



## About The Play

An unconscious leading lady, a corpse who can't play dead, a ruffled detective, and a word-mangling butler (among others) must battle against technical problems, forgotten lines, and sabotaging scenery in a quest to arrive all in one piece at the final curtain call.

This is an extremely fast-paced and physically taxing show that requires a cast and, ESPECIALLY, a crew with a lot of energy who are willing and ready to get a workout!

*I am looking for truthful, funny, physically adept performers who can commit to the style of the play and fully inhabit the characters. It is vital to believe in the characters who are performing the play-within-the-play, as that is from where the heartbreaking comedy comes. With that in mind, we are looking for actors with a keen ability and understanding of comedy, but are able to play the truth of the scenes. In reference to the character descriptions below—most characters are written with he/him or she/her descriptions but casting is not limited to those specific descriptions. All characters (besides Annie and Trevor) require British accents.*

### Setting

The action takes place on the opening night of the Cornley Polytechnic Drama Society's production of the murder mystery play *Murder at Haversham Manor*.

### Available Roles

**Annie**- the company's stage manager with a Lancashire accent. She has the biggest journey of any character. She's initially terrified by acting, but is willing to kill for it by the end of the play. Her terror turns to joy, and then to fury. She starts small, but grows and grows.

**Chris/Inspector Carter** - director of the play-within-a-play *Murder at Haversham Manor* and plays the esteemed Inspector Carter. This is the biggest day of his life. He is rigid and uptight. The experience of performing the show is both nerve-wracking and exciting. His pain is evident and every time someone laughs, the pain deepens.

**Robert/Thomas Colleymore** – pretentious actor, as evidenced by his presentational style. But he's not a parody of a bad actor, just unaware of others around him. He does not feel bad when things go wrong and never learns from his mistakes. There's a power struggle between Robert and Chris to be president of the Cornley Poly Drama Society (a position that matters a great deal to Robert).

**Dennis/Perkins**- has no real desire to be involved in the theatre; he just wants friends. He believes if he does well in the show, he'll be more successful socially. Laughter from the audience is agony and a personal tragedy for him. He's slightly oblivious, but understands when he gets things wrong.

**\*Trevor** - the play's curmudgeonly lighting and sound operator who simply wants to get on with the show. Doesn't like actors and is easily distracted. When things go really sideways, Trevor is forced to act in the play.

**Jonathan/Charles Haversham** - is a bit bland personality-wise but sees himself as a James Bond-type. Excited and having fun. He technically has to drive the show. He cares about the play, but it's mostly just for fun for him. The role of Charles Haversham is a very physically demanding role.

**Max/Cecil Haversham/Arthur** - has never been onstage before. He learned his lines and does exactly what he's told to do. He has zero connection with any of the actors, but when he gets a laugh he breaks the fourth wall and engages with the audience. Childlike and naïve. His mistakes are fundamental. He doesn't think anything through.

**Sandra/Florence Colleymore** is vain and has a huge ego. She wants to be loved. She has ambitions to go to Hollywood and will hurt anyone standing in the way of what she wants, but is smart enough to stay on the good side of someone who can help her (like the director). The stakes are high for her. Very physical role

\*Non-gender specific

**\*\*Audition Schedule and Pages:** (links below)

August 23, 3:00-6:30 (at the latest)

- [Chris p. 11](#)
- [Sandra/Florence \(w/ Chris\) p. 31-32](#)
- [Max/Cecil \(w/ Chris\) p. 33-35](#)
- [Robert/Thomas \(w/ Dennis and Annie\) p. 52-53](#)

August 24, 3:45-6:30

- [Dennis/Perkins \(w/ Max, Robert, Sandra\) p. 16-19](#)
- [Annie \(w/ Robert, Dennis, Chris\) p. 42-43](#)
- [Trevor \(w/ Max, Robert, Chris, Dennis\) p. 64-65](#)

August 25, 3:45-6:30

- CALL BACK AUDITIONS. Same audition pages as above

\*\*You must be familiar with all the scenes in which your chosen character(s) appear.

The role of Johnathan/Charles will be cast from initial auditions.

**THE ENTIRE PLAY CAN BE FOUND ON MY CHS WEBSITE [HERE](#)**

Dates to Remember

August 23: Audition Day 1- 3:00 pm to 6:30 pm

August 24: Audition Day 2- 3:45 pm to 6:30 pm

August 25: Call Backs 3:45 pm to 6:30 pm

August 28: Rehearsals begin 3:45 to 5:30 Monday, Wednesday, and Friday; 4:30-5:30 Tuesday & Thursday

September 2: Saturday Rehearsals Begin- 9am to 12pm. Scheduled Saturday rehearsals are (9/2, 9/9, 9/16, 9/23, 9/30)

**September 8: \$50 cast donation due**

September 14: Program Ads Due

October 2-6: Tech Week (ALL cast and crew required) 3:45 pm-7pm

October 9-11: Dress Rehearsals (All Cast and crew required) 3:45pm-9pm

October 12-14: Performances (Four performances)

Expectations

If you are cast in the show, I hope your experiences during rehearsals and performances will be fun ones. However, in order for the production to run smoothly, with a minimum of frustration for all involved, certain rules must be followed.

