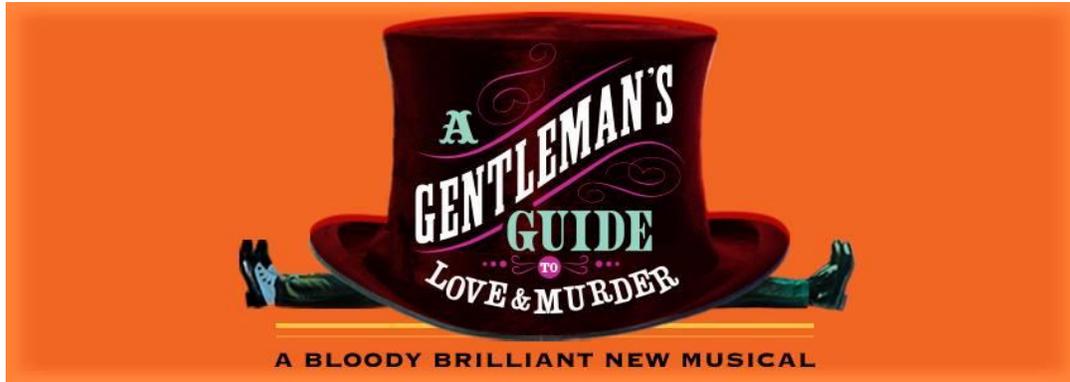


Chickasaw Civic Theatre Audition Packet



Book by Robert L. Freedman
Music and Lyrics by Steven Lutvak

A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder is a murderous romp filled with unforgettable music, non-stop laughs and a scene-stealing role for one actor playing all eight of the doomed heirs who meet their ends in the most creative and side-splitting ways. This is an original and fresh new comedy that will delight audiences and leave them begging for more.

SHOW DATES: August 9 - 25, 2019

(Friday & Saturday @ 7:30pm
and Sunday Matinee @ 2:00pm)

REHEARSALS:

Rehearsals will begin at the
end of May or first week of June.
(Rehearsals will be on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday
and will include some Sunday afternoons)

AUDITIONS:

Auditions for CCT's production of *A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder* will be held at **Chickasaw Civic Theatre, 801 Iroquois Street, Chickasaw, Alabama**, on the following dates:

Monday, April 29 • 6:30pm
Tuesday, April 30 • 6:30pm

If you are unable to attend the auditions at the dates and times listed above, please email the stage director to arrange another time no later than Tuesday, April 30.

Auditions are open call, no advance registration required. All auditionees should be prepared to sing a 16-32 bar cut of a song in the style of the show. An accompanist will be available; please bring your sheet music. Actors may be asked to read cold from the script. *A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder* is rated 'PG-13' and you must be age 18+ to audition.

Please print out and bring your audition form (included in this packet) with you to auditions. If you have a resume and headshot, it would be welcome.

For more questions or more information please contact the Stage Director, Stacey Driskell:
staceybd@gmail.com

A NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Welcome to the *A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder* Audition Packet! I hope you all are as excited about this production as I am. This packet will provide you with all of the necessary material you will need in order to carry out a professional, prepared, and strong audition. Auditioning can be a very nerve-wracking experience. So, become familiar with the material in this packet as much as possible. In the attached pages you will find a synopsis and a character breakdown. The more you know regarding this production, the more capable you will be in making strong and relevant choices in your audition.

Throughout the audition process I will be looking for actors who are hard-working, positive, focused, and ready to work as a team. Do your best, take risks, and have FUN!

If you have ANY questions prior to or during the auditions, please do not hesitate to ask...I am here to help! Just email me at staceybd@gmail.com.

Stacey B. Driskell
Stage Director

SYNOPSIS

Act One

London, 1909. In the Prologue, we learn the nature of the evening's bill of fare ("A Warning to the Audience"). In a prison cell, Monty Navaro, the ninth Earl of Highhurst, takes up a pen to write his memoir: "In the event of my execution, while I still have time." His story begins in a shabby flat in Clapham, where he receives an unexpected visit from Miss Shingle, an old friend of his recently departed mother ("You're a D'Ysquith").

