

AUDITION NOTICE

Blithe Spirit **by Noël Coward**

Audition dates: Tuesday 2nd July, Wednesday 3rd July & Monday 8th July 2019
8pm - Medway Little Theatre

Playing dates (incl. Charity nights) Tuesday 1st to Saturday 12th October 2019

Blithe Spirit (described as an improbable farce) was written by Noël Coward in 1941 and first produced in June of the same year at the Manchester Opera House. It then premiered in London's West End at the Piccadilly Theatre on 2nd July 1941, later transferring to the St James's Theatre and then the Duchess Theatre, running for a total of 1,997 performances.

The story was subsequently filmed in 1944 with the role of Madam Arcati famously played by Margaret Rutherford, a role that is to be taken on by Judi Dench in a new 2019 film.

Synopsis

The action of the play takes place in the living room of a house in Kent belonging to writer, Charles Condomine and his second wife, Ruth. One evening, with a view to gathering inspiration and material for his new book, Charles invites local eccentric medium, Madame Arcati, to hold a seance at his house, along with his friends, Dr. and Mrs. Bradman. Despite initially thinking the seance has been a failure, it soon becomes clear that Madame Arcati has unwittingly summoned Charles' late first wife, Elvira, to haunt him. Once in the house, Elvira is unable to leave and, as she cannot be seen or heard by Ruth, she sets about creating all kinds of mischief between the married couple, and in her wilful desire to have Charles to herself forever, she endeavours to achieve this by means of staging several accidents, one of which, a car accident, results unintentionally in Ruth's death. Now driven to distraction by two jealous squabbling spirits, Charles once more enlists the help of Madam Arcati in a bid to exorcise both, but will she succeed?...Sounds like fun?...Do come along to audition.

Characters

Edith	A maid	Any age	Always in a hurry
Ruth	Charles' second wife	Mid thirties to mid fifties	Sophisticated / Witty
Charles	A novelist. Ruth's husband	Early forties to sixty-ish	Articulate / Debonair
Dr Bradman	Friend of Charles	Middle aged	Pleasant in manner
Mrs Bradman	Dr Bradman's wife	Middle aged	Mild mannered / Naive
Madam Arcati	A local medium	Middle aged to older	Eccentric / Exuberant
Elvira	A ghost. Charles' first wife	Mid thirties to mid fifties	Elegant / Mischievous

Please note that the ages quoted are a guide and can be flexible.

I look forward to seeing you at the auditions, however if you are unable to attend the dates quoted, please let me know to make alternative arrangements.

Chris Loft (Director)

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