

“LADIES’ DAY” AUDITION NOTICE
BY AMANDA WHITTINGTON
DIRECTED BY JULIE CUMBO

Performances: November 6th to 11th

Rehearsals will start in mid-September and will be mostly Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays, starting at 7.45pm, with some Sundays at 2.30pm towards the end of the schedule.

Read-through: Tuesday 30th May at 8pm.

Auditions: Tuesday 20th June at 8pm and Sunday 25th June at 2.30pm.

For further information email Julie Cumbo at juliecumbo1@gmail.com

The play

“Ladies’ Day” is an exuberant comedy drama about four different women who work in a fish factory in Hull. Life is one long, hard slog for the fish-filleting foursome Pearl, Jan, Shelley and Linda. To celebrate Pearl’s pending retirement - so they think! - they ditch their overalls and hairnets, and dress up to the nines for an unforgettable day out at the races when Royal Ascot relocates to York. A lucky find gets them free entry into a completely different world. Out for a drink, a flirt and a flutter, chance meetings change everything and each one reveals more about herself as the day’s events unfold. As secrets are spilled, friendships are tested but stay strong, even when and their luck runs out and fortune is tossed to the wind. Or is it?

The characters

- **The ages are very approximate.**
- **All the women have northern accents and so do Joe and Kevin though I won’t fuss too much about the precise location. Fred, Jim and Kevin don’t need to have northern accents while Patrick has an Irish accent.**
- **In the original, the men’s parts were all played by one actor but I’d prefer to use three or four actors. The age range for some of the men will loosely correspond to the women they meet up with in the play.**

PEARL, mid-50s - Pearl is kind and generous and slightly better off than the others. She is married with four children and one grandson. She’s a caring married woman who harbours a secret.

Pearl’s audition pieces:

ONE - with Jan, bottom of P.48 “I’ve had too much to drink” to P.52, “I just want to find him.” Also Jan audition piece.

TWO - with Barry, mid-86 “...When you’re a kid..” to end of scene on P.88 – also Barry audition piece.

JAN, mid-40s - Jan is a single mum who is slightly dowdy and who saves every penny she earns for her daughter who is about to go to university. She's divorced and a devoted mum who hides a passion.

Jan's audition pieces:

ONE - with Pearl, bottom of P.48 "I've had too much to drink" to P.52, "I just want to find him." Also Pearl audition piece.

TWO - with other three women and Joe, end of play, bottom of page 94 to 96. Also Joe audition piece.

SHELLEY, 20s/30s - Shelley is single, brash and loud and inclined to drink too much. She dresses in a cheap and tarty fashion, and is a good time girl on the lookout for a millionaire or an opportunity to be a celebrity.

Shelley's audition pieces:

ONE - with Jim, bottom of P.70, "I've been waiting all my life for this" to P.73 "Call me." Also Jim audition piece.

TWO - with Jan and Linda, bottom P.89 "the machines strike up" to top P.91 "when it's quiet."

LINDA, 20s/30s - Linda is single, was brought up by her nan and is a huge Tony Christie fan. She is quiet, thoughtful and dresses conservatively, the opposite to Shelley. She is naïve, caring and rather old-fashioned.

Linda's audition pieces:

ONE - with Patrick, P.54 start of scene to P.56 ".....I wish they'd done the same to me." Also Patrick audition piece.

TWO - with Shelley, Jan and Pearl, page 46 "Has she been round again?" to exit on P.48

JOE - 40-60 years: factory supervisor - in two scenes.

Joe's audition piece - with all four women, end of play, bottom of page 94 "Right, I'd best get on" to 96.

FRED - any age: ticket tout on for a couple of pages.

Fred's audition piece - with Shelley, Jan and Pearl, Page 22 entrance to exit bottom of P. 23

JIM McCormack no specified age, maybe 30-50: TV pundit, with a huge ego and an eye for the women, in three scenes + voice over.

Jim's audition piece: with Shelley, bottom of P.70, "I've been waiting all my life for this" to P.73 "Call me." Also Shelley audition piece.

PATRICK under 40 years: a disgruntled Irish jockey, one scene.

Patrick's audition piece: with Linda, P.54 start of scene to P.56 ".....I wish they'd done the same to me." Also Linda audition piece.

KEVIN, no specified age: gambler, on for a couple of pages.

Kevin's audition piece - with all four women, top P.79, "Can you spare a bit of change?" to exit bottom P.80

BARRY, around 60 years: bookie, in one scene.

Barry's audition piece; with Pearl, mid-86 from "...When you're a kid.." to end of scene on P.88 - Also Pearl audition piece.