With the stunning discovery that he is eighth in line to inherit a magnificent title and fortune, Monty sends a letter to the head of the family, Lord Asquith D'Ysquith, Sr., asking for a job in the D'Ysquith banking house. He then rushes to tell the news to his childhood sweetheart, Sibella Hallward, arriving just as she prepares to go out ("I Don't Know What I'd Do"). Monty tells her that only eight other D'Ysquiths stand before him in the line of succession, which means that he could be Earl himself someday. "And pigs might fly!" Sibella laughs. "Eight people would have to die for that to happen! How likely is that?!" Sibella teases Monty about her forthcoming outing with Lionel Holland, who is not only rich and good looking, but drives a motorcar. Regardless, Monty kisses her impulsively and passionately. Although Sibella shares his ardor, she draws the line at a future together. Sibella is determined above all else to marry a man with wealth and influence.

A letter from Asquith D'Ysquith, Jr., rebuffs any notion that Monty will be recognized by the D'Ysquiths ("Foolish to Think"). Among a group of tourists who are led by an informative guide, Monty visits Highhurst Castle, ancestral home of the D'Ysquiths, where the family portraits seem to speak directly to him ("A Warning to Monty"). The imposing and perpetually aggravated Earl, Lord Asquith D'Ysquith, discovers Monty on the wrong side of the velvet rope and rejects him ("I Don't Understand the Poor").

Seeking an ally, Monty visits the Reverend Lord Ezekial D'Ysquith. While enthusiastic about the architectural splendor of his historic church, the doddering cleric shows Monty no sympathy. In his zeal to share the view, Ezekial steps too close to the tower's edge. When he reaches out for help, Monty hesitates ("Foolish to Think – Reprise") and lets the Reverend fall. In one moment, Monty's life has changed forever... and, of course, the action has been set.

Monty then follows the man who snubbed him so unmercifully, Asquith D'Ysquith, Jr., to a winter resort, where he finds the young dandy skating on the lake with Miss Barley, his chorus-girl mistress ("Poison in My Pocket"). Grief-stricken over the "accidental" loss of his only son, Lord Asquith D'Ysquith, Sr., offers Monty a job at the family banking firm. Flush with

excitement over his acceptance by the D'Ysquiths at last, Monty hurries to tell Sibella – only to learn that she is engaged to Lionel Holland ("Poor Monty").

At a village inn, Monty rescues wealthy landowner, Henry D'Ysquith, from the fists of an angry tenant farmer. Grateful, Henry buys Monty a round ("Better with a Man") and invites him back to his country estate, where he reveals his passion for beekeeping. Over time, he assures Monty that one builds up a resistance to bee stings: "I dare say it would take a hundred bees to kill me now." When Monty returns the following weekend to set a trap, he meets Henry's lovely, innocent sister, Phoebe D'Ysquith, with whom he develops an instant rapport. As the two draw closer, Phoebe is unaware that her brother is being pursued by a swarm of bees ("Inside Out"). Monty is left to console Phoebe, and it occurs to him that should he achieve his goal of becoming Earl, "I could find no finer woman to be my countess."

Lady Hyacinth D'Ysquith, an unmarried society matron of a certain age, is furious that her latest charitable venture has been ruined by scandal. She and her colleagues are aided in their search for a new cause by a helpful "Baron Philpot" aka Monty ("Lady Hyacinth Abroad"). After reading of Lady Hyacinth's tragic death at the hands of cannibals in deepest, darkest Africa, Lord Asquith D'Ysquith, Sr., notes Monty's closeness to the succession. While maintaining an affair with the newly wed Sibella, and continuing to offer consolation to the mourning Phoebe, Monty disposes of the fitness-obsessed Major Lord Bartholomew D'Ysquith and the transcendently terrible actress, Lady Salome D'Ysquith Pumphrey, whose Hedda Gabler takes naturalism one pistol shot too far. Asquith Sr.'s, sudden heart attack leaves only Lord Adalbert as the obstacle between Monty and the Earldom ("The Last One You'd Expect").

