

## **Bromley Little Theatre: Audition Notice**

### **The King's Speech by David Seidler, directed by Pauline Armour**

Playing Dates: March 9-18 (Not Sunday March 12)

Audition: Sunday 18 September at 3-00 pm

#### **About the Play**

*'The King's Speech'* was written by David Seidler in 2012 and was based on the Oscar winning film of 2010 for which Seidler also wrote the screenplay. We are thrilled to have secured the performing rights of a play that tells the fascinating story of how in the late 1930's King VI overcame his fear of public speaking through the help of Australian speech therapist Lionel Logue. David Seidler had originally conceived the piece as a stage play in the 1970's, but on seeking the approval of the Royal Family for the story to be publicized the Queen responded she did not want the story told until after her mother's death. The Queen Mother died in 2002, and it wasn't until 2005 that Seidler began working on the story again. It was instead conceived as the film that starred Colin Firth as King George and Geoffrey Rush as Lionel Logue. It was a critical success and won several Oscars including Best Original Screenplay for Seidler. The success of the film encouraged producers to bring the story to the stage as originally intended. Although not an amateur premiere at Bromley Little Theatre, it has hardly been performed since 2012.

#### **Characters**

**Bertie, Duke of York (Later King George VI):** Playing age late 30s/40s. Reserved, shy, uncomfortable about being thrust into the limelight on the abdication of his brother. Frustrated by his debilitating stammer but determined to do his duty as King. Excellent RP required (Very large role)

**Lionel Logue (Harley Street Speech Therapist):** Playing age 50s. Flamboyant actor/speech therapist. Anarchic, unorthodox, optimistic, charming – great energy. Convincing Australian accent required. (Very large role)

**Elizabeth, Duchess of York (Later Queen):** Playing age 30's. Considered one of the great beauties in the land, an English rose. Totally supportive of Bertie and determined to help him to fulfil his duties as King successfully. Excellent RP required (Large role)

**Myrtle Logue:** Playing age 40s. Lionel's Australian wife. Practical, pragmatic, supportive of Lionel but desperately wants to return to Australia. (Medium role)

**Cosmo Lang (Archbishop of Canterbury):** Playing age 60s. Politically astute, pragmatic, dry sense of humour (Medium role)

**Winston Churchill (Back bench politician):** Playing age 60s. Self opinionated. Sceptical about Bertie's qualifications to be King (Large role)

**Stanley Baldwin (Prime Minister)** Playing age 60's. Acutely aware of the need for a strong monarch and of the dangerous repercussions of abdication. (Medium role)

**David, Prince of Wales:** Playing age late 30s/40s. The golden boy, a rock star presence. Flamboyant, articulate, arrogant. Excellent RP required (Medium role)

**King George V (Bertie and David's father):** Playing age 70s. Confident, regal, dismissive of Bertie. Excellent RP required. (Medium role)

**Wallis Simpson (David's mistress):** Playing age 40s. Slim, stylish – non speaking role – but will have a great costume!!!

Although actors will be playing real people I am not looking for 'look a likes' but actors who can express the situation in which their characters find themselves with truth and conviction.

Rehearsals will begin in January 2023 and my expectation will be that actors will be close to being off script when rehearsals begin so that detailed work can commence immediately on relationships and character development.

If you wish to audition please contact me for a script which I am able to supply as a PDF.  
[armourgg19@gmail.com](mailto:armourgg19@gmail.com)

Please call me if you would like a chat 07984722308

**The audition pieces are as follows:**

Elizabeth and Lionel  
Act 1 Sc 3

Elizabeth and Bertie  
Act 1 Sc 8 and Sc 9

King George V  
Act 1 Sc 7

Churchill, Baldwin, Lang  
Act 1 Sc 12

Myrtle and Lionel  
Act 1 Sc 17

David and Bertie  
Act 2 Sc 1

Churchill and Bertie  
Act 2 Sc 5

Logue and Bertie  
Act 2 Sc 16

Logue and Bertie  
Act 1 Sc 19