

*Woy Woy Little Theatre Presents*

***Party Piece***  
**by**  
***Richard Harris***

By arrangement with ORiGiN™ Theatrical  
On behalf of Samuel French  
A Concord Theatricals Company

Directed by:

Sarah Lovesy

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## **Audition Information**

**Dates:** Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> October. Registration 7.00pm for a 7.30pm start.  
If needed call back on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> October 7.30pm.

**Venue:** Woy Woy Little Theatre, John Hoare Cl, Woy Woy 2256

**Auditions:** Please contact the Director on 0407467643 or by email at [sarah.lovesy@bigpond.com](mailto:sarah.lovesy@bigpond.com) for any questions or queries you may have. Please note you may audition with another actor if you wish.

You will be notified by the Director if you have been successful or not in your audition.

**Audition Pieces:**

- Please be familiar with your two readings below. **Bolded character/s for selected audition readings.** \*Other characters that are in the selected audition readings which will be read by the prompt.
- There will also be a 20 to 30 second group improvisation. All characters are dancing at the party, everyone is slightly inebriated. The party music will be Abba's *Dancing Queen*.
- English middle class and a cockney accent are integral to this play. A Scottish one also may be required. You do not need to explore accents in the auditions but be cognisant that is what will be required during rehearsals and performance.

**Please bring a photo of yourself.**

Act 1	Scene 1	Pages 2 & 3	Roma and Michael are setting up for their housewarming/fancy dress party in their garden	<b>Michael and Roma</b>
		Pages 4 & 5	Mrs Hinson is in her garden and her son David comes to visit.	<b>Mrs Hinson and David</b>
		Pages 13 & 14	David trying to jolly his mum along.	<b>David *and Mrs Hinson</b>
		Pages 17, 18 & 19	Jennifer comes to visit her mother-in-law.	<b>Jennifer, Mrs Hinson * and David</b>
Act 2	Scene 1	Pages 41 & 42	Michael and Roma are trying to hype themselves up for the party. NB By this time the Smethurst's are in fancy dress from the film <i>Top Hat</i> . Michael is dressed in Ginger Roger's yellow dress and Roma is dressed in Fred Astaire's top hat and tails.	<b>Michael and Roma</b>
		Page 42 & 43	David accuses Jennifer of throwing the Zimmer frame over the fence.	<b>Jennifer, *David and Mrs. Hinson</b>
		Pages 45 & 46	Toby arrives at the party	<b>Toby, *Michael and Roma</b>
		Pages 47 & 48	Sandy arrives at the party. Flirts with Toby who is smitten	<b>Sandy and Toby</b>
		Pages 68 – Half page.	Sandy chats away to Mrs. Hinson	<b>Sandy *and Mrs Hinson</b>
		Page 71 - Half page	Sandy takes Toby into Mrs. Hinson's Garden. They are both slightly inebriated	<b>Sandy and Toby</b>

## [Go to Download Page for Audition Pieces](#)

### Synopsis

*Party Piece* is set in two adjoining gardens over a summer's afternoon and evening in West London, 2022. In the afternoon, nouveau riche Doctor Michael Smethurst and his wife Roma, are preparing for a fancy-dress housewarming party (theme is couples in reverse). In the other garden, domestic squabbles erupt as a son is trying to persuade his antagonistic working-class Mother to sell her house and move into more appropriate accommodation. A fence separates these neighbours, but it has a peep hole, which is used to great comic effect for each household to spy on one another and to enhance the class warfare. The evening looks set to be a lively one until a string of hilarious disasters strike, and the party descends into disaster and chaos. There is a distinct lack of guests, a marauding Zimmer frame, a shed and wig engulfed by fire and the prospect of an irate husband on the prowl.

All this combines for a hilarious and chaotic play!

### Directorial Concept and Performance Style

My aim is for the audience to have a fun night out with plenty of laughs at the antics happening in the two adjoining English gardens.