Act Two

At Asquith D'Ysquith, Sr.'s, funeral, the mourners discreetly ask the question on everyone's mind ("Why Are All the D'Ysquiths Dying?"). At Highhurst, Lord Adalbert is preoccupied with the same question ("Why Are All the D'Ysquiths Dying? – Reprise"). After an assignation with Sibella at his bachelor apartment, Monty explains why he stares at her so intently ("Sibella"). With the unexpected arrival of Phoebe, Sibella hides in the bedroom while Monty desperately tries to keep the two women apart ("I've Decided to Marry You"). Monty accepts Phoebe's proposal, with Sibella none the wiser.

To celebrate their engagement, Monty escorts Phoebe to a weekend with Lord Adalbert and his combative countess, Lady Eugenia, at Highhurst Castle ("Final Warning"), where he discovers the inconvenient presence of Sibella, also a weekend guest. At dinner, Monty is shocked to see Miss Shingle and learn that she has been a servant at Highhurst for 39 years. Monty realizes that this may be his only chance to complete his mission ("Poison in My Pocket – Reprise") but he is foiled in his attempt. With his relatives dropping like flies, Lord Adalbert relives his near-death experience in the Boer War ("Looking down the Barrel of a Gun") and collapses unexpectedly.

At the death of Lord Adalbert, Monty becomes the Ninth Earl of Highhurst. His triumph is short-lived, however, when, at his wedding to Phoebe, an Inspector from Scotland Yard arrests Monty for murder ("Stop! Wait! What?!"). At trial, Monty vehemently denies poisoning Lord Adalbert's port, but the circumstantial evidence is damning. Back in his prison cell on the eve of the verdict, Monty is astonished to discover that the unassuming janitor, Chauncey, is also a D'Ysquith. Phoebe visits Monty in his cell, and he tries his best to console her. She has but one question: "That woman, Mrs. Holland – is she in love with you?" Monty hesitates, which is all the answer that Phoebe needs.

That night, Sibella pays a surprise call on the Inspector while a Magistrate receives an unexpected visit from Phoebe ("That Horrible Woman"). With seemingly irrefutable evidence, the women each accuse the other of Lord Adalbert's murder, making it impossible for either of them – or Monty – to be charged. Monty is awakened by the news that he is being set free. As he emerges from prison, Monty is greeted by the secret conspirators, Sibella and Phoebe. Monty Navaro has finally triumphed at last... or has he? ("Finale")

CHARACTERS

[**THE D'YSQUITH FAMILY**] Male, 30s – mid 50s. Must be an experienced, skilled, and transformational comedic actor who has a superb grasp on British farce. Physical comedy and stamina is a necessity. Singing ability is needed and must be able to carry a musical comedy without an ounce of hesitation. Plays a full range of characters from the same family, ranging from an off-kilter priest to a closeted bee enthusiast to a lowly custodian (each of them intrinsic “English types”).

[**MONTY NAVARRO**] Male, Mid 20s – 30s. Handsome and effortlessly charming, clever and charismatic, vulnerable and endearing, with a highly developed appreciation for life’s ironies. Monty is the engine of the plot; must be able to command attention and draw the audience in. While he is intent on killing off the entire family tree, he must have a winning charm that would garner anybody’s trust. **VOCAL RANGE:** High baritone with a strong top; solid low A to high A.

[**SIBELLA**] Female, 20s – mid 30s. Sexy, flirtatious, narcissistic, willful, calculating, and irresistible. A social climber, yes, but also truly loves Monty, and in the end would do anything to protect him. Tremendous wit and high style. Strong mover. **VOCAL RANGE:** Character mezzo, low F# to high A, belting not required.

[**PHOEBE**] Female, Early 20s – early 30s. Beautiful, virtuous, forthright, romantic, comically earnest, with a backbone of steel. She is not your typical ingénue, though. Actress must have a sense of irony and humor, in addition to a youthful innocence behind her sophistication. **VOCAL RANGE:** Coloratura soprano up to a high sustained C# with an optional high Eb. Very flexible and agile, B below middle C on the bottom. Also open to performers from a strong operatic background.

