

AUDITION NOTICE



FLARE PATH

By Terence Rattigan

Director: Ian Brown

Production Manager: Mary-Rose Goodliffe

Performance dates: 5th - 8th May 2027

Play Reading: Monday 11th January 2027 @ 7.45pm

Auditions: Monday 18th January 2027

Rehearsals will start in March 2027

Play Synopsis

Flare Path was written in 1941 while Terence Rattigan was serving as an air gunner with the RAF during the Second World War and most of its protagonists have a link to the RAF. It is set in The Falcon, a small hotel close to a Lincolnshire RAF base where we are introduced to a number of airmen and their wives. Into the hotel walks Peter Kyle, a famous British film actor, who has come to reunite with his lover, Patricia Graham. She has been putting off telling her husband, Teddy, a Flight Lieutenant, of her affair. The elopement is delayed by the announcement of a bombing raid; the airmen take off and all return but one. Count Skriczevinsky, who is presumed lost. All feel emotional stresses of war, in particular Teddy, who fears he may have lost his nerve. Patricia is moved by his need for her and resolves to give up Peter; Peter seems unwilling to accept this and plans to tell Teddy himself. However, reading a heartfelt letter from the Count to his wife, Doris, he has a change of heart and leaves. At the last minute, the inhabitants of the hotel are surprised by the return of the Count, whose wife and colleagues had given him up for dead. There are beautifully written roles for both men and women of a range of ages and Rattigan expertly probes his characters' emotional needs and reflects their trajectory.

Characters (in order of appearance) and audition pieces

All ages are playing ages and are flexible.

Countess Doris Skriczevinsky

Early 30s. Former Barmaid but now married to an exiled Polish Count who is an RAF bomber pilot. Worried that if he survives the war their marriage might not. She is practical, humane and self-aware. Non-RP accent.

P49 "Good night Mrs. Miller" to 51 "Turn the light out for a sec will you, ducks?" and P94 "Mr Kyle" to 97 "Just so long as I know. "

Peter Kyle

Mid 30s. A British actor who has become a Hollywood star. Outwardly handsome and self-confident but out of place amidst all the RAF men who are serving their country. Quite self-centred and can appear somewhat amoral though is deeply in love with Patricia

P87 "Peter – please - I don't want to see you" spoken by Patricia to P89 "this is something that's vitally important." and P 94 "Mr Kyle" to P97 "Just so long as I know." Both spoken by Doris.

Mrs Oakes

Middle aged upwards. The proprietress of the hotel. Somewhat scary and not afraid to say what she thinks.

P4 "Yes?" to P6 "Dinner is at half-past seven. "

Sergeant Dusty Miller

Mid 30s. Teddy Graham's tail gunner, clearly of a different class to Teddy but brave and good at his job. Married to Maudie. Non-RP accent.

P23 "You did shoot at it, though didn't you?" spoken by Patricia to P25 "if you done what I told you." and P72 "All the more for us, eh Dusty?" spoken by Teddy to p73 "Good night, Sir."

Percy

Late teens, early 20s. A waiter/barman at the hotel. Small but fun comedy role.

P11 "Anybody ring?" to P12 "Fred do you know who's here?" and P83 "Yes, mum?" to P85 "I suppose you're right."

Count Skriczevinsky

40-ish. Tall, heroic. Married to Doris whom he loves very much. His English is very limited but he is well-liked by his fellow airmen.

P106 "We – land – pumkek." To P107 "Yes, sank you."

Flight Lieutenant Teddy Graham

Mid 20s/to mid 30s. A pilot, married to Patricia Graham whom he adores. An apparently light-hearted character who does not take himself too seriously, he is brave and much liked by his colleagues.

P73 "Good old Dusty!" to P78 "I'm glad too." spoken by Patricia.

Patricia Graham

Mid 20s/to mid 30s. Very attractive. A stage actress, now married to Teddy, she is also in love with Peter Kyle. A multifaceted woman who proves that appearances can be deceptive.

P27 "Darling, don't be angry, please." spoken by Peter to P28 "the only one, Pete." And P73 "Good old Dusty!" spoken by Teddy to P78 "I'm glad too."

Maudie Miller

Mid 30s. Married to Dusty. A practical, somewhat anxious woman. Non-RP accent.

P24 "Hullo Dave." To P25 "you did say the Skillingworth 'bus, Dave". and P47 "Some coffee or something?" spoken by Patricia to P48 "We've just got to get used to it – that's all."

Squadron Leader Swanson

Mid 50s+. In charge of the Squadron with a definite air of authority, he is also practical and humorous and hates the dangers to which he is obliged to subject his men.

P37 "Teddy – thank the Lord I've found you." To P39 "All right, I think." and P58 "You're very fond of Teddy, Squadron-Leader?" spoken by Patricia to P59 "Read it out."

Corporal Wiggy Jones

Any age. A very small role. An opportunity for an actor who would enjoy being part of the production without requiring a substantial stage role.

P45 "Come on, Countess. We still want a double two." And P46 "What's yours, Countess?"