

**Centre Stage Taupo Presents:  
'Hangmen' by Martin McDonagh**

**Audition Information Pack**

**Introduction**

Welcome to the 'Hangmen' 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. \*Please complete the Audition Registration Form

Audition Date: **3 August 2025**

Audition Time: **10.30am**

*If you are unavailable for this day please indicate on the audition registration form*

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

Production Dates: **29 October to 8 November 2025**

**The Play**

Written By: Martin McDonagh

Directed By: Sharon Shanks

Produced By: Centre Stage Taupo Inc

Production Manager: Jo Bixley

**Synopsis**

It's 1965, and capital punishment has just been abolished in the UK.

In a dingy pub in the north of England, the landlord, Harry, who until recently was known as 'the second-best hangman in Britain', holds court.

Surrounded by a motley crew of sycophants and hangers-on, he relishes the celebrity his profession has brought him.

His wife, Alice, works behind the bar; neither seems to notice that their anxious, awkward teenage daughter, Shirley, is ripe for exploitation.

The arrival of Mooney, a mysterious stranger from London creates an atmosphere toxic with suspicion, and when Harry's arch-rival turns up, the clash of egos is brutal.

A pitch-black Olivier Award-winning comedy from the master of darkness, Martin McDonagh, the multi-award-winning writer of plays *The Beauty Queen of Leenane* and *The Lieutenant of Innishmore*, and the films *The Banshees of Inisherin*, *In Bruges*, and *Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri*.

*"A sly throat-gripping mystery" The New York Times*

*"Tremendous, terrifying" The Observer*

**Characters required - 10 male, 2 female. Suggested character age listed**

Some characters will need to speak with a \*northern or London accent - coaching will be given

**Audition pieces**  **Audition Pieces** Please click

**Character Description**

#### Harry Wade 50-60 years old

The central character who runs the pub. Harry is a commanding presence, exuding the charisma of a local celebrity and former chief hangman. A bluff, blunt, and proud Northerner, he navigates the complexities of his past with turns of aggression, ultimately revealing his deep-seated insecurities

\*northern accent required

#### Peter Mooney 20-30 years old

Charismatic, confident, mysterious with an odd sense of humour. Mooney, possesses a magnetic charm and a peculiar sense of humour that keeps others intrigued/confused.

Mooney is a Londoner with a unique vibe that sets him apart.

\*London accent required

#### Syd Armfield 30-60 years old

Serves as Harry's assistant, revealing a crafty nature beneath his seemingly inept exterior. He stutters under stress but manages to be more cunning than expected. The resentful underdog

\*northern accent required

#### Inspector Fry 40 - 60s years old

Plain clothes police inspector, intimidating yet weak deep down. He turns a blind eye while drinking on duty. Despite his loner status, a weakness lurks beneath the surface.

#### Bill 30 - 70s years old

One of Harry's biggest admirers. A racist alcoholic who shows some unexpected tenderness. His character adds depth to the dynamics of the pub.

\*northern accent required

#### Charlie 30 -70's years old

The mediator between others, engaging by laughingly repeating what others say, he contributes to the camaraderie of his fellow drinkers

\*northern accent required

#### Arthur 30 - 70's years old

Regular at the bar. With a touch of deafness and slowness, he provides comic relief by laughing at jokes that others have moved on from. His dry, deadpan, and tactless demeanour adds a unique flavour.

\*northern accent required

#### Derek Clegg 18 - 35 years old

Clegg is an inexperienced cub reporter. Out of his depth, he is teased for his baby-face but gradually discovers his journalistic side.

#### Alice Wade 40 - 60 years old

The landlady, a proud woman running the pub with her husband, Harry. A long suffering wife, Alice is resilient and gives as good as she gets. Finds it challenging being the mother of a teenager

\*northern accent required

Shirley Wade 15 years old

Shirley, is the teenage daughter of the publicans. Despite being described as plain and mooney, she possesses a quiet, dry sense of humour and a shy demeanour. The role requires an actor 16+ who can convincingly portray the character's age.

\*northern accent required

James Hennessy 20 - 30 years old

Cheeky, emotional. Facing imminent hanging, he vehemently protests his innocence and must be physically restrained. The role demands emotional depth and versatility

Only appears in first scene

Albert Pierrepont 50-70 year old

Appears only in the final scene. Albert Pierrepont, is a high-status, smartly dressed, and quick-witted character. Charismatic and dominating, he becomes Harry's nemesis, taking command in the most inopportune moment.

\*northern accent preferred

Please contact Director [Sharon Shanks](#) if you clarification of the roles or have any questions at all 😊

**Rehearsals**

Rehearsals will start August, 2025 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 afternoons 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 advise the director, Sharon Shanks or production manager, Jo Bixley.

If you are, or intend to be, in any other show during rehearsals or 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, Sharon Shanks at [shanksds@gmail.com](mailto:shanksds@gmail.com) or the Production Manager, Jo Bixley [archives@centrestage.co.nz](mailto:archives@centrestage.co.nz)