curry Night ?	2230 ?
Saturday	26	Live Show	2,30pm
Saturday	26	Live Show	6pm
Sunday	27	Clear stage	10am

N.B. All cast will be required to attend Tech / Dress and all performances!!

AUDITIONS

- Venue: **The Commemoration Hall, Wadhurst**
- Auditions: **Sunday 13th Jan 2018 (2–5pm)**
- Recalls (if needed): **Monday 22th January 2017 (7:30 -10pm)**

REHEARSALS

Venue: **The Orchard room (Side door of The Commemoration Hall) Wadhurst.**

Rehearsals: **Monday and Wednesday evenings, 7.30 – 10pm. Sunday rehearsals will take place throughout May 2018. In the Orchard room unless otherwise informed.**

Scripts will be used in auditions, you may be called or recalled to read alongside other people. Script excerpts will be available online by request or printouts will be available at the auditions. If you would like to audition but cannot attend these dates please contact Russ Kirton as soon as possible.

Please consider the necessary level of commitment required.

Please clearly declare any rehearsal dates you cannot attend on your audition form.

We would like this show process to be rewarding and fun therefore regular attendance and punctuality to rehearsals is essential. Please note that not everyone will be called to every rehearsal.

CHARACTER DESCRIPTIONS - Roles available: 10 Male, 5 Female, + M/F Extras/Pianist.

Set in Nouvion, Northern France during the 1940's German occupation. This is a classic fast-paced farce with lots of cultural clichés, physical comedy, visual gags, sexual innuendo and broad characterisations.

The characterisations pose an interesting challenge for the actors. As the show is based on a well-loved series. Even though the characters are larger than life, it is important to find the truth in the character, make the part your own but still retain the original flavour of the show. The characters should be played without any sense of irony to get the most out of the comedy.

Obviously, we are looking forward to hearing your various German, French and Franglais accents! Those auditioning for Edith, Yvette and Mimi – we will need to hear a little singing (good, bad or otherwise) and see some movement / dance, this will form part of your audition. Please see individual role descriptions for more info.

MALE ROLES:

RENÉ ARTOIS playing age 40-60

Middle-aged French Café Owner. This is the central role, René is on stage most of the time and drives the show's narrative. René is the only character to frequently break the 4th wall to speak directly to the audience. René is a self-confessed coward who tries to remain impartial whilst always protecting his own best interests. He is a harangued but charismatic everyman and despite a rather ordinary appearance seems to have an irresistible allure, particularly to his two young waitresses and to Gruber, a friendly German Officer who likes to frequent the café. This is a physical role which will involve lots of sexual innuendo and many amorous scenes!

COLONEL KURT VON STROHM playing age 40-60

German. The Colonel is the corrupt town commandant who likes to line his own pockets with stolen Nazi treasures. He is a frequent visitor to the café where he seeks favours from the waitresses. He also forces René to conceal stolen artefacts for him and in return keeps secret the knowledge that René is hiding the British airmen in his basement. He is greedy, vain and self-serving yet remains quite likeable despite all of this. Ideally, the Colonel should be played by someone who is stocky and balding. The Colonel wears a "wiglet" for a large part of the play. Sings/speaks a line in one of Edith's cabaret songs.

CAPTAIN ALBERTO BERTORELLI playing age 20-50

Italian. Bertorelli is a flamboyant, bombastic Italian captain attached to the German forces. He believes himself to be very charming and has a keen eye for the ladies, but he loves nobody more than he loves himself. Bertorelli is over-the top in both his speech and physicality. Bertorelli is in league with Colonel Von Strohm and also plans to profit from undeclared stolen Nazi goods. He sings /speaks a line in one of Edith's cabaret songs and must impersonate Hitler in Act 2.

HERR OTTO FLICK playing age 20-50

German, preferably blonde but not essential. Herr Flick is an agent of the Gestapo. He walks with a limp and uses a stick as a walking aid/weapon! He is reportedly Himmler's godson and aspires to be like his Nazi hero. Flick is entirely emotionless and cold, yet still manages to demonstrate a repressed /mildly sadistic passion for his assistant Helga. Flick is nearly always seen in long leather coat, pin stripe suit, leather gloves and glasses. In this show he plays the violin, dances a tango (stiffly) and disguises himself as a sexy cinema usherette. *Please do let us know when auditioning if you are adept at any of these skills!*

LIEUTENANT HUBERT GRUBER playing age 20-60

German. Gruber is a kindly German officer, who doesn't much enjoy his official duties (except for time spent in his "little tank"). Gruber does enjoy his visits to the café though, and lives in hope of expanding his relationship with René, with whom he feels he has a special bond! Gruber frequently walks in on René in a variety of compromising or embarrassing positions. The subtext of course is that Gruber is hopelessly in love with René, which should be played with subtlety and not overtly camp.