- 1) Absences: Attendance will be taken daily. Because of the physical demands of the show, this show will require more full cast and crew rehearsal days than past productions. A detailed rehearsal calendar will be provided for you. Consider other commitments you might have like work, athletics, music lessons, etc. before deciding to audition. I want to accommodate you, so please accommodate me by scheduling your other commitments around your rehearsal schedule. Attendance at scheduled rehearsals is **mandatory** and important to the overall production. Appointments made on scheduled rehearsal days will count as unexcused. Of course emergencies happen and an absence may occur. If an absence is necessary, your parent/guardian **MUST** let Mr. Irvin know ahead of time. **DO NOT** tell an assistant director or another cast member. Frequent, unexcused absences **WILL** result in removal from the production. You will be dropped after the 3<sup>rd</sup> unexcused absence. **Tech and Dress Rehearsals are mandatory. If even one person is missing from a tech or dress rehearsal, it affects all cast members and the overall effectiveness of the rehearsal. Therefore, absence from a Tech or Dress Rehearsal (or performance) WILL result in automatic removal from the production regardless of the reason or number of absences already accrued.**
- 2) Tardiness: Rehearsals begin promptly at 3:45 pm on Mondays, Wednesday, and Fridays; 4:30 on Tuesdays and Thursdays; and 9 am on Saturdays. **BE ON TIME!!!** A warning will be given after the first tardy. The 2<sup>nd</sup> will result in parent contact. The 3<sup>rd</sup> tardy will result in probation. Upon the 4<sup>th</sup> tardy, the student may be dismissed from the show.
- 3) Food and Drink: performers may eat and drink during rehearsal as long as it is outside, away from the rehearsal/performance areas.
- 4) Behavior/Professionalism: Professionalism and support is tantamount to the success of any production. Rude, disparaging, slanderous, and overall negative comments posted on social media regarding casting, the production, other cast members, and or the CHS theatre department

by a cast member, or family member, may result in immediate dismissal of that cast member from the production.

- 5) Fighting/Language: Campus policies regarding foul language and fighting will be strictly adhered to. Continued foul or abusive language will result in dismissal from the production. If any cast member lays hands on another, that cast/crew member **WILL BE immediately dropped from the show and will face disciplinary action from school administration.**
- 6) Grades: CHS eligibility rules regarding grades will be strictly adhered to. Anyone deemed ineligible will have to be removed from the production

Cast Donations, Fundraising, and Ticket Sales

*Cast Member Donation*: \$50 per student.

-The donation helps pay for costuming, set materials, and make-up

Fundraising:

In addition to the production pack, cast members are asked to help fund raise. This can take the form of monetary sponsorships, material and financial donations from area businesses, donation of services, selling advertising space in the show's program, or selling more than the minimum tickets required.

Ticket Sales:

We don't have a show unless we have an audience! Unless you've experienced it, I can't describe the energy felt from a sold-out house. Each cast member will be asked to sell a minimum of 10 tickets. Prizes will be awarded to the top sellers.

Tickets will be sold online only through On the Stage at [www.chaparralactorstroupe.com](http://www.chaparralactorstroupe.com)

\*Parents, if you have questions or concerns regarding the cast donation please don't hesitate to contact me. Families may also choose to help out other families by sponsoring other cast members.

### Volunteering to Help

All successful school activities have one thing in common: support from families. It's important for us to keep families informed and involved in all stages of the production. If you are interested in helping out in any way please let me know. Whether it's sewing or gathering costumes, helping to build sets or props, running concessions, spear-heading fund raising efforts, or organizing snacks for rehearsals, please know your efforts are welcome and appreciated.

The purpose of all this information is to make it clear what you can expect from this production should your child be cast. Please review the above information with your child then sign and return the attached audition permission form. It will act as a contract should your child get cast in the show.

Audition materials can be found on my school web site, and on the Chaparral Actors' Troupe Facebook page. If you have any questions, please contact me at (951) 695 4200 ext. 252 or email me at [cirvin@tvusd.us](mailto:cirvin@tvusd.us). Thank you in advance for your support.

-Chris Irvin

Audition Permission Form

(This form must be signed & turned in to secure your audition spot. Keep the information packet for your records)

Student: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

Role(s) Auditioning For: \_\_\_\_\_

(Chris, Sandra, Max, Robert, Dennis, Annie, Trevor)

Role(s) Interested in (not listed above) \_\_\_\_\_

List any special skills/ experiences (dance, gymnastics, stage combat, martial arts, sports, pantomime, etc), and describe: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

List all conflicts you might have with the rehearsal schedule (BE HONEST):  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

I, \_\_\_\_\_, the parent/guardian of \_\_\_\_\_ have read the provided information regarding participation in *The Play That Goes Wrong* and find it to be reasonable should my child be cast. By signing below, I confirm I was provided access to read the play and give my child permission to audition. I also understand auditioning **does not guarantee** being cast in the show.

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Parent Name)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Phone Number)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Email Address)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Parent Signature)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Date)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Student Signature)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Date)