**HLO Musical Company Patience 2025**

**Audition pack**

**Concept and characterisation**

**Aim –** To ensure the production can embrace a truly inclusive cast, particularly with regard to age and mobility.

**Patience meets the Thursday Murder Club**

The Thursday Murder Club is a very successful series of books by Richard Osman based in an upmarket retirement village. Bored with being retired, a group of feisty pensioners decide to meet each week in the Jigsaw Room to solve murders. They are led by Elizabeth who turns out to be ex-MI6! There is Joyce, who is quite timid but always with an eye for a handsome gent, Ron, who is an ex-union official and Ibrahim, who is a psychiatrist. The first book is currently being made into a film by Netflix and will star Helen Mirren, Celia Imrie, Pierce Brosnan and Ben Kingsley.

Our Patience characters will not directly reflect these individuals but will pick up various traits, as will our setting.

**Setting**

Welcome to *Castle Bunthorne Retirement Village!*

The setting is mostly indoors in the Jigsaw Room, overlooking the gardens. There will be an opportunity to suggest the action has moved outside through the positioning of furniture and lighting.

**Characters**

*Colonel Calverley* (Baritone)

*Major Murgatroyd* (Baritone)

*Lieutenant, Duke of Dunstable* (Tenor)

Ideally these 3 characters will be played as retired Army Officers. They still like to wear their medals on their cardigans and may also don their military caps. As widowers in a retirement home full of women, they can’t understand why the ladies are so attracted to these poets.

*Reginald Bunthorne – A fleshly poet* (Comic Baritone)

And also Manager of the retirement village. He enjoys the attention of all the residents and staff, even though he claims not to. Most of all, he admires himself!

*Archibald Grosvenor – An idyllic poet* (Lyric Baritone)

The dashing young doctor. Visiting the retirement village for the first time, he comes across his childhood sweetheart Patience.

*Lady Angela* (Mezzo-Sop)

*Lady Saphir* (Mezzo-Sop)

*Lady Ella* (Soprano)

These 3 ladies will be characterised in more detail once we know who is cast. They can be played either as retired residents or staff in the village. Regardless, they are all obsessed with our 2 poets.

*Lady Jane*

The most forceful of the retired residents. She is the leader of all those who adore Bunthorne and remains loyal to him, almost to the very last.

*Patience*

The Catering Assistant who is bemused by everyone around her. She cannot understand what her colleagues and the residents all see in this poetry craze. Through Patience, we see just how ridiculous the whole cult of celebrity is.

*Ensemble*

Made up of residents of the retirement village and staff.

**Audition pieces**

Musical score – Chappell edition

Available from [Forwoods Score Store](https://www.scorestore.co.uk/voice/patience-bunthornes-bride-vocal-score-gilbert-and-sullivan-voice.html?srsltid=AfmBOopqpxPClQ-IJgSRMPV8i-_PzoFVIE8TuUYqSAfV2u5TAkBndBYD) for £16.00

Second hand copies available from various sources for around £8.00

We will have some available to borrow.

Libretto – this can be downloaded from the G&S Archive at: <https://gsarchive.net/patience/html/index.html>

Page numbers here are taken from the PDF version.

**BUNTHORNE**

Music - Act 1 no. 6, p.45 *Recit* and 1st verse of *If you’re anxious for to shine*

Dialogue – p.11-12 with Patience “Ah! Patience, come hither. I am pleased with thee. The bitter-hearted one, who finds all else hollow, is pleased with thee. For you are not hollow. Are you?” to “Certainly. Broken-hearted and desolate, I go.”

p. 26 With Jane “Everything has gone wrong with me since that smug-faced idiot came here. Before that I was admired – I may say, loved.” To “You will? Jane, there’s a good deal of good in you, after all!”

p. 31 With Grosvenor “It’s no use; I can’t live without admiration. Since Grosvenor came here, insipidity has been at a premium. Ah, he is there!” ” to “Very good. (*Rising*.) Then I yield”

**GROSVENOR**

Music – Act 2 no. 2, p.107 *A magnet hung*

Dialogue – p. 24 with Patience from “Archibald!” to “Advance one step, and as I am a good and pure woman, I scream! (Tenderly.) Farewell, Archibald! (Sternly.) Stop there! (Tenderly.) Think of me sometimes! (Angrily.) Advance at your peril! Once more, adieu!”

p. 31 With Bunthorne “It’s no use; I can’t live without admiration. Since Grosvenor came here, insipidity has been at a premium. Ah, he is there!” ” to “Very good. (*Rising*.) Then I yield”

**COLONEL**

Music – Act 1 no. 3 starting at letter C, p. 24 verse 1

Dialogue – Act 1 p.5-6 With Duke and Major from “Well, here we are once more on the scene of our former triumphs. But where's the Duke?” through to “He *does* seem popular!”

