



Audition notice

Maggie May

Wigan Little Theatre is proud to present *Maggie May*. We would like to invite you to audition for an acting role or contact us if you would like to be part of the production in another area. For a description of each non-acting role, please see the later pages.

Playwright: Frances Poet
Director: Nicola Reynolds
Production Ass: Andy Brown
Audition: Sunday 9th March at 2pm at Wigan little Theatre
Production dates: 4th to 14th June 2025

Synopsis of play

Maggie and Gordon first met, dancing to Rod Stewart songs, in 1971. Now in their sixties, and still very much in love, they've been finishing each other's songs all their marriage. But now Maggie is feeling foggy and some days the songs are all she can remember. Her son and his new girlfriend are coming to dinner, and her best friend is asking questions.

Frances Poet's play *Maggie May* is an extraordinary drama about an ordinary family who must balance the challenges of daily life whilst living with dementia.

A heartfelt and inspiring story of hope.

Director's Note

This play is about people in a very real situation as such I am looking for actors with a realistic acting style. We need to be able to put across the emotions and frustrations, but also the humour in the lighter moments. Whilst obviously the main subject of the play is sad and something we know there is no ultimate resolution to, the overarching feel of the play is positive and hopeful and is lifted with music and lighthearted moments.

Rehearsals

Tuesday, Thursday, Sunday (Sunday time to be agreed with the cast)

Characters

Maggie – age 60 plus – Maggie is a feisty, funny strong woman and while in her alone moments her natural fear comes through, she is determined to take her diagnosis in her stride and face it head on. She is down to earth & has a sharp wit. She can be brusque but loves her family and friends deeply. She initially attempts to conceal her diagnosis which results in misunderstandings with Michael & Jo.

Gordon – age 60 plus – Gordon is Maggie’s rock and possessed of a quiet inner strength. He is genial, patient, loving, forgiving and quick to burst into song to diffuse any situation and charm his wife (I am not looking for an accomplished singer for this character – think shower singer!!)

Jo – age 50 plus up to 70 - Jo is Maggie’s best friend. Similar in character to Maggie but with a little eccentricity (NOT the stereotypical mad Neighbour). At times she is quick to speak before she thinks as she initially doesn’t understand Maggie’s perceived neglect of her. She does, however, come through for her dear friend in the end and they reaffirm their friendship.

Michael – age late 20s/early 30s. Maggie and Gordon’s son. Michael struggles with Maggie’s diagnosis and is angry to the point he sabotages his relationship with Claire. Ultimately, however, he loves his mum and wants the best for her.

Claire – age 25 plus – Michael’s new girlfriend. Claire is a ray of sunshine, she is clever, bright and emotionally mature. She has a quirky sense of fashion and is a massive Harry Potter fan. She is unfazed when Maggie refers to her by Michael’s ex-girlfriend’s name. She & Maggie become an unexpected source of inspiration and support to each other.

Audition pieces

Audition pieces – each character will be auditioned on the pages specified only but I may need them to read in for certain sections – mainly Maggie.

Maggie – Page 5. Pages 6 & 7. Page 21.

Gordon – Page 6 & 7, Page 13 to 15 (up to Gordon’s singing & Maggie - no flippin’ time for singing)

Jo – Pages 8 -9 (up to Jo – we can’t win it without you), Pages 42 -43 (up to Jo It’s the curse of old age, isn’t it?)

Michael – Pages 15 – 17 (finishing at Claire – up to book 7), Pages 46 - 47

Claire – Pages 15 -17, Page 79 (finishing on Claire’s exit)

All – Page 73 from doorbell rings up to 75 (Maggie – how long before I forget all of you?)

To request a script, contact the director, Nicola Reynolds by email Reynoldsnh70@hotmail.co.uk

Advice can also be sought from any member of the Play Selection and Casting Committee:

Nicola Reynolds, Joey Wiswell, Maggie Hall, Niall Wilkinson and Erinna Delaney

THE COMPANY

Actors

WLT aims for a very high standard of production and maximum commitment is required to achieve this. Rehearsals can take place for 8-12 weeks prior to the performance dates, typically 3 or 4 times a week in the evenings or on Sundays. In the event of not being able to attend the audition date, you should contact the director or a member of our Play Selection and Casting Committee (PSCC). Please be aware that only one alternative audition will be held, and times will be limited due to everyone's availability. If you are interested in auditioning for a part, please contact the Director or any member of PSCC.

