

The Mystery of Edwin Drood
By Rupert Holmes
Directed by Hilary Goldman

CHARACTER BREAKDOWN

Roles with an asterisk* have already been cast, but we are casting understudies/swings for all roles in this round of auditions.

Chairperson/Mayor Sapsea: The leader of the music hall troupe. The Chairperson carries the majority of the dialogue and must be quick with a joke and able to improvise. They are in charge of keeping the pace of the show moving. Unexpectedly fills in as the Mayor character in *Drood* when another actor fails to show up. Any gender identity, Baritone/Low Alto (D#3 – F#4 – can pop octaves if needed).

James or Joyce Throttle, Stage Manager: A non-singing role, any gender identity, who helps to keep the Chairperson on track throughout the play.

***Clive Paget/John Jasper:** The Royale's male lead, a devilishly attractive cad, and knows it. In *Drood*, he is the baddie. Choirmaster of Cloisterham Cathedral, and uncle of Edwin Drood. In love with Rosa Bud. Madness lurks beneath smooth exterior. Strictly speaking, a suspect, but didn't do it. Bari-tenor (A2 – A4).

***Alice Nutting/Edwin Drood:** Prima donna and London's leading male impersonator, charming but, as you might expect, with determination and a lot of ego. Must command the stage. As Edwin Drood, she is an attractive, rich, and popular young man who has everything. The victim. Mezzo (B3 – E5).

***Deirdre Peregrine/Rosa Bud:** The not-so-innocent ingenue of the Music Hall Royale, Deirdre portrays the love interest of *Drood*, the young, beautiful and apparently fragile Rosa Bud. She is betrothed to Edwin Drood, the only man who isn't in love with her. A suspect in his murder. True soprano (A3 – B5), with a high B natural that can't be avoided.

***Angela Prysock/Princess Puffer:** Angela has been a favorite of London audiences forever, a staple of the stage. As the mysterious Princess Puffer, Madam, opium dealer and general purveyor of vice of all kinds, she is glamorous in her ruin. A suspect. Serious low alto (F3 – D5) – must have a big chest voice and lots of rapport with the audience.

***Janet Conover/Helena Landless:** Janet is a long-standing member of the acting troupe, asked to play the mysterious Helena Landless who hails from a mysterious foreign colony not unlike India. Another suspect. Mezzo (G3 – D5 [optional E5])

***Victor Grinstead/Neville Landless:** Victor is enjoying his premier performance with the Music Hall Royale. His character, Neville, is Helena's brother. Falls for Rosa Bud, falls out with Edwin, and is therefore another suspect in the murder. Very passionate and often angry. Bari-tenor (C3 – G4)

***Cedric Moncrieffe/Reverend Crisparkle:** This troupe member is a bit of an open book who plays an archetypal vicar, who is also a bit of a lurker, and was in love with Rosa's mother. A suspect. Baritone (C3 – G4)

Phillip Bax/Bazzard: Devotee of the theatre, the everlasting understudy, who finally gets his moment. May have quite a major part if the evening turns out that way. A sad sort of clown. In his role as Bazzard, he is often an audience-favorite suspect. Very capable of stealing the whole show. Bari-tenor (A2 – Eb4 [opt G4 or Bb4]).

***Nick Cricker, Sr./Durdles:** “Clown Prince of the Royale” who makes the most of every line and plays the drunkard sexton in *Drood*. Gets to announce the murderer. Baritone or Tenor (B2 – F4)

Nick or Nicole Cricker, Jr./Deputy: Any gender identity, any age younger than Cricker, Sr. As the Deputy, lowest in the pecking order, and very funny. Any voice range.

***Wendy and Beatrice:** Drawn from the company, these characters are contemporaries of Rosa Bud who sing a fabulous quartet with Rosa and Helena in Act I as well as participating in the rest of the company goings-on. (C4-D5)

Company Members (Ensemble): Flexible and energetic ensemble members, who will have specific characters and tracks throughout the show, and will be featured vocally and in dance numbers. These characters are vital in creating the atmosphere of the touring theater company, as well as making the audience participation successful. Large scope for creation of individual characters.