The performance style is heightened realism. The elements of dress-up, mime and movement, buffoonery, foolishness, and ridiculous sham like behaviour would also need to be constantly explored as the plotline depends on a magnified dramatic situation. Detailed character development, albeit somewhat stereotypical, is also the key for the success. English accents (and maybe a Scottish or Welsh one) are required.

There should be a mischievous glint in the stage action as the play is escapist fun with improbable and implausible plot twists, cross dressing, and a hilarious send up of the rise of the English middle classes.

## Characters: - 3 females and 3 males

### Dr. Michael Smethhurst – Garden One.

- Around 40
- Doctor
- Married with twin boys.
- Nouveau Riche.
- Received Upper Class English Accent.
- Has a moustache and/ or beard to make him look older and more distinguished!
- Gentrifying his house and garden
- A snob
- Neurotic
- Extremely neat and tidy.
- Fastidious
- Takes himself very seriously.

### Mrs. Hinson – Garden Two

- Around 70
- Widow.
- Son David. Daughter-in-law Jennifer whom she loathes.
- Working Class.
- Cockney or London working-class accent
- She uses a Zimmer frame. It is a comedic extension of Mrs Hinson's personality
- Attention seeking.
- Feigns deafness when it suits her.
- Drama queen.
- She likes to snoop and is a nosey parker.

### Roma Smethurst – Garden One

- Late 30's.
- Married to Michael. Has twin boys.
- Nouveau Riche.
- Has a slight weight problem.
- Received Upper Class English Accent.
- Gentrifying her house and garden.
- A snob.
- Awkward.
- Shy.
- Tries to be genteel.
- Gets agitated.
- Panics
- Becomes hysterical.

### David Hinson – Garden Two

- Late 40's.
- Owns Fruit and Vegetable stalls. Has come up in the world.
- Married to Jennifer. Left his first wife and children for new wife.
- Trying to move out of his working-class roots.
- Accent – trying to get rid of his London working class accent.
- Big build.
- Larger than life character.
- Happy.
- A charmer.
- Vivid imagination.
- Tells ridiculous stories/A joker.

- Smokes thin cigars.

### **Jennifer Hinson – Garden Two**

- 40.
- David's wife.
- Upper Class.
- Received Upper Class English Accent.
- Stylish.
- Does not like being ignored.
- Mutual sniping between her and Mother-in-law.
- Can be a bitch.
- Becomes childlike when in a rage, i.e.,
  - She throws Zimmer frame over the fence.
  - Also kicked a hole in her mother-in law's bucket.
- Loving relationship between Jennifer and David.
- Smoker.

### **Toby Hancock – Garden One**

- Mid 30's.
- Anaesthetist
- Scottish or Welsh with appropriate accent.
- Middle Class
- Energy driven.
- Loves flattery.
- Looking for 'love'.
- After free food and booze.
- Opportunistic.
- Tries to be the life of the party.
- Smoker.

### **Sandy Lloyd-Meredith – Garden One**

- Mid 30's.
- Voluptuous.
- Upper Middle Class.
- Received English Accent.
- Married to Welsh Gareth.
- Works in Real Estate.
- Extravagant
- Sexy.
- Amorous.
- Self-assured.
- Loves a party.
- Wine drinker.

## **Rehearsal Schedule**

**Venue:** Rehearsals will be held at Woy Woy Little Theatre, John Hoare C, Woy Woy 2256

Rehearsals will be two evenings per week, mainly Tuesdays and Thursdays from 7.00pm to 10.00pm. There will be a number of Sunday afternoon rehearsals, dates to be advised. All cast and crew need to ensure that they are available for all performance dates and rehearsal times as indicated on the rehearsal schedule. Rehearsals start from Tuesday the 25<sup>th</sup> October 2022.

## **Performance details**

Production dates are February 24<sup>th</sup> to March 12<sup>th</sup> 2023.