

Audition dates: Wednesday 3 April and Thursday 4 April 2024 at The Old Scout Hut, The Grove Rye TN31 7ND

Auditions will commence at 7.00pm

Performance dates: 28 June 2024 to 29 June 2024.

Rehearsals

Subject to cast preferences, Tuesday evenings 7.00 to 9.00pm., Sunday afternoons 2.00 – 4.30. Rehearsals will start immediately in the week following the auditions. Until the later stages of rehearsal, calls may be for small groups or two-handers. The evening may be split, you may only be called for the first or second half of the evening. If not called you are not required to attend. Rehearsals will be at The Old Scout Hut – Please state at the auditions any dates on which you would be unable to rehearse during our rehearsal period. N.B. Your full availability will be required in the two weeks preceding our opening night.

Blithe Spirit

Charles Condomine is a successful novelist. At the start of the play, while dressing for dinner, he and his second wife, Ruth, discuss his first wife, Elvira, who died young, seven years earlier. Among the Condomines' dinner guests is an eccentric medium, Madame Arcati, whom Charles has invited in the hope of learning about the occult for a story he is writing. He has arranged for her to conduct a séance after dinner. During the séance she plays a recording of Irving Berlin's song "Always" on the gramophone, inadvertently attracting the ghost of Elvira. Only Charles can see or hear Elvira, and Ruth does not believe that Elvira exists, until a floating vase is handed to her out of thin air. The ghostly Elvira makes continued efforts to disrupt Charles's current marriage. She finally sabotages his car in the hope of killing him so that he will join her in the spirit world, but it is Ruth rather than Charles who drives off and is killed. Ruth's ghost immediately comes back for revenge on Elvira, Charles cannot at first see Ruth, he can see that Elvira is being chased and tormented. He calls Madame Arcati back to exorcise both the spirits, but she unintentionally materialises Ruth. Charles, with Madame Arcati, goes through séance after séance and spell after spell to try to exorcise them. Madame Arcati works out that the housemaid, Edith, is psychic and had unwittingly summoned Elvira. She then succeeds in dematerialising both ghosts. Madame Arcati, warns Charles that he should go far away as soon as possible. Charles bids his vanished wives farewell and leaves at once; the unseen ghosts throw things and wreck the room as soon as he has gone.

Cast Required

- Playing ages given below are for guidance and are not determinative. If you wish to audition for a role but feel you are not the right playing age, please either audition in any event or contact the director prior to the audition.
- You may find it helpful to familiarise yourself with the play and the characters. There will be a reading at the Queen’s Head on 12 March

Characters

- Charles Condomine - a successful novelist - forties up. A large part
- Ruth Condomine – Charles’ second wife - forties up. A large part
- Edith – the maid - twenties up. A smallish part
- Dr Bradman – a local GP - forties up. A smallish part
- Mrs Bradman - his wife - forties up. A smallish part
- Madame Arcati a medium - – fifties up. A large part
- Elvira Condomine – the ghost of Charles’ first wife - forties up. A large part

Audition pieces – depending on attendance

Main Character	Other characters	Pages	Opening line	Ending line
Charles AI Sc2	Ruth, Dr Bradman, Mrs Bradman, Madame Arcati, Elvira	19-21	Leave it where it is...	The whole experience...
Charles All Sc3	Ruth, Elvira	52-56	You’ve behaved very well...	I’ll come at once!
Charles All Sc2		77	Ruth, Elvira..	Parting is such...
Ruth AI Sc1	Charles	3-6	Here try this	Admirable

Ruth AI Sc2	Charles, Elvira	24-26	Charles!	Good night Charles
Ruth All Sc1	Charles, Edith	32-33	You behaved with a stolid, obtuse, lack of	Tell Cook we shall both be in
Dr Bradman AI Sc2	Charles, Ruth, Mrs Bradman, Madame Arcati	22-23	Congratulations Madame Arcati	I should never forgive you if you didn't
Dr Bradman All Sc3	Charles, Ruth, Mrs Bradman, Elvira	49-51	Nothing to worry about	Well, I'll leave you two to fight it out
Mrs Bradman AI Sc1	Charles, Ruth, Dr Bradman	7-8	We're not late are we?	Two sorts...
Madame Arcati AI Sc1	Dr Bradman, Mrs Bradman, Charles, Ruth	9-10	I'm afraid I'm rather late	Yes, through my control of course
Madame Arcati AI Sc2	Dr Bradman, Mrs Bradman, Charles, Ruth	16-18	Now, there are one or two things....	Madame Arcati screams
Madame Arcati All Sc1	Charles, Elvira	64-67	Is the darling still here?	Something happened
Elvira AI Sc2	Charles	26-28	That was one of the most enjoyable....	To hell with Ruth...
Elvira All Sc 1	Charles, Ruth	35-39	You've absolutely...	Hypnotism my foot!
Edith	Charles, Ruth, Madame Arcati, Elvira	72-76	Did you ring sir?	Oh sir, whatever for?

**IF YOU ARE PLANNING TO AUDITION FOR THIS PRODUCTION,
PLEASE PRINT OFF AND COMPLETE THE AUDITION SLIP AND
BRING IT ALONG WITH YOU**

If you have any questions about the play or the production, or cannot come to the auditions on the dates shown please contact the Director, Mike Nower:

mikenower@gmail.com

Rye Players

Blithe Spirit Audition Slip

Name:

Address:

Tel:

Day: _____ Evening: _____

Mob: _____

Email:

I wish to read for: (or 'as cast')

I am not available on (dates):

Preferred method of contact to advise of audition results:

Phone call / Email / Text

If you were not cast, would you be interested in crewing/working backstage?

Yes / No

How did you find out about this audition? Email / Website / Mailing / Other