

# Audition Notice - **The Deep Blue Sea** by Terence Rattigan (directed by Paul Doust)

Performance dates: **9, 10, 11, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17 & 18 May, 2024**

Audition dates (x 2): **7.30 pm, Tues 24<sup>th</sup> October, 2023** and **7.30 pm Fri 3<sup>rd</sup> Nov, 2023** (both in The Copley Room)

**NOTE:** *I'll audition a different set of characters on each night. I've not worked out, yet, which characters on which night. Please email me as below and I'll up-date you on this well before the auditions.*

**The Deep Blue Sea** is one of Rattigan's very greatest "pressure cooker" plays.

The story centres on Hester Collyer and her shattering affair with a younger man. Superbly constructed and highly emotional, this play grabs the audience by the throat from the start. It then unfolds beautifully - minutely exploring the more extreme characteristics of erotic desire and its impact on a small group of fragile and disparate people.

Recently revived at the National Theatre - with the late Helen McCrory as Hester - **The Deep Blue Sea** is a true classic of post-war British theatre.

Character	Age range (approx.)	Key notes
<b>Hester Collyer</b>	40/55	<b>Lead role. A lot of lines to learn.</b> Married, upper middle-class woman who has "thrown it all away" to have an affair with a younger man (not of the same social standing as herself).
<b>Mrs Elton</b>	60+	Landlady of the run-down lodging house in which Hester is living. Friend and confidant to Hester.
<b>Philip Welch</b>	Mid/late 20s	Lives in the same lodging house - with his wife. Absurdly unworldly.
<b>Anne Welch</b>	Mid/late 20s	Married to Philip. Innocent and ignorant.
<b>Mr Miller</b>	50+	<b>Lead Role. A lot of lines to learn.</b> Also lives in the Lodging house. Is thought to have been a doctor at one time, but has been "struck off" for an unknown reason. Kind and understanding. Might need an Austrian accent – but perhaps not; to be discussed.
<b>William Collyer</b>	50+	<b>Lead role. A lot of lines to learn.</b> A successful high court judge. Married to Hester - though now separated. Entirely bewildered by Hester's affair – and devastated by its impact on him.
<b>Freddie Page</b>	Early/mid 30s	<b>Lead role. A lot of lines to learn.</b> Ex-RAF fighter pilot. Served in WW2. Impulsive and fast-living. Out of his emotional depth with Hester. Doesn't behave well, but not deliberately cruel.
<b>Jackie Jackson</b>	Early/mid 30s	Good friend of Freddie. Affable but a bit stupid. Does his best.

If you want to audition for **The Deep Blue Sea**, please email me by the end of **Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> Oct '23**.

**pddoust@hotmail.com**

**If you don't email me by 19<sup>th</sup> Oct, I won't be able to audition you** (organising the evenings, allocation of time, etc)

*I have a complete pdf of the script, if you want it. Please just let me know and I'll email it over to you.*

Once you've emailed me to say that you want to audition, I'll then reply to you with:

- an audition form to complete and return.
- the audition dates for the various characters.
- the audition pieces for each character.

Ok folks – that's all for now. Looking forward to hearing from you.

Very best,

Paul.