

JEEVES AND WOOSTER IN PERFECT NONSENSE

11th to 19th March 2022

Audition date: Thursday 6th January 2022, 7.45 pm

Bertie Wooster decides to stage a one-man show about his recent experiences at the country house, Totleigh Towers, but soon discovers he needs help to tell the story. However, his valet Jeeves has anticipated this and made preparations. Also recruits 'old' Seppings, Aunt Dahlia's butler, to help.

Bertie Wooster

(Twenties to thirties). Affable, affluent, naïve, impulsive and a little insane. Appears to possess little perceptive skill and even less common sense when narrating his play.

Jeeves

(Thirties to forties). The arbiter of taste and decorum, a bit of a whiz when it comes to getting Bertie out of socially awkward and legally precarious situations. Played with constant understatement, largely with a straight face. Also plays;

1. **Sir Watkyn Bassett** - A fuddy duddy judge with old-fashioned ideas. Easily outraged and offended. A small man who makes up for it by wearing loud clothes.
2. **Gussie Fink-Nottle** - A little boy in a man's body. Speaks with a lisp, has very poor eyesight, fascinated by newts, engaged to Madeline.
3. **Madeline Bassett** - "A droopy, soupy, sentimental exhibit, with melting eyes and a cooing voice." Cannot pronounce her "r"s.
4. **Stephanie 'Stiffy' Byng** - Selfish, calculating blackmailer, only out for number one.

Seppings

(Fifties to seventies). Aunt Dahlia's butler - Sensible. Mature. Feigned modesty with a "particular aptitude for impersonations". Also plays;

1. **Aunt Dahlia** - Loud. bullies and manipulates. Bertie tells us: "She spoke as if she was shouting across ploughed fields in a high wind."
2. **Jewellery Shop Proprietor** - Londoner who pronounces "Hallmark" wivart-an-'aitch. i.e. 'allmark.
3. **Roderick Spode** - Based on the infamous 1930s British Fascist Oswald Mosley. Spode is a dictator-in-waiting, a monocled thug with a robust voice.
4. **Butterfield** - Yet another butler, "104 years old" - with a smug sense of self-importance and barely hidden disdain for the people he serves.
5. **Constable Oates** - not very bright policeman. Speaks with a West Country burr

The characters are faithful to those created by P.G.Wodehouse. His novel *The Code of the Woosters* tells of the events at Totleigh Towers. Also found in *Jeeves Saves the Cow-Creamer* (series two, episode one of the 1991 BBC TV version).

All three should be reasonable 'movers', and able to dance - not necessarily very well!