GENERAL LUDVIG VON SCHMELLING playing age 40-60

German. General Von Schmelling does not appear in the TV show but is a similar character to General Von Klinkerhoffen. He is a senior officer who takes his military duties very seriously indeed. He is a strict, authoritative figure who takes a very dim view of the Resistance, and corruption within his own ranks. Everyone is terrified of him, except for Herr Flick. Schmelling is supposed to have a wooden leg and he could also wear an eye patch.

OFFICER CRABTREE playing age 20-50

British, disguised as a French "poloceman". A gem of a part, this character has some of the most popular catchphrases from the series, e.g. "Good moaning! I was just pissing by..." etc. Crabtree is a British undercover agent posing as a very sombre French policeman. His knowledge of French is very weak and he often uses the wrong vowel sounds leading to comical misunderstandings! The actor taking this role would ideally be tall and slender. This is a physical role and will involve some compromising positions!

ROGER LECLERC playing age 60+ (can be aged up for the part)

French. An elderly forger and escaped convict he now works for the French Resistance. Leclerc appears in a variety of different disguises (all unconvincing)! In the TV series, Leclerc was also the pianist who accompanies Edith in the café so if there is an actor who can also play piano to a high standard then that could be a big advantage. Otherwise we will find a piano player as an extra and separate these roles.

RAF AIRMEN: FLIGHT LIEUTENANTS FAIRFAX AND CARSTAIRS

2 Roles, British. Fairfax and Carstairs are the British Airmen in hiding in René's café, awaiting repatriation with the help of The French Resistance. Should be played as the quintessential "chocs away" happy-go-lucky Brits. Whilst these roles are very memorable from the series, there are relatively few lines for these parts in the stage show. The airmen pop out of various hidden locations on the set. We may build these roles further to include between-scene sketches as well (TBC). These parts can be doubled with a backstage role and would require relatively little rehearsal.

FEMALE ROLES

EDITH ARTOIS playing age 40-60

French. Demanding but faithful wife of René Artois. Despite being a terrible singer, Edith believes that she is a musical star and regularly performs a cabaret at the café which is usually badly received by the patrons. Edith has 2 musical numbers in the show, which need to be comically off-key! Edith is very gullible, passionate and long-suffering. *For the audition, as well as script work we will ask you to perform a short burst of a song of your choice, preferably with some movement as well. The song can be anything, perhaps something like "Falling In Love Again" or "Happy Birthday". Your challenge is to try to make us laugh - singing out of tune won't be an issue but a bonus!*

YVETTE CARTE-BLANCHE playing age 18-40

French. Tall and attractive, ideally brunette haired (natural or wig). Yvette is a good looking waitress who is having a passionate affair with René. She hopes to elope with him one day. As a side-line Yvette & Mimi "entertain" soldiers in one of the upstairs rooms of the café. Yvette also takes part in the grand cabaret so she needs to be able to sing and dance. *As part of the audition for this role, we will ask you to perform a short burst of a song of your choice, something like Happy Birthday, in a comedic sexy style with some movement as well.*

MIMI LABONQ playing age 18-40

French. Blonde haired (natural or wig). Mimi Labonq is a feisty waitress and secret assassin working for the French Resistance. Mimi is also having a passionate affair with René unbeknownst to Edith or Yvette. She is tempestuous and fiery and often must be held back from attacking German visitors in the café. As a side-line Yvette & Mimi "entertain" soldiers in one of the upstairs rooms of the café. Mimi also takes part in the grand cabaret so she needs to be able to sing and dance. *As part of the audition for this role, we will ask you to perform a short burst of a song of your choice, something like Happy Birthday, in a comedic feisty style – please think about adding with some movement as well.*

MICHELLE DUBOIS playing age 20-40

French. Local leader of the Resistance Movement. Dark haired (natural or wig). Catchphrase: "Listen very carefully, I will say this only once". Michelle has persuaded a reluctant René to help them hide 2 British Airmen in the cellar. She frequently appears in disguise and is highly passionate about her cause. Speaks with a French accent except when talking to the British Airmen when she adopts an exaggerated upper-class English accent.

