

39 Steps Roles

Character One - Richard Hannay.

Male. Playing age 30's-40's. Must have excellent comic abilities and be agile.

Having just returned to England after serving as an intelligence officer in the Boer war, Hannay finds life in London dull and tiring. Although Hannay describes himself as ordinary, he is the typical English gentleman hero – well educated, rich, strong, fit and healthy, looking for fun and adventure. He is described by others as, thirty- seven years old, attractive with a pencil moustache. Later when on the run he is described as, “slightly more rugged-looking, which makes him look even better looking than he did before.”

Looking for a quiet night at the theatre, he is thrust into the world of espionage and he feels it is his duty to put his country's interest before his own safety. He is the hapless hero of the play, wrongly accused of murder and pursued by the authorities through a series of improbable adventures.

Character Two - Annabella, Pamela and Margaret

Playing age mid/late 20's to mid-30's. Comic actress. Agile.

The roles of Annabella, Pamela and Margaret are played by the same woman.

Annabella Schmidt is the beautiful, mysterious German woman Richard Hannay meets at a London theatre. She tells him she is a spy and tells him clues to a mystery, before

Pamela is the attractive woman Hannay meets on the train to Scotland as he runs from the police

Margaret is the Scottish wife of the farmer who invites Hannay to stay the night at their cottage. She flirts with her houseguest.

Characters Three and Four - The Clowns

Two male characters with a playing age of 30's to late 40's. Comic and must be very agile.

All the other characters, approximately 30, are played The Clowns, changing over 100 times into these various disguises of every age and gender and dialect. Dialects include: Scottish, Cockney, British, and German.

These characters include:

- Milkman – who gives Hannay his coat and hat as a disguise.
- Compere - the Master of Ceremonies at a London theatre show.
- Mr. Memory - the star of the London show, who commits to memory 50 new facts every day.
- Professor Jordan – the villain, described as an Englishman living in a grand house at Alt-na-shellach in Scotland.

Other Roles

We are aiming for a 1930's period feel to the production, low-tech, touring caravan theatre type style.

There is a huge amount of cast costume/prop changes and managing these will be part of the entertainment itself. We therefore need a small, confident stage team that are prepared to be a part of the main event.

We want, as far as possible to play/make our period musical and other sound effects. A piano player and maybe one other “musician/“soundeffectician” is therefore required.

As a small ensemble piece we will require 100% rehearsal attendance. The play does not work if people are missing. Rehearsals will start in September (off-book) and take place on Sunday afternoons/evenings, ramping up nearer performance week.

For more information contact Alison and Keith at
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