

# The Ghost Train

**Written by Arnold Ridley**

**Directed by Nick Mouton**

**28 March – 1 April 2017**

**Barons Court Theatre**



## **1. About the Play**

A group of travellers find themselves stranded at a remote railway station somewhere in Cornwall. They disregard the station master's stark warnings and decide to spend the night. However, events threaten to drive the group half mad as the ghostly train that haunts the line approaches ever nearer.

## **2. Auditions**

This is a classic ghost story with humour thrown in, and Barons Court Theatre is the ideal setting for the play as its general claustrophobic atmosphere will help build the enclosed tension of the play. I'm setting the play in the 1920s and will be using all of the exits and entrances into the space, including the theatre's box office, turning the space into a remote train station in the middle of nowhere so that the audience feel as if they're fully immersed.

The play needs to have a tight ensemble cast so the auditions will include some team games and group readings from the script. I won't be looking at character fits at this stage as I want to see how you work in a team and how you take direction. I will try to ensure that you get to read a couple of times and please don't feel that the part I ask you to read is the part I'm considering you for. I'll be hoping to look at your acting range, accents and character work. Recalls is where I'll be looking at which part best suits your skills.

The important thing for you to remember during auditions is to enjoy yourself!

**When:** 6:15-6:30pm registration, auditions 6:30pm-9:30pm, Tuesday 17, Wednesday 18 and Thursday 19 January 2017. Choose whichever date suits you best.

**Where:** Theatre Deli Studios, 30 Marsh Wall, Isle of Dogs, London E14 9TP

**Nearest Tube:** Canary Wharf or South Quay

**Recalls:** 10am-4pm, Sunday 22 January 2017

**Venue:** As Above

You will be called on Friday 20 January if the director would like to see you again.

### 3. Show Dates

Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> March – Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> April 2017

The technical and dress rehearsals will be on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> March. It's advisable to take that day off so that you can relax, get focused and help with the get-in at the theatre. It will be a long week so relaxing time is golden!

### 4. Rehearsals

Rehearsals will be mainly on Monday and Wednesday evenings from 7pm – 9.30pm and Sunday afternoons/ evenings for four hours. Some of the characters will not be needed for every single rehearsal. All rehearsals will be in central London and a schedule will be created as soon as possible, once the cast's availability dates are all accounted for. Our last rehearsal on Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> March will be for 8 hours.

### 5. Cast Breakdown

There are 11 characters, 7 male and 4 female.

<i>Saul Hodgkin (M)</i>	40+. The Station Master. A bit of a grumpy jobs-worth. Local guy so has a Cornish accent.
<i>Richard Winthorp (M)*</i>	28+. Posh city boy with a bit of an attitude. Stuck up, but is a leader & finds his more human side during the evening. Married to Elsie.
<i>Elsie Winthorp (F)*</i>	25+. Posh & a bit stuck-up. Not scared to express her opinion. Has fallen out of love with Richard at the beginning of the play.
<i>Charles Murdock (M)*</i>	25+. Posh & likeable. Very polite. Just got married to Peggy & they're on their way to their Honeymoon.
<i>Peggy Murdock (F)*</i>	20+. Sweet natured & naïve. Dependent on Charles.
<i>Miss Bourne (F)</i>	50+. A spinster who plays by the rules. She likes people with manors & is easily shocked. Not afraid to speak her mind.
<i>Teddie Deakin (M)*</i>	25+. The comedy character of the play. Irritating & posh. Likes to be the life of the party but ends up annoying everyone. Behaviour best suits the chaps in the club.
<i>Julia Price (F)</i>	28+. She lives near the station & is scared of the train. Nervous & potentially mad.
<i>Herbert Price (M)</i>	30+. Julia's brother. Posh & arrogant. Looking for his sister Julia.

*John Sterling (M)*      30+. A friend of the Price's. Julia's doctor. He knows the story about the ghost train, but isn't sure whether it's real or not.

*Jackson (M)*      25+. A police officer from London.

*\*Characters that spend most of their time on stage so will need to attend the majority of rehearsals*

Good luck & see you at the auditions!