

The Game's Afoot: Casting Call

Director: Mariann Sawyer

Producer: Anita Goodfellow

Production Description:

It is Christmas Eve, 1936. William Gillette, an actor famous for his portrayal of Sherlock Holmes, has invited his fellow cast-members to his Connecticut castle for a weekend of revelry. But when one of the guests is stabbed to death, the festivities in this isolated house of tricks and mirrors quickly turn dangerous. Then it's up to Gillette himself, as he assumes the persona of his beloved Holmes, to track down the killer before the next victim appears. This glittering whodunit has murder, infidelity, wit, and surprises—something for everyone.

William Gillette (35-45 years old):

Gillette is a consummate actor who has played the role of Sherlock Holmes for years; he is much like Holmes: smart, analytical and, in this play at least, has a compulsive need to seek honor and virtue; he is now wealthy from playing the role of Sherlock; during the play, he seeks (in his Sherlockian manner) to find the person he believes tried to kill him. The actor taking this role must be a superb comic actor who can play sometimes farcical comedy without forgetting the reality of the situation he is playing, and should take note that this role is based off of a real man.

Martha Gillette (60+ years old):

A once actress, Martha is a bit dotty and confused at times but this shouldn't fool you; she is smart and very aware of what moves the people around her and isn't afraid to be blunt about it; she is way past that; she is William's mother and lives with him in his mansion; she loves William more than anything, and would kill for him to protect him if need be.

Aggie Wheeler (20-30 years old):

She is a journeyman actress recently in one of William's shows; she is very attractive, and shows herself as warm, charming, kind, and effervescent; she carries the quality of a woman of great virtue without being old fashion; underneath that, she is a schemer who would do anything for money and the life style of the rich and famous; she is married to Simon but her interest in him is sexual and financial; she is actually and genuinely in love with William Gillette. The actress playing Aggie has to juggle the virtuous wonderful Aggie with the vicious conniver underneath.

Simon Bright (20-30 years old):

Simon is also a journeyman actor in the same show as Aggie with William; Simon is the less experienced actor of the group; he tries hard to fit in and can be quite funny and charming; he is married to Aggie, but his interest in her is sexual and financial; his romantic interest actually is with a secret girlfriend. He, like Aggie, is a schemer who would do anything for money and must hide his true self from the others.

Felix Geisel (35-50 years old):

The company's character actor, Felix is histrionic; he is a true theatrical who has given his life for the stage; Gillette's best friend and occasional sidekick, married to Madge; actor must have great comic skills and be physically strong.

Madge Geisel (35-50 years old):

An accomplished actress and in William's troupe of actors doing the Sherlock series; she is a close and loyal friend to William; she is quite smart and practical; she has overcome many obstacles in life, but always just sticks her chin out and perseveres; she is full of life and spunk, and can be quite humorous; she is married to Felix, in a good and tight marriage despite his occasional affairs.

Daria Chase (30-45 years old):

Glamorous and gorgeous, Daria is the theatre critic everyone loves to hate; biting, witty, and utterly charming, you can't help but like Daria, despite the terrible things she says and writes; a wonderful sense of humor goes a long way towards endearing Daria to the audience; the actress must have wonderful comic timing and be a skilled physical comedian.

Inspector Harriet Goring (30+ years old):

Speaks with an English accent. A bit of an enigma, seeming sharp and pointed at times and then lost and unfocused at others; isn't successful in putting together facts to solve investigations but somehow their cases get solved nonetheless; Harriet is a wannabe actress and will burst out into soliloquy.

Audition Preparation:

Auditions will consist of cold readings from the script. Please bring your calendar with all conflict dates from September 6 until December 3.

The creative team is committed to providing inclusive opportunities for diverse performers. Artists of all backgrounds, ages, races, ethnicities, gender identities, sexualities, body types and abilities are encouraged to audition.

Audition Dates:

Auditions will take place at the Palace Theatre (710 Dundas St) on June 1 and June 2 from 6:00pm until 9:00pm. Please enter through the box office doors Those interested in auditioning are encouraged to schedule their audition time by contacting Mariann Sawyer at mariannsawyer@gmail.com. Callbacks will occur on June 3rd from 2:00pm until 6:00pm.

Production Notes:

Rehearsals begin September 17, and occur every Monday, Wednesday evenings and Sunday afternoon, with two read throughs on September 6 and September 13. Show dates include November 22-26, and November 30-December 3 on the main stage at the Palace Theatre.