PRIVATE HELGA GEERHART playing age 20-40

German. Blonde haired (natural or wig). Attractive, Aryan looking secretary to General Von Strohm. Helga is in a strange sadomasochistic relationship with Herr Flick. **Helga must strip down to her sexy lingerie** in one scene. She also will be performing a very uptight tango in another scene. Helga is clipped and severe but a sexy seductress lurks underneath her harsh exterior.

PLUS Extra actors (Male or female) to appear in various café scenes and also double as crew. An accomplished pianist will be needed for the 2 café cabaret scenes, some incidental music and the Tango. This role can be merged with the character of Leclerc.

CREATIVE AND PRODUCTION TEAM INFO

Production Roles (still to be filled) We already have lots of fantastic people signed up to the 'Allo 'Allo production team but we are still looking for more volunteers for key roles and backstage crew.

- Director's Assistant – Marianne Johnson
- Stage Manager – Lisa Hart
- Lighting (plus all things structural and technical)– John Bush
- Sound Manager – Bill Johnson
- Front of house Manager - ?
- Costume & Wardrobe Manager – Penny Bones?
- Props Manager – To note for Props for this production will require minimal sourcing
- Construction Team – WANTED Set Building Team – please contact John Bush or Russ Kirton
- Make-Up - ?
- Stage Crew - ?
- Choreographer - ?

'ALLO 'ALLO, a comedy play by Jeremy Lloyd and David Croft

Auditions: Sun 13th January, 2017 – The Commemoration Hall, Wadhurst (2-5pm)

Production Week: Sun 20th May – Sat 27th May, 2017 at The Commemoration Hall, Wadhurst

Name:

Address:

Home phone:

Mobile:

Email:

Roles auditioning for:

Will you consider other roles? Y / N

Previous Dancing / Singing experience / special skills?

Please state any rehearsal dates you cannot attend or any other productions you may be rehearsing including the name of the company and dates of the performances?

Rehearsals will commence on Monday 5th February and will be held every Monday and Wednesday until the show, starting at 7:30pm and ending at 10pm. Rehearsals will be held at **The Orchard room (Side door of The Commemoration Hall) Wadhurst. Sunday rehearsals will take place throughout May 2018. Unless otherwise informed.**

Please note cast members may not be called for every rehearsal. All cast members will be expected to participate in the wider preparations for the production as well as being on stage.

I confirm that I have read the attached conditions (above & overleaf) and agree to be bound by them.

Signed: _____

Date: _____

Please return this Audition form to the Director (Russ Kirton)

Conditions of Performance with Wadhurst Dramatic Club

If successful in securing a role in the Wadhurst Dramatic Club's production of 'Allo ' Allo you will be expected to abide by the following conditions. All references to the Directorial Team, are deemed to include all or one of the following: The Director, Musical Director and Choreographer. Signing and dating the audition form confirms acceptance of these Conditions of Performance.

Attendance

1. A timetable will be circulated considering all pre-booked holidays noted on this application form. Performers will therefore be expected to attend all rehearsals for which they are required, except in extraordinary circumstances.
2. Performers will be expected to arrive punctually and promptly to all rehearsals for which they are required.
3. If performers are absent from three (consecutive) or six (in total) rehearsals they may, at the wish of the Directorial Team after discussion with the Chairman, be dropped from the cast. No absences will be permitted in the last month of rehearsal (except with the agreement of the Director)
4. Performers will abide by the lawful wishes and requests of the Directorial Team always.
5. Any complaint or grievance should be raised with the Directorial Team in the first instance. If the matter is not resolved to the performer's satisfaction, it may be raised for discussion and subsequent decision by the Wadhurst Dramatic Club committee.

Costumes.

Will be provided unless otherwise agreed and may be hired, manufactured or provided for the performer's use and must be returned to a member of the Wardrobe Team after the last performance.

Performance fees:

All cast will be required to pay £10 towards the cost of insurance for this show.

E. Image rights

Wadhurst Dramatic Club will have the right to use all recordings (still, video and audio) made during this production (rehearsals, performances and publicity events) in any way it so decides to publicise both this production and any future activity of the society in any media which it sees fit.