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One Man Two Guvnors – 23rd – 26th November 2016

I am delighted to have been given the opportunity to direct our November production, One Man Two Guvnors.

This play which has its origins in Commedia dell' arte is extremely funny and will be very challenging to put on, but I have confidence that we can do it.

There is lots of physical comedy and choreographed scenes. The fourth wall is broken by Francis in particular who enlists the audience as his accomplice.

In the words of Richard Bean, the writer. "It's hard, physical work this play, but if you get it right, it can be rewarding." - I know with great teamwork Witham Dramatic Club can and will "get it right".

The play is set in Brighton in 1963 and centres on the bumbling Francis Hensall, a minder to both Roscoe Crabbe (a local gangster) and Stanley Stubbers (an upper class criminal).

Roscoe is dead – killed by Stanley Stubbers – and is being impersonated by his sister Rachel who is Stanley's girlfriend and he/she is in Brighton to collect £6,000 from Roscoe's fiancée's dad.

Chaos unfolds as Francis tries to stop his two 'guvnors' from meeting and everyone else tries to hide their real identities.

The cast is as follows:

Charlie 'Charlie the Duck' Clench – An ex-jailbird originally from London. Charlie is Pauline's father.

Pauline Clench – Young, pretty and bit stupid. Was engaged to Roscoe Crabbe which was arranged by her father but she loves Alan.

Harry Dangle – Crooked solicitor. He is Alan's father.

Alan Dangle – Young. In love with Pauline. He is a would-be actor and is very dramatic when he speaks (speaks like he is in a play a lot of the time).

Dolly – Works for Charlie as his bookkeeper. She and Francis fancy each other.

Lloyd Boateng – Charlie's friend and was in Parkhurst with him. He owns a pub, The Cricketers Arms.

Francis Henshall – Minder. Ideally a bit overweight, lots of physical humour. Eats on stage, interacts a lot with the audience. Fancies Dolly and for a small portion of the play has an Irish accent.

Rachel Crabbe – Sister of Roscoe Crabbe. Spends most of the play dressed as her brother Roscoe who has been murdered. Stanley Stubbers is her boyfriend.

Stanley Stubbers –Privately educated. Rachel's boyfriend and he has murdered Rachel's brother Roscoe.

Alfie – Head Water in his 80's. Although in his 80's this has to be played by a much younger actor as there is a lot of physical humour including falling and fighting. Acts old and shaky. He has a pacemaker which is turned up a couple of times during the play which makes him move in a quick and erratic manor.

Smaller parts which can probably be doubled as follows:-

Gareth – Head Waiter

Christine – plant in the audience – physical humour with table on stage. Ends up getting soaked with a fire extinguisher.

Cab Driver

Old Lady Pensioner

Vicar/Priest

Policemen

Barman

2 x plant in audience to do trunk routine

Double for Francis who can cartwheel (or something similar)

Auditions will be held in the Committee Rooms at the Public Hall at 8pm on Thursday 7th and Monday 11th July. Please come along if you are interested in auditioning or helping backstage.

The Script is on the Club's Dropbox for you to read. Please note this varies slightly from the acting edition which will be used for auditions and the production itself.

If you would like to be involved but cannot make auditions please contact me on the numbers above and I will arrange to hear you.

I look forward to your seeing you at auditions.

Jacqui