

# WOLLONGONG WORKSHOP THEATRE

## Gaslight - Audition Pack

### 1. About the Show

Gaslight was written in 1938 and is set sometime in 1880's London. Bella Manningham is the central character and lives in a terrace style house with her husband and two servants, the Cook/Housekeeper Elizabeth and Maid Nancy. She is constantly emotionally tortured and controlled by her husband, a man with no money of his own and a questionable past. He is trying to convince her that she is going mad by gaslighting her (the origin of the term!) hiding objects around the house, isolating her from family and friends, and even trying to get the servants to pile on.

I chose this play because I felt that the themes presented in its 19<sup>th</sup> century setting including 'gaslighting,' personal allegiances, money, social status, and striving for social justice are always present in society, it doesn't matter what time-period, it's still relevant. The play will be set in its listed period of 1880's, which will be indicated by the costumes, set and props. One large room will be set up for the course of the show, with characters bringing in props as needed. All props and set pieces are physical, and the set will be extensively decorated, I prefer the audience to feel immersed in the performances and not have to wonder about what's going on.

#### About this production

The ages of roles are flexible, please have a look at the readings and character profiles below. Bella, Mr Manningham and Rough have some solid dialogue, and being a play with few characters, these three shoulder the most dialogue with some small and large monologues at times.

There are 3 x female and 2 x male roles available. No roles are precast.

We are unaware if Gaslight has been staged in the Illawarra to date. There is a professional production being staged at Ros Packer Theatre which opens late August.

#### Mature themes

The play deals with issues of coercive control, mental health, and power imbalance both amongst the couple and the servants. Mr Manningham flies off the handle at times and Bella plunges into despair and desperation at times. The intention is not to have loud voices and blow-ups, as it's too hard on the audience. It's a psychological thriller, so it's intended that this will be done with small build-ups. The words are more important than the volume or actions.

Mr Manningham shares a kiss with Nancy.

## 2. About the auditions

### Audition and rehearsal venue

Tuesday and Thursday evenings, Wollongong Workshop Theatre, 190 Gipps Rd, Gwynneville

### Book an audition timeslot

Auditions:

- Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> May – 6PM-8PM
- Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> May – 11AM-1PM

Callbacks (You may be asked to do an individual call-back or chemistry reads with other actors) – TBA at auditions.

Auditions will be held in 15-minute time slots. Please aim to arrive early as we will be adhering strictly to these times.

Readings for characters are available on the Wollongong Workshop Theatre site and will be available at the audition in hard copy also. We may ask you to read some additional material from the play which we will provide if required.

To book an audition, please follow [this link](#).

Please contact the director on the email in your booking link if you can't attend.

### Roles Available

**Mrs Manningham:** (20s+) is confined in more ways than one, doesn't go anywhere or see anyone. She is emotionally and physically exhausted. Holds a lot of the dialogue and attention, is the central character. Younger than Mr Manningham. Ingrid Bergman won the Academy Award for her role in the film.

**Mr Manningham:** (30's+) charming and stylish, his physical build is not important as his words are what are most important. He is arrogant, temperamental, and a small man underneath it all. He has no control over his emotions.

**Inspector Rough:** (50s+) a retired police detective who is street-smart and not afraid of confrontation. Has some solid dialogue and monologues.

**Elizabeth:** (40s+) the housekeeper and cook. Allegiance to Mrs Manningham. Kind and wants to help Bella.

**Nancy:** (20s+) the maid. Allegiance to Mr Manningham as she thinks he is interested in her and will replace Bella in the household. Is also being gaslit. Has a kiss with Mr Manningham. This was Angela Lansbury's first role in film.

## 3. About the run

### Rehearsals

Rehearsals will be Tuesday and Thursday nights (pm), commencing May 14th. A schedule will be provided.

### Season dates

- Tech week: 4 – 7 August
- Friday 9 August
- Saturday 10 August
- Sunday 11 August (matinée)
- Friday 16 August
- Saturday 17 August
- Sunday 18 August (matinée)
- Friday 23 August
- Saturday 24 August

## Show requirements

- All cast members are required to become ordinary members of Wollongong Workshop Theatre. Ordinary membership costs \$5 and can be purchased via the WWT website: <https://www.wollongongworkshoptheatre.com.au/membership>
- All cast members are expected to attend all rehearsals required of them, barring sickness and emergencies. Please let us know at the time of audition if you will be away during the rehearsal period or otherwise unavailable for any planned rehearsals.
- By accepting a role in the show, you agree that your image may be featured in promotional material for the show on the Wollongong Workshop Theatre website and social media channels. If you have any concerns about this, please contact the production team.
- Cast members may be asked to assist with other aspects of the production, including (but not limited to) set construction, publicity, and costume-making.

## 4. About the Production team

<b>Position</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Please feel free to call and ask questions!</b>
<b>Director</b>	Michael Cremona	0400 402 017
<b>Producer</b>	Feergus Manning	
<b>Stage Manager</b>	Tessa Parsons	