



## Dunstable Rep Theatre Club

The Little Theatre  
High Street South  
Dunstable  
LU5 3SF

### A Bunch of Amateurs – Audition Notes

A bunch of Amateurs is a love letter to amateur dramatics, written by Nick Newman and Ian Hislop.

The story of the play follows former Hollywood action hero, Jefferson Steele, arriving in England to boost his stalling career by playing King Lear at Stratford. Unfortunately for him his hapless agent has made a massive faux pas and this is not the Stratford-upon-Avon, home of the Bard, but a small Suffolk village. And instead of appearing with 'Branagh' and 'Dench' and the RSC, as expected, the rest of the cast are an amateur drama group called Stratford Players!

Jefferson's ego, vanity and insecurity are tested fully by the enthusiastic amateur thespians, who can't believe their luck, or lack of it. As the worlds of glamorous Hollywood and sleepy Suffolk intertwine Jefferson's career implodes, and he discovers some real truths about himself, and, ultimately, his inner Lear!

#### **Cast of characters:**

- Jefferson Steel     Fading Hollywood action hero star. Arrogant, insecure, brash, demanding and vulnerable. Becomes aware of his own absurdity and humbles, a bit. Playing ages 55-70
- Dorothy Nettle     Stratford Players director and the moving force behind the theatre group. Sweet, accommodating in manner, but has an inner steel. Takes little care in her appearance. Playing ages 35-45
- Jessica Steel         Daughter of Jefferson, who has been neglected for most of her life and now wants to make him pay for it. Needy and grumpy at times, bit of a spoilt Hollywood brat. Playing ages 17-20
- Nigel Dewbury     Solicitor and the leading light of the SP. Pompous, stuck up and self-regarding, believing himself to always be the star of the show. He also has a thing for Dorothy and fancies his chances... Playing ages 45-65
- Mary Plunkett     Owner of the Rectory bed and breakfast, where JS is a guest. Jolly, generous and an unashamedly adoring fan of Mr Steele, although she gets the films he has appeared in a bit confused Jefferson's contemporaries from Hollywood. Playing age 40+
- Denis Dobbins     Handyman and general Mr fix-it. Avuncular in nature, and a bit dull. Is star-struck by JS. Playing age 35+
- Lauren Bell         Marketing executive and former physiotherapist. Has a passion for the arts and is smarter than her husband allows her to be. She gets treated like a bimbo because of her look. Playing age 25-40

The action takes place mainly in the barn in which the Stratford Players perform.