

## **Blithe Spirit – Audition Information**

Performance Dates 6<sup>th</sup> September 2025 – 13<sup>th</sup> September 2025

This audition will be in small groups. In the room will be the director Mary and the casting committee.

### **Character Breakdowns:**

- **Charles Condomine:** About 40, an author. A touch smug and supercilious, sometimes facetious, but also debonair, sophisticated and witty. In the play he's accused of having ridiculous petty jealousies, fussings and fumings. After the initial shock of Elvira's appearance, he seems to be enjoying the attention and rivalry of his two wives. It's the best of both worlds – and the worst.
- **Ruth Condomine:** A smart-looking woman in her mid 30s, Charles' second wife. Like Charles, she's intelligent, sophisticated and articulate. She has no need to work – life is a comfortable round of cocktails and comforts. Her relationship with Charles is playful, witty, acerbic and waspish in turn with lots of light and shade. As the play goes on, Charles accuses her of bossing, bullying and ordering him about.
- **Elvira:** Charles' first wife who died young after being married to him for 5 years. She's described as attractive, feckless, fascinating, maddening, a poor loser. She has a 'gay charm' when she gets her own way and 'extreme acidity' when she doesn't. Charles describes her as 'a poor, lonely, wistful little spirit' but later accuses her of having no integrity and being irresponsible and morally unstable.

The relationship between these three must be kept as light and humorous as possible, even when cracks begin to show. The dialogue is razor-sharp and sparkling. Look for the rhythm of the language.

- **Madame Arcati:** a medium and spiritualist, elderly, boisterous, energetic. Very eccentric, a combination of floaty scarves and tweeds. Totally convinced of her psychic powers. Takes them very seriously even when seeming ridiculous to others. Her seances mustn't tip over into farce.
- **Dr Bradman:** a pleasant middle-aged local doctor. Sceptical and sensible. Good- humoured but capable of mocking in a dry way.
- **Mrs Bradman:** middle-aged, fair, 'rather faded'. Comfortably married to Dr Bradman. Thrilled by the prospect of a séance. Perhaps a little silly. Certainly not as intellectual as the Condomines
- **Edith:** the maid, probably young. A Cockney. New to the Condomines so nervous. Does everything at the double. A small but significant role as she turns out to be the reason for Elvira's, and later Ruth's, manifestation.

### **Audition Pieces:**

Dependent on the number of people at auditions, you will be required to read one or two of the following pieces:

- **Charles, Ruth, Dr Bradman, Mrs Bradman** – page 11-15 (“We’re not late, are we?” ... “You go and meet her, darling”)
- **Madam Arcati, Ruth, Charles** – page 29-32 (“Presently, when the music begins, I am going to switch out the lights” ... “excuse me a moment while I start the gramophone again”)
- **Elvira, Charles, Ruth** – page 79-86 (“What on earth was Madame Arcati doing here?” ... “Thank you, Charles”)
- **Edith, Madam Arcati** – page 129-131 (“Did you ring, sir?” ... “Oh dear – what’s the matter with her? Is she barmy?”)