

# THE CRIPPLE OF INISHMAAN AUDITION INFORMATION

## Introduction

Welcome to The Cripple of Inishmaan audition pack. Thank you for considering being a part of this show. Please take the time to read all the information carefully - particularly regarding rehearsals, show dates and character descriptions.

**Audition Date: March 29, 2026**

**Audition Time: 4:00pm**

**Location: The Playhouse, 2 Matai Street, Taupo**

**Production Dates: June 17-27, 2023**

## The Show

Written By: Martin McDonagh

Directed By: Nigel Vanner

Produced By: Centre Stage Taupo Inc

Production Manager: Kylie Dumble

***\*If you can't make the audition date but would still like to audition, please get in touch with Nigel Vanner at [ndvanner@gmail.com](mailto:ndvanner@gmail.com) to arrange an alternative time.\****

**Synopsis:** 'The Cripple of Inishmaan' is a black comedy set in 1934 on the small island of Inishmaan, one of the Aran islands off the west coast of Ireland. Billy is an orphan and cripple who bears the brunt of the cruelty and pity of the inhabitants of the island. A film crew from Hollywood arrives on the neighbouring island of Inishmore to film a documentary about life on the islands. Billy, along with other young people see an opportunity to escape the life of poverty on the island and vie for a part in the film. To everyone's surprise he gets his chance to go to America, or so it seems. The movie is screened in the village and Billy returns to reveal that he wasn't wanted in the film. The truth about why he is an orphan becomes apparent and he finally gets a kiss from his crush Helen. But maybe his future is not all roses.

## General Information:

As this play is set on an island off the coast of Ireland, actors need to be able to capture the delivery of the Irish language. Although an accent is quite important, it is **more** important to capture the cadence of the language which is what will convince the audience.

Physically there are no special requirements for actors except that Billy needs to be able to maintain a crippled posture throughout the play. The age requirements are a guide, as long as they are believable.

The audition pieces all include other characters because the interactions with them are important.

***If you would like a copy of the full play to read, please contact Kylie Dumble at [president@centrestagetaupo.co.nz](mailto:president@centrestagetaupo.co.nz) or Nigel Vanner at [ndvanner@gmail.com](mailto:ndvanner@gmail.com)***

BILLY CLAVEN	The cripple, 17 to 20 years old, orphaned, physically disabled and longing for adventure to find a way out of his mundane and impoverished life Inishmaan.	With Kate, Eileen and JPM P11 to 13 (JPM's long speech)  With Bobby P33 to p38 ( exit)  Billy's soliloquy P74 to 76  P92 to p93
KATE OSBOURNE	One of Billy's caring elderly adoptive aunts who co-owns the struggling local shop with her sister. Not always with it, sometimes talks to a stone.	With Eileen P5 to top of p9  P54 to p57 (JPM entrance)
EILEEN OSBOURNE	Kate's sister, similar age, the other shop owner. The more practical of the two.	With Eileen P5 to top of p9  P54 to p57 (JPM entrance)
JOHNNYPATEE NMIKE	Late middle-aged, scruffy, sneaky local gossip who sell his 'news' for food. Looks after his alcoholic bed-ridden 80 year-old mother.	With Kate, Eileen and Billy P9 to p14 (end of speech)  With Mammy and Doctor P44 to p49 (Doctor exit)  With Bobby P31 to p32
HELEN McCORMACK	17 to 18, beautiful, foul mouthed, often violent young woman who Billy has a secret crush on.	With Eileen and Billy P17 to top of p 22 (Eileen's exit)  With Bartley and Billy P24 to p28
BARTLEY McCORMACK	16 to 17, Helen's younger brother, not very bright, obsessed with sweeties and telescopes.	With Eileen and Helen P17 to top of p 22 (Eileen's exit)  With Helen and Billy P24 to p28

BABBYBOBBY BENNET	Early 30's, a bit of a hard man, the boatman who takes Billy, Helen and Bartley to Inishmore to try out for a part in the movie. He has his own tragic back story	With JPM P31 to p32  With Billy P33 to p38 (Billy's exit)
MAMMY	80 to 90 years old, Johnnypateenmike's alcoholic mother.	With JPM and Doctor P44 to p49 (Doctor exit)
DOCTOR McSHARRY	Middle-aged, well meaning, his diagnosis of Billy is a key issue.	With Mammy and JPM P44 to p49 (Doctor exit)

### Rehearsal Information:

Rehearsals will start the first week of April, 2026 and run through to performances. Usually rehearsals will be 2 hours long (though closer to the show starting longer rehearsals will be required). At this stage rehearsals are intended for Tuesday, Thursday and Sunday evenings but may change depending on the availability of the selected cast.

When you audition, please be aware that you will be required to attend all rehearsals unless otherwise advised. If you will be away or have commitments that will impact on the rehearsal schedule, please let the director, Nigel Vanner or production manager, Kylie Dumble know.

If you are, or intend to be, in any other show during rehearsals and production time of this show please advise the audition panel.

If you are cast, you are required to become a financial member of Centre Stage Taupo Inc. Membership fees are as follows:

Adult \$45  
Family \$65  
Student \$30  
Single Parent Family \$55  
Senior \$30

Please direct any further inquiries to the Director, Nigel Vanner at [ndvanner@gmail.com](mailto:ndvanner@gmail.com) or the Production Manager, Kylie Dumble at [president@centrestagetaupo.co.nz](mailto:president@centrestagetaupo.co.nz)

