

Flare Path

Written by Terence Rattigan

Directed by Lisa Thomas

27 November to 1 December 2018

Barons Court Theatre



1. Auditions

You do not need to prepare anything for the audition. The audition will be a group audition with an introduction to the play and characters and then reading a number of short scenes from the play with other actors.

On the night you audition, you will be asked to fill in a preference form so that we have your contact details and know if there are any specific parts you'd like to audition for. Recalls will be as above but you will also be asked to consider certain specified aspects of the characters for which you are auditioning.

When: 6.45-7pm registration, auditions 7pm-9pm
Monday 17, Tuesday 18, Wednesday 19 September 2018.
Choose whichever date suits you best.

Where: Theatre Deli Studios, 2 Finsbury Avenue, EC2M 2PA

Nearest tube: Liverpool Street or Moorgate

Recalls: 10am-2pm, Saturday 22 September 2018

Venue: As above

You will be called by Friday 21 September if the director would like to see you again. Recalls are by invite only, and will be in the form of partnered/ group readings. You will also be asked to consider certain specified aspects of the characters for which you are auditioning.

2. Show Dates

The show will be performed from Tuesday 27 November to Saturday 1 December at Barons Court Theatre. Each performance will start at 7.30pm and you will be called at least an hour beforehand to warm up. The dress rehearsals will be on Sunday 25 November all day and Monday 26 November. On Monday you will preferably be available from midday onwards but if this is impossible for you, it's not vital.

3. Rehearsals

First rehearsal (depending on cast availability) on Monday 24 September. Rehearsals will be mainly on Monday and Wednesday evenings and Sunday afternoons/evenings. You might not be needed for every single rehearsal. All rehearsals will be in central London. A rehearsal schedule will be created as soon as possible, once the cast's availability dates are all accounted for.

4. About the Play

Flare Path was written in 1941 while Terence Rattigan was serving as an air gunner with the RAF during the Second World War and most of its protagonists have a link to the RAF. It is set in The Falcon, a small hotel close to a Lincolnshire RAF base where we are introduced to a number of RAF men and their wives. Into the hotel walks Peter Kyle, a famous British film actor, who has come to reunite with his lover, Patricia Graham. She has been putting off telling her husband, Teddy, a Flight Lieutenant, of her affair. The elopement is delayed by the announcement of a bombing raid; the airmen take off and all return but one. Count Skriczevinsky, who is presumed lost at sea. All feel emotional stresses of war, in particular Teddy, who fears he may have lost his nerve. Patricia is moved by his need for her and resolves to give up Peter; Peter seems unwilling to accept this and plans to tell Teddy himself. However, reading a heartfelt letter from the Count to his wife, Doris, he has a change of heart and leaves. At the last minute, the inhabitants of the hotel are surprised by the return of the Count, whose wife and colleagues had given him up for dead.

There are beautifully written roles for both men and women of a range of ages and Rattigan expertly probes his characters' emotional needs and reflects their trajectory.

5. Cast Breakdown

Doris, Countess Skriczevinsky – late 20s/early 30s. A former barmaid now married to a Polish count, she is practical, humane and self-aware. Needs a non-RP accent.

Mrs Oakes – late 30s+. The proprietress of the hotel. Somewhat scary and not afraid to say what she thinks.

Patricia Graham – late 20s/early 30s. Very attractive. A stage actress, now married to Teddy, she is also in love with Peter Kyle. A multifaceted woman who proves that appearances can be deceptive.

Mrs. Maudie Miller – late 20s/early 30s. Married to Dusty. A practical, somewhat anxious woman. Needs a non RP accent.

Peter Kyle – late 30s/early 40s. A British actor who has become a Hollywood star. Outwardly handsome and self-confident but out of place amidst all the RAF men who are serving their country. Quite self centred and can appear somewhat amoral though is deeply in love with Patricia.

Flight Lieutenant Teddy Graham – late 20s/early 30s. A pilot, married to Patricia Graham whom he adores. An apparently light-hearted character who does not take himself too seriously, he is brave and much liked by his colleagues.

Sergeant Dusty Miller – late 20s. Teddy Graham's tail gunner, clearly of a different class to Teddy but brave and good at his job. Married to Maudie. Needs a non RP accent.

Percy – late teens, early 20s. A waiter/barman at the hotel. Fun comedy role.

Count Skriczevinsky – early 30s. Tall, heroic. Married to Doris whom he loves very much. His English is very limited but he is well liked by his fellow airmen.

Squadron Leader Swanson – mid 40s+. In charge of the Squadron with a definite air of authority, he is also practical and humorous and hates the dangers to which he is obliged to subject his men.

Corporal Wiggy Jones – 20s/30s. Small walk-on role.