Bar

Members of this team should be over the age of 18. They are responsible for working behind the bar, which is open from 7.00 pm until 11.00 pm during each production. Members often do one or two nights during any production.

Box Office

We need friendly and helpful people who have good interpersonal skills both face to face and over the phone. Experience of working with IT would be an advantage but training will be given on the box office computer and administrative systems. Box Office opening hours are 7-9 pm.

Coffee

Coffee is sold during the interval. Most helpers arrive prior to the opening of the show on one or two separate occasions to make and serve the coffee, and once the washing up is done they are free to go!

Front of House

The Front of House (FOH) Team welcome the public to a show, hand them their tickets where appropriate, escort them to their seats if necessary and remain on hand until the end of the show when the FOH representative will wait until the last patron has left before locking the main doors. The usual commitment is for one or two nights during the run of a show from 7-10 pm approximately.

Lighting and sound

The Technical support group is responsible for the design and operation of the lighting and sound for each production. Setting up a new show normally takes place on two or three separate evenings before the Technical Rehearsal, and then two or three members are at the Theatre each night of the production to operate the lighting and sound desks and provide any additional services required by the show. Training will be given, and you won't be left to work alone until you feel completely confident.

Programme Sales

The job is as simple as it sounds! All you need is your smile and the ability to handle cash – then all you have to do is wait for patrons to come to buy a programme! Programme sellers normally arrive at around 6.45 pm and stay on duty until the start of the show at 7.30 pm.

Prompts

Members of the prompt team are never seen - and hopefully never heard – during the run of a production! Prompts work on a rota basis and attend rehearsals for approximately three weeks prior to the opening of a show and for one or two nights during a show, sitting in the wings with a copy of a script, ready to whisper a helpful reminder if required! If you are interested in prompting, please contact the director of the production.

Properties

Attention to detail when setting the scene can certainly bring life to a production. This is the aim of the props team. New members are welcome to join us with a view to becoming a props leader. To fulfil this, we are looking for volunteers who are organised, creative and who can deal with situations in a sensible and realistic manner. Commitment to shows and their rehearsal time is necessary. Working together we can create innovative and exciting productions.

Set Building

For this any DIY or trade experience would be useful, but definitely not necessary! A lot of the work involves carrying/moving theatre flats, steps, doors etc. And holding them while they are fixed in place. We have a workshop at the side of the stage with the materials and equipment that we need. There is always someone around, so you won't be asked to do any job or use any tools that you don't feel comfortable with. Generally, we build the sets on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, from 10 am until 2 pm and Thursday evenings from 7 until 9 pm. All times are approximate and, of course, you can come and go at whatever time suits you within those time periods. So, if you could spare any time at all (even just the odd hour) we would appreciate it.

Set Painting

Set painters bring the set to life with their paintbrushes, whether it's a Victorian Drawing room or a street of terraced houses! You don't have to be Monet – anybody who can use a paintbrush is welcome and the ability to climb a step ladder is also useful. Set painters work during the day, usually the week before a play opens, generally between 10 am and 3 pm. Guidance will be provided along with frequent coffees and a lunch break – and you can stay for as long or as short as you like.

Stage Management

The role of the Stage Manager is to ensure the smooth running of a performance. You will enjoy this role if you are interested in all things theatrical; tactful when dealing with directors, actors and other members of the theatre; able to remain calm under pressure; able to recognise a team; be a good communicator; are mature and sensible in attitude – ideally over 18 years of age.

Sweet Sales

Sweets are sold prior to the start of the show and the interval, along with ice creams, during each performance. Sweet sellers are expected to be on duty from around 6.45 until after the interval, the time for which obviously varies.

Wardrobe

The wardrobe department supplies and constructs suitable costumes for every production. In addition, the department is responsible for cleaning, repairing and maintaining the existing costumes. Some heavy lifting can be required; however, any help is a benefit to support the department. The ability to sew is a bonus.

If you are interested in joining any of the teams/departments please email secretary@wiganlittletheatre.co.uk

Please note that you will be required to become a member of Wigan Little Theatre to take part in any production, in any capacity.