

AUDITION NOTICE



11th 12th 13th and 14th November 2026

Director: Ros Tunbridge
Production Manager: Theo Spring

Performance dates: 11 - 14 November 2026

Play Reading: Wednesday 22nd July 2026 @ 7.45pm

Auditions: Wednesday 29th July 2026 @ 7.45

Rehearsals will start in September 2026

Play Synopsis

Murdered to Death is the first play in Peter Gordon's Inspector Pratt series. It is a comedic take on classic Agatha Christie-style whodunnits. Set in a 1930's English country manor house, the play revolves around the mysterious death of the house's owner, with a cast of eccentric characters including a butler, an English colonel, a shady French art dealer and his companion, a bumbling local inspector and a well meaning local sleuth. The humour arises from their interactions, misunderstandings and the inspector's incompetence. It is very much an ensemble play and all the audition pieces will give extra opportunities to read in for parts other than the part which is actually the subject of that piece.

Characters (in order of appearance) and audition pieces

MILDRED

Late 50's but could be older – The owner of the house who is moderately wealthy and has invited some friends for dinner. She has been having an affair with Colonel Craddock and is murdered on Page 33.

Pages 10 to 12 *“Delightful young gal. If I were thirty years younger” - spoken by Charles* and Pages 12 to 14 *“You've still got the old banger then, Charles”*

DOROTHY

Late 20's but could be a bit older – Mildred's niece, companion and housekeeper who Mildred took in when her parents died and left her penniless. She is clearly irritated by Mildred.

Pages 1 to 3 *“Are you absolutely sure that dinner will be ready, Dorothy” – spoken by Mildred* and Pages 22 to 25 *“Where is everyone?”*

BUNTING

60's or older – the butler who is useless and inefficient but not as stupid as he looks and not who he appears to be.

Pages 3 to 5 *“Logs, Ma'am”* and Pages 65 to 66 *“Hello everyone. What are you doing?”*

COLONEL CRADDOCK

60's or older – a typical parody of an English colonel with a stiff upper lip and fairly poitically incorrect. He has been married to Margaret for over 30 years and has been having an affair with Mildred for almost as long.

Pages 12 to 14 *“Don't seem to make sherry glasses so large these days”* and Pages 30 to 32 *“Damned funny thing just happened – Ah...excuse me old girl....didn't realise you'd got company”*

MARGARET CRADDOCK

A bit younger than Charles – she is Charles's wife and generally polite and well mannered if a bit acerbic with Charles. She turns out to know a lot more than she lets on.

Pages 59 to 60 *“This is absolutely absurd. What is the point of keeping us cooped up here!”* and Pages 96 to 98 *“It's too late for that....much too late. I've got everything I came here for.”*

ELIZABETH HARTLEY-TRUMPINGTON

Mid 20's but could be a bit older – she is apparently very high society and speaks with an exaggerated posh accent but she turns out later in the play to be a confidence trickster in cahoots with Pierre.

Pages 16 to 18 *“Colonel Craddock....how absolutely super to see you again. What a wonderful little lounge Missus Bagshot....so quaint”* and Pages 62 to 64 *“That sounded very English, Pierre”*

PIERRE MARCEAU

Early 30's but could be older – a French art dealer who has sold paintings to Mildred in the past. He speaks with an exaggerated French accent but he later turns out to be an English confidence trickster in cahoots with Elizabeth.

Pages 22 to 25 *“If you will excuse me, I will stay 'ere. I am rather tired after my travels”* and Pages 61 to 63 *“Well, Dorothy, it seems as though your little scheme 'as come unglued”*

JOAN MAPLE

60's or older – she is a neighbour of Mildred's. She is well meaning but sees herself as a bit of an amateur sleuth so gets involved with trying to solve the murder. She is a parody of Agatha Christie's Miss Marple

Pages 28 to 30 *“Thank you, Mister Bunting. I hope you don't mind me calling in, Mildred? I didn't realise you had visitors”* and Pages 40 to 42 *“I fear it was me, Inspector”*

CONSTABLE THOMKINS

Any age between 20's and late 50's – he is a typical village policeman who is obviously quite smart and a good foil for the inept Inspector Pratt.

Pages 37 to 40 “*Thompkins, sir*” and Pages 53 to 55 “*We'll deal with this, sir*”

INSPECTOR PRATT

40's to 60's – Inept and bumbling he is central to the comedic investigation. He constantly gets everyone's names wrong and also gets the wrong end of the stick all the time. A really fun, comic gem of a part.

Pages 45 to 48 “*Thank you, Miss Foxglove. So that just leaves you*” and Pages 73 to 75 “*Ah....that'll be for me. Who is it?*”