[**WOMAN #1**] Plays MISS SHINGLE, a Cockney housekeeper/governess who has served a wealthy, titled family for 30 years. She informs Monty that he is indeed a D’Ysquith. Storytelling is paramount for her role. Also plays TOUR GUIDE, as well as PUB OWNER’S WIFE, MRS. PEBWORTH, 3RD NEWSBOY. Seeking a character woman. **VOCAL RANGE:** Mezzo soprano, G to high A.

[**WOMAN #2**] Plays LADY EUGENIA, an unhappily married countess. Overbearing and mean spirited at times, but comically so. Must be highly adept at the biting quip and the withering glare. Also plays MISS HETHERINGTON, and 4TH NEWSBOY. **VOCAL RANGE:** Low F# to high A.

[**WOMAN #3**] Plays MISS BARLEY, an alluring artist model. Also plays SIBELLA’S MAID, HYACINTH COLLEAGUE, PHOEBE’S MAID, HILDA. **VOCAL RANGE:** G to high C.

[**MAN #1**] Appealing and attractive. Plays TOM COPLEY (aka FARMER), as well as 2ND CLERK, HYACINTH COLLEAGUE, 2ND NEWSBOY, ACTOR, ANCESTRAL BUST, DR. PETTIBONE, and GUARD. **VOCAL RANGE:** High baritone with a strong top; solid low A to high A.

[**MAN #2**] A versatile and appealing character man. Plays DETECTIVE PINCKEY, who has a featured number. Also plays 1ST CLERK, PUB OWNER, MR. CROSS, 1ST NEWSBOY, 1ST ACTOR, PHYSICIAN, and 2ND ANCESTRAL BUST. **VOCAL RANGE:** Bass, low C to high G#.

[**MAN #3**] A character man. Plays THE MAGISTRATE, as well as MR. GOODSALL, ACTOR, and MR. GORBY. THE MAGISTRATE has a featured number with DETECTIVE PINCKEY. **VOCAL RANGE:** True tenor. B flat to high B flat.

IN SUMMARY (AND A FEW OTHER THINGS)

- Audition forms available online and will be available at the audition.
- A tentative rehearsal schedule will be available by auditions.
- All conflicts must be presented during your auditions. We understand that conflicts can arise, unexpectedly, but we ask that cast members try to avoid conflicts and give priority to rehearsals.
- Casting notification will occur no later than Tuesday, May 7.
- Some extra music rehearsals may be called for principal roles. Should you be cast, you will be contacted by the music director for your availability and scheduling.
- Rehearsals will be held on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday, from 6:30pm – 9:30pm, and some Sunday afternoons, 2:00pm – 5:00pm. Friday and Saturdays rehearsals MAY be scheduled with ample notice. **We hope to have a cast meeting/orientation on Thursday, May 9, 6:30pm.**
- Communication will be done through email and Facebook groups- please list a valid email clearly on the audition form.
- Performances: August 9, 10, 11, 16, 17, 18, 23, 24, 25 a total of 9 performances (3 weekends).

Audition Form

Please complete and hand in with your resume (if you have one).

This space for production team use

A Gentleman's Guide to Love & Murder

General Info

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Your Home #: _____ Age: _____

Your Cell #: _____

Your Email: _____

Voice Type (circle one): Soprano, Mezzo, Alto, Tenor, Baritone, Bass, unknown
Vocal Range: _____

Previous Acting/Dancing/Singing/Theater Experience (feel free to use the back of the form if you need more space):

- Resume Attached
- Theater Experience. *If you do not have a resume, you may list most relevant or recent experience and if more space is needed, please use the back:*

| Date/Year of Show | Play/Show Name | Role | Theater/School |
|-------------------|----------------|------|----------------|
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- Special Talents (e.g. singing, dance experience, gymnastics, juggling, play an instrument, magic):

Just a Few More Things

In the event you do not get a part, would you still be interested in remaining involved with the production in any of the following areas? (Please check all that interest you.)

- Stage Management
- Stage Crew
- Set Construction
- Costumes
- Lighting
- Sound
- Make-up

 Please list all conflicts you have between May 28 and the performance dates and whether they are flexible or not. _____

List any parts/roles you are particularly interested in: _____

Are you willing to accept a different role? Yes No

Thank You