

AUDITION NOTICE BROMLEY LITTLE THEATRE

'The Incident Room' by Olivia Hirst and David Byrne, directed by Pauline Armour

Playing dates: November 9 -18 (not Sunday November 12)

Audition: To be announced in 2023

About the play

I saw this play at the Edinburgh Fringe in August 2019 and I was deeply impressed by the writing and fascinated by the subject matter. At Edinburgh it was in the form of a long one act play but on transfer to the New Diorama Theatre in March 2020 the writers had extended it into a full length play which by this time had been published by Nick Hern Books. It was one of my last theatre trips before COVID took hold but I have remained determined to direct it at BLT.

The Incident Room is not just a play: it's a valuable historical document. From the moment the name was coined by the press, the Yorkshire Ripper became more myth than man. He spawned hoaxes, generated hysterical headlines and inspired countless books, documentaries and fictional depictions in the years after his eventual arrest. As one survivor predicts in 'The Incident Room' the latest in this long line of retellings: "it won't stop."

The Incident Room refocuses the narrative, turning away from the killer and examining his would-be captors. Olivia Hirst and David Byrne's play, devised with the company, follows the much-criticised investigation by West Yorkshire police. Set in the titular office at Millgarth Police Station in Leeds, the nerve-centre of the hunt for an elusive murderer, the play follows the long and frustrating search for clues that are far from forthcoming.

The play has been meticulously researched by the writers and their eye for the minutest detail lifts the play from a run-of-the-mill we-know-who-dunnit-but-how-we-gonna-catch-him? police procedural yarn to a level of intensity that explores character, motives, doggedness, egos and ultimate success tinged with heroic failure.

A thrilling play, fascinating, frustrating, deeply moving.

Characters

All actors require credible Northern accents some more pronounced than others.

Megan Winterburn 'Meg' Playing age late 20's to 30's; police sergeant in charge of the 'incident room'; organised, practical, determined but beginning to be worn down by the demands of the job especially in a male dominated environment where misogyny is rife. (Very large role) Character based on a real officer involved with case.

Tish Morgan Playing age 20's; 'Yorkshire Post' reporter, pushy, confident, determined to 'get the story' (Large role)

Sylvia Swanson Playing age mid 40's; civilian police employee, bright, funny, down to earth, injects an element of humour into 'the incident room'. (Medium role)

Andrew Laptew 'Andy' Playing age mid 20s; uniformed police officer, Hard working, enthusiastic, has a strong instinct about who the killer might be, but is he overlooked? (Medium role) Character based on a real officer involved with case.

Dick Holland Playing age late 30's to 40's; deputy senior investigating officer. Knows all the tricks of the job, doesn't always follow protocol, another officer worn down by the frustration of this investigation. (Large role) Character based on a real officer involved with case.

George Oldfield Playing age late 50's; senior investigating officer. Strong, self opinionated, deeply suspicious of women in senior positions on the force. Fixated on certain aspects of the investigation which impede progress. (Large role) Character based on a real officer involved with case.

Jim Hobson Playing age early 40's; leader of the tyre investigation. Keen, organised, committed to a specific way of working (Small role could be doubled)

Jack Ridgway Playing age 30's; Head of Manchester CID. Strong, forceful; confident, sure that he has the answers to how the investigation should progress. (Large role) Character based on a real officer involved with case.

Terence Hawkshaw Playing age early 30's; taxi driver, an early suspect. (Small role could be doubled) Character based on real suspect in case

Maureen Long Playing age mid 40's; Bradford resident and survivor of the killer's attack on her. Brave, keen to help but deeply damaged by the experience she has had. (Medium role) Based on a real person attacked in 1972

If you are interested in auditioning please request a script from:

Armourgg19@gmail.com

Audition pieces for 'The Incident Room'

If you would like to borrow a script I can arrange that. I only have 12 scripts so I will need them returning before the auditions. Please note that the characters marked in red coincide with their actual audition sides. Characters marked in black will read in during those scenes and have their own actual audition sides. Please contact me as soon as possible if you are interested in auditioning. (armourgg19@gmail.com)

Tish, Meg, Act 4 Scene 18 (Pages 71-73)

Sylvia, Andy, Meg Act One , Scene 5 (Pages 27 -29)

Sylvia, Act Two, Scene 11 (Short monologue (Page 48)

Maureen, Meg, Andy, Act Two Scene 7 (Pages 38-40)

Meg and Dick, Act One, Prologue (Pages 15); Act Three, Sc 14 (Pages 59 – 61); Act 4 Scene 20 (Pages 77-78)

Meg and Maureen, Epilogue (Pages 93-94)

George, Jim, Meg, Sylvia, Andy, Act One, Scene 1 (Pages 16 -17)

George, Act 2 Sc 9 (Pages 44 and 45)

Andy and Dick, Act 4 Scene 19 (Pages 75-76)

Ridgway, Meg, George, Dick, Sylvia,(Pages 53- 56)

Terence, George, Dick, Meg, Sylvia, Andy Act One, Scene 5 (Pages 29 -32)