

THE BIRTHDAY PARTY

By Harold Pinter

Sunnybank Theatre Group's first play for its 'birthday' year is **The Birthday Party**, a modern classic by the unique theatre stylist Harold Pinter.

Meg and Petey run a down at heel seaside guest house in which there has been a single resident for the whole of the year prior to the start of the events of the play, an introverted loner named Stanley.

Two other guests arrive, Goldberg and McCann, who seem to have an agenda that is not friendly to Stanley, and they bring with them a sense of menace that ratchets the tension of the evening up and up.

It appears that this is Stanley's birthday though he denies it and there is an impromptu party set up to celebrate that happy event which becomes anything but a celebration.

The last part of this story involves a neighbour of Petey's and Meg's, Lulu, who takes a liking to Goldberg and regrets it in the morning after the party.

CHARACTERS:

MEG: A sweet lady, married to Petey, runs the guest house with him, and a little bit 'dotty'. She seems to have a very strange attachment to and interest in Stanley. She is oblivious to the menace brought to the house by Goldberg and McCann and ends the play believing that she was 'the belle of the ball'. She should be a match for Petey age wise probably ideally in her 60s. Regional English accent but better educated than Petey.

PETEY: runs the guest house and has a job as attending to the deck chairs that people who come to the beach near the guest house can sit on. Working class, stolid, maybe a bit boring, but he does stand up for what he believes in (and fails utterly at that, too). Ideally 60s, regional English accent ideally.

STANLEY: emotionally troubled, perhaps even stunted, a bit backward, introverted, paranoid, he is targeted by Goldberg and McCann with dreadful consequences. Ideally 30s but age is open to anyone who can 'blow us away' with their audition.

GOLDBERG: the leader, a manipulator, with both a sinister and charming side, brings a sense of menace with him and makes Stanley a target. Age in range of 30s to 40s but again open to the 'right' person coming along at the audition.

MCCANN: offsider to Goldberg. An imposing figure, the muscle to Goldberg's manipulations and charm. Good at what he does but oddly nervous before doing what's needed. Irish accent ideally. Aged 30s but should be a match for Goldberg.

LULU: neighbour to the guest house, a pretty girl, attractive to men and she knows it and likes it. Not always happy with the consequences. Aged in the 20s ideally.

All roles need an English accent, except McCann (Irish ideally), and that accent should be a regional one. If you have a good standard English accent rather than a regional one, that's perfectly fine. Even McCann, if you don't have an Irish accent and you really want to try out for McCann, don't hesitate to do that.

**AUDITIONS at Sunnybank Theatre cnr Mains and Beenleigh Roads,
10 NOVEMBER at 11 a.m. SUNDAY
Call back MONDAY 11 NOVEMBER AT 7 PM IF NEEDED**

There will be a few rehearsals in November and December as set out below, rehearsals start on 5 JANUARY, 2025 at 11 a.m.

REHEARSE, MEET AND GREET, READTHROUGH – Sunday 17 NOVEMBER
MONDAY 18 NOVEMBER at 7 pm second rehearsal

REHEARSE THURSDAY 12 DECEMBER AT 7 PM, THEN SUNDAY 15 DECEMBER AT 11 A.M.

We will break until the New Year and START SUNDAY 5 JANUARY 2025 AT 11 A.M.

We plan TWO evening rehearsals, say, TUESDAYS AND THURSDAYS at 7 pm till 10 pm for the first couple of weeks AND SUNDAYS AT 10.30 a.m. till at least 2 pm.

THEN there may be added rehearsals on another evening if possible and if needed, say, MONDAYS..

A rehearsal schedule will be prepared once we have a cast, and any availability issues are worked through.

THE SEASON DATES: FEB 28 to MAR 16, 2025

This is an opportunity to take part in an absolute classic of the modern era, a brilliant vision, beautifully and melodically written by a master of the theatre.

We hope to see you at the auditions!