

AUDITION NOTICE

NOVEMBER BAR SHOW

“BULLY BOY” BY SANDI TOKSVIG

PERFORMANCE DATES	Wednesday 20 th November 2019 to Sunday 24 th November 2019
AUDITION DATE (in the Theatre)	Sunday 7 th April 2019 16.00 to 17.30
REHEARSAL DATES	To be confirmed, starting from 1 st October 2019.
DIRECTOR	Gillian Gissing gillian@gissinghome.com 07803 247320
AUDITION PIECES	Please contact Director if you require copies of the audition pieces listed below or are unable to attend the audition.
CHARACTERS (Playing age for guidance only.)	Male: early 50s Male: early 20s, northern accent

Synopsis

Setting – Multiple locations, simply staged. Time period roughly 2010-2012.

“Bully Boy” starts in a recent conflict zone, probably Afghanistan. A shocking incident, possibly a war crime, has occurred during a routine patrol by a British Army unit (the self-styled “Bully Boys”) in a local village. A Royal Military Police officer, Major Hadley (Oscar), is interrogating a member of that unit, a young private (Eddie Clark). The truth of exactly what has happened and who is responsible is a thread, which runs through the whole play.

While the two men start as adversaries, their relationship grows as we learn more about their respective experiences of war and the physical and mental scars it has left on them. The investigation continues leading to a court martial, but the focus changes to the men coming to understand, and eventually growing to like, one another. Oscar has been confined to a wheelchair since serving in the Falklands. While apparently OK on the surface, his marriage has broken down and his memories continue to haunt him. Eddie is clearly struggling to cope with civilian life and serious mental health issues.

The action is fast paced and physical, taking us through a whirlwind of locations in a quick succession of fairly short scenes. The characters experience the full range of emotions and argue, fight, laugh and in the end even dance with one another. The subject matter is serious, but

Toksvig also gives us warmth and humour as we come to understand something of the lasting effects of war on our soldiers.

Characters (Note – Playing ages are for guidance only.)

Major Oscar Hadley

Very Large Role. Playing age early 50s. In his youth his passion for dancing led his father to drive him to join the army. At 21 he served as a gunner in a Royal Artillery Unit in the Falklands. Due to injuries he received, he is mainly seen in a wheelchair, but he can stand with assistance. He's obviously achieved a high rank, is well spoken and well read. He initially appears clinical, even ruthless, in questioning Eddie and rather arrogant. As the play continues, we see him increasingly more vulnerable, understanding and caring with a very dry sense of humour. His monologues are essential in putting Toksvig's themes to the audience.

Private Eddie Clark

Very Large Role. Playing age early 20s. Born and raised in Burnley in Lancashire, a lack of work and education led him to join the army at 16. He is on his second deployment, is very close to the other members of his unit, particularly his Sergeant, and is fiercely loyal to them. He initially appears to live up to the reputation suggested by his unit's nickname, "the Bully Boys". He can be aggressive and violent, but we soon see him as a vulnerable young lad. He eventually turns the tables on Oscar proving he too can be an investigator and a bit of a reader. He can match Oscar in humour and wit. His return to civilian life demonstrates how his country continues to fail many soldiers like him on their return from war.

A northern accent is required. Eddie takes a ride in Oscar's wheelchair and the two come to blows.

Audition Pieces

Oscar

Prologue p 11

Eddie

"The Priory" Scene 8 p 36 from "Eddie: They put wires on your head." to **p 37** "Eddie: No one was dead at all."

Oscar & Eddie

"Interrogation" Scene 1 p 16 from "Oscar: I need to know what happened." to **Scene 2 p 19** "Eddie: ... pointless, pigging investigation."

"Pendle Hill" Scene 14 p 53-55