



Dunstable Rep Theatre Club

The Little Theatre
High Street South
Dunstable
LU5 3SF

DEATHTRAP – Audition Notes

by Ira Levin and directed by Alan Goss
Performance dates: 8th-16th May 2020

BACKGROUND: Deathtrap by Ira Levin is essentially a play within a play. It began its Broadway run in 1978 at the Music Box Theater and holds the record for the longest running comedy-thriller on Broadway and was also nominated for the Tony Award for Best Play.

PLOT: Renowned playwright, Sidney Bruhl, is in a writer's slump. To make his slump all the more painful, Clifford Anderson, a student of one of Sidney's writing seminars, has recently sent his mentor a copy of his first attempt at play writing for Sidney's review and advice. Clifford's play, "Deathtrap," is a five character, two act thriller so perfect in its construction that, as Sidney says, "A gifted director couldn't even hurt it." Out of his desperate desire to once again be the toast of Broadway, Sidney cooks up an almost unthinkable scheme: He'll lure the would-be playwright to the Bruhl's home, kill him, and market the sure-fire script as Sidney's own. He shares this idea with his wife Myra, but even as she yearns for Sidney to be back on top, this may be one step too far. Once Clifford arrives, it's clear that things are not what they seem. Indeed, even Helga Ten Dorp, a nosey psychic from next door, and Porter Milgram, Sidney's observant attorney, can only speculate where the line between truth and deception lies.

CONTACT: If you have any questions, please email alangoss47@icloud.com

CHARACTER BREAKDOWN:

SYDNEY BRUHL (M) 45-60: A famous writer of Broadway thrillers. His recent string of flops has him considering just about anything to be back on top with a hit show. He is impressive, polished, manipulative, a bit flamboyant and self-assured. Must be capable of stage combat.

CLIFF ANDERSON (M) 20-35: An aspiring young playwright. Preppy, good-looking, intelligent and charming, all of which covers an ambitious and deceptive streak. He is determined to become a successful playwright. Must be capable of stage combat.

MYRA BRUHL (F) 35-50: Sydney's self-effacing but charming wife. Sophisticated, upper class and supportive of her husband's efforts to stay on top. She may be more "willing" than at first glance.

HELGA TEN DORP (F) 45-70: A famous German psychic who is visiting the neighbours of the Bruhl's. She is nosey, quirky, struggles with her English, disarming and brave.

PORTER MILGRAM (M) 45-60: A Brahmin lawyer. An imposing man of substance who is on the lookout for Sidney's best interests. A friend of the family.