

VISUAL INTRODUCTION TO...
THE PLAY THAT GOES
WRONG



SUNDAY 6 NOVEMBER 2022

DUCHESS THEATRE

Catherine Street, London, WC2B 5LA

WHAT IS THE PLAY ABOUT?

Often it is nice to know what it is we are about to see. We're going to tell you all about the show in the next few pages but here is a brief spoiler free* outline of what the play is about.

'The Play That Goes Wrong' does exactly what it says. It is a play that goes wrong!

The Cornley Polytechnic Drama Society - an amateur dramatics group - are putting on a production of a murder mystery play called The Murder at Haversham Manor.

The problem is, they are not actually very good and they make a lot of mistakes. As the play goes on things get worse and worse and hopefully it is very funny!



**A spoiler is when someone tells you what is going to happen before it actually happens. Some people like to be surprised when they watch things but others would rather know in advance. Both options are just as good as each other so it is up to you.*

If you don't want to know any spoilers then don't read the section of this document called 'What Happens in the Play' or ask someone else to read it first and tell you the important bits!

WHAT IS A 'PLAY WITHIN A PLAY'?

In this play, the actors are playing two roles as the characters themselves are also doing a play - This is called a 'Play within a Play'. It occurs in quite a few shows like 'A Midsummer Night's Dream' or 'Hamlet'. It can, however, be a little confusing so we are going to explain it a little to help you through the rest of this guide.

ACTORS

When we talk about the 'Actors' we will be referring to the performers themselves - the people who will be performing for you on the day.

CHARACTERS

The play is about 'The Cornley Polytechnic Drama Society' and they are the first set of 'characters' we will get to know. The 'actors' are playing a group of amateur performers who are themselves putting on a play called 'The Murder at Haversham Manor'. So when we talk about the 'Characters' we will be talking about the members of the Cornley Polytechnic Society.

ROLES

So, our 'Actors' are playing 'Characters' that are putting on a play and as such they all have another 'Role' within that play. When we talk about the 'Roles' we will be referring to the parts they are playing in 'The Murder at Haversham Manor'.

COSTUMES

A costume is the clothes that an actor wears when they are playing a character. Our 'Characters' all wear costumes for their roles. When they change their costume it is because they are taking on a different 'Role' in the Murder at Haversham Manor. On the next page you will see some pictures of the costumes.

Phew, okay, on with the show...

THE PLAY THAT GOES
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THE ACTORS, CHARACTERS AND ROLES



Actor Name: Mikhail Sen

Character Name: Chris

Chris is the leader of the Cornley Polytechnic Drama Society and director of this production. He has worked very hard and he really wants it to go well.

Role: Inspector Carter

The Inspector is the detective in charge of solving the murder.



Actor Name: Tendai Humphrey Sitima

Character Name: Robert

Robert thinks of himself as the star of the show. He is a bit of an old fashioned actor and has a tendency to overdo things a little.

Role: Thomas Colley Moore

Thomas is the best friend of the murdered man, Charles, and brother to Charles' fiancé.



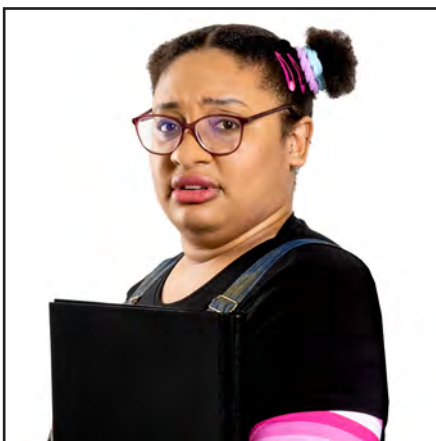
Actor Name: Jaouhar Ben Ayed

Character Name: Dennis

Dennis has joined the company to make new friends, he's very nervous and a bit forgetful.

Role: Perkins

Perkins is the butler at Haversham Manor. He's quite old but very wise.



Actor Name: Ashh Blackwood

Character Name: Annie

Annie is very friendly and a little bit shy. She doesn't have any desire to be on stage.

Role: None

Annie is the stage manager of the Cornley Polytechnic and so her role in the company is backstage... at least at first!

THE ACTORS, CHARACTERS AND ROLES



Actor Name: Scott Hunter

Character Name: Max

This is Max's first time on stage and he is having the time of his life! He doesn't really understand the rules of theatre and he's a bit clumsy.

Role: Cecil Haversham

Cecil is Charles' brother and unknown to anyone else he is having an affair with Charles' fiancé.



Actor Name: Anya de Villiers

Character Name: Sandra

Sandra thinks she is a very good actor, but she is a bit vain and she doesn't listen very well.

Role: Florence Colley Moore

Florence is due to marry Charles but she has been having a secret affair with Cecil.



Actor Name: Tomisin Ajani

Character Name: Trevor

Trevor is a technician, he wants to do his job well but gets distracted easily. He doesn't want to be on stage.

Role: None

Trevor is the show's technician so he doesn't have a role in the play... at least at first!



Actor Name: Oliver Mott

Character Name: Jonathan

Jonathan tries his very best but sometimes he is a little over-enthusiastic.

Role: Charles Haversham

Charles is the Lord of Haversham Manor. At the beginning of the play Charles has been murdered, or so it seems...

THE UNDERSTUDIES

Our Understudies are some of the most important people in our show.

Not only do they do some amazing stuff backstage every night to make the show work, they also cover all of the other actors' roles if they are off sick or on holiday.

If you are really lucky you might get to see one of this lovely lot on stage.

Roisin Fahey

Charlie Richards

Emily Waters



Jack Whittle

Stuart Vincent

THE SET

Our set designer Nigel Hook has created a beautiful and amazing set where nothing is quite as it seems. Lots of the pieces are capable of moving or falling off as you will see throughout the show.

Don't worry though, everything is carefully practiced and very safe!

The main door

The 'Upper level'
represents Charles'
private study. The floor
here moves up and down
very safely to make it seem
as though it is falling

Fake bookcase with a
hidden compartment
behind it



Chaise Longue

Grandfather Clock