



Richmond Shakespeare Society  
**AUDITION NOTICE**

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# **THE GHOST TRAIN (Revised)**

by Arnold Ridley

**Director: Asha Gill**

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**Reading:** **Monday 25<sup>th</sup> August at 7.45pm** at the Mary Wallace Theatre.

**Auditions:** **Monday 1<sup>st</sup> September at 7.45pm** at the Theatre.  
Registration at 7pm.

**Playing dates:** **Saturday, 6<sup>th</sup> December 2025 - Saturday, 13<sup>th</sup> December 2025**

**Rehearsals:** Starting Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> September  
(and from then on - Tuesday, Thursday & Friday evenings & Sunday afternoons)  
Rehearsals will take place in the vicinity of the theatre.

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Six passengers find themselves stranded late at night in the waiting room of an isolated Cornish railway station. Ignoring the dire warnings of the stationmaster, they decide to stay where they are until morning – with terrifying consequences. Finally, all is revealed and the details of a fiendish plot are laid bare.

I'm very excited to present this comedy thriller, in which I'll be leaning into the thriller aspect as well as the comedy. Set in the mid-1920s era, I'm very keen to work on character and storytelling, which are key to this play, so I hope to attract keen and versatile actors. Do email me with any queries, or come along to the reading.

## **Characters**

**Saul Hodgkin** - The creepy stationmaster. He tells the tale of the Ghost Train, giving everyone the heebie-jeebies, ideally in a West Country accent.

**Richard Winthrop** - Very straight-talking, sensible - the antithesis of Teddie (see below). Richard is down-to-earth, perhaps bordering on austere. His marriage to Elsie is on the ropes.

**Elsie Winthrop** - Fairly sensible, independent and intelligent. Strong-minded, she's unhappily married to Richard.

**Charles Murdock** - Newly wed to Peggy, he's happy-go-lucky. The couple have only a short time together before Charles has to go abroad to work and, unfortunately, they get stuck in the station on their wedding night. Likely to involve some intimacy with Peggy.

**Peggy Murdock** - Girlish, newly wed to Charles. I see her as quite bouncy and playful, but could also be shy and innocent, but relatively grounded. Likely to involve some intimacy with Charles.

**Miss Bourne** - A sort of spinster character, but could be any age. Chaste and innocent, but also fairly ridiculous with it. Her character arc involves getting very drunk for the first time in her life - and being asleep for half of the play.

**Teddie Deakin** - Extremely silly and irritating to everyone with his incessant joke-telling. However, there is a depth to his character and he reveals himself to be astute and sharp.

**Julia Price** - Described as “Cornish and thinks she’s psychic”. Melodramatic and histrionic. A girl who appears to be enthralled by the Ghost Train tale, and must set her eyes upon it. She is strong willed and definitely has two sides to her personality.

**John Sterling** - Appears as Julia’s psychologist, but not entirely honest. His role is performative, manipulative and slick.

**Jackson** - Plain-clothed policeman. Not many lines, but therefore malleable to layer a character choice on him.

The script also names several roles who do not have lines, and do not have stage directions written in, but I believe there is scope to include them as police at the end. Do let me know if you’re interested in a non-speaking role.

### **Audition Pieces**

Please contact the director for the audition pieces, available from August 1<sup>st</sup> 2025.

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**The RSS actively encourages diversity, and casting will not be constrained by any perceived gender or ethnicity of the roles being auditioned, unless specified by the playwright.**

**While auditions are open to all, please be aware that, if offered a part, you will need to be a member of RSS before you can be confirmed as a member of the cast.**

**Audition Application forms are available in the theatre, can be downloaded from the auditions page of the R.S.S. website, or can be completed online: [www.richmondshakespeare.org.uk/acting](http://www.richmondshakespeare.org.uk/acting). Please return these to the Hon. Secretary at the theatre, or by e-mail to [secretary@rss-mwt.org.uk](mailto:secretary@rss-mwt.org.uk)**