**DUKE**

Music – Act 1 no. 9, p.66 *Your maiden hearts, ah do not steel*

Act 2 no.. 8 p.130 *After much debate eternal*

Dialogue – Act 1 p.5-6 With Colonel and Major from “Well, here we are once more on the scene of our former triumphs. But where's the Duke?” through to “He *does* seem popular!”

**MAJOR**

Music – Act 2 no. 8 p.126/127 *In that case unprecedented*

Dialogue – Act 1 p.5-6 With Duke and Colonel from “Well, here we are once more on the scene of our former triumphs. But where's the Duke?” through to “He *does* seem popular!”

**PATIENCE**

Music – Act 1, p.13 *Recit*

Act 1 no. 2, p.13 *I cannot tell what that love can be*

Dialogue – p.11 With Bunthorne “Ah! Patience, come hither. I am pleased with thee. The bitter-hearted one, who finds all else hollow, is pleased with thee. For you are not hollow. Are you?” to “Patience, I have long loved you. Let me tell you a secret. I am not as bilious as I look. If you like, I will cut my hair. There is more innocent fun within me than a casual spectator would imagine. You have never seen me frolicsome. Be a good girl – a very good girl – and one day you shall. If you are fond of touch-and-go jocularity – this is the shop for it.”

p. 12 with Angela from “What on earth does it all mean?” to “Then there’s nobody. At least – no, nobody. Not since I was a baby. But that doesn’t count, I suppose.”

p. 24 with Grosvenor from “Archibald!” to “Advance one step, and as I am a good and pure woman, I scream! (Tenderly.) Farewell, Archibald! (Sternly.) Stop there! (Tenderly.) Think of me sometimes! (Angrily.) Advance at your peril! Once more, adieu!”

**LADY JANE**

Music – Act 2 no. 2, p.101 *Sad is a woman’s lot*

Dialogue – p. 2 With Angela, Saphir and Ella “There is a strange magic in this love of ours! Rivals as we all are in the affections of our Reginald, the very hopelessness of our love is a bond that binds us to one another!” to “But Patience boasts that she has never loved – that love is, to her, a sealed book! Oh, he cannot be serious!”

p.21 “The fickle crew have deserted Reginald and sworn allegiance to his rival, and all, forsooth, because he has glanced with passing favour on a puling milkmaid! Fools! Of that fancy he will soon weary – and then, I, who alone am faithful to him, shall reap my reward. But do not dally too long, Reginald, for my charms are ripe, Reginald, and already they are decaying. Better secure me ere I have gone too far! “

p. 26 With Bunthorne “Everything has gone wrong with me since that smug-faced idiot came here. Before that I was admired – I may say, loved.” To “You will? Jane, there’s a good deal of good in you, after all!”

**LADY ANGELA**

Music – Act 1 no.1, p.8-9 *Love feeds on hope they say*

Dialogue – p. 2 With Saphir and Ella “There is a strange magic in this love of ours! Rivals as we all are in the affections of our Reginald, the very hopelessness of our love is a bond that binds us to one another!” to “But Patience boasts that she has never loved – that love is, to her, a sealed book! Oh, he cannot be serious!”

p. 12 with Patience from “What on earth does it all mean?” to “ I don’t know. Tell me about it.”

**LADY ELLA**

Music – Act 1 no.1, p.10-11 *Go breaking heart*

Dialogue – p. 2 With Saphir and Angela “There is a strange magic in this love of ours! Rivals as we all are in the affections of our Reginald, the very hopelessness of our love is a bond that binds us to one another!” to “But Patience boasts that she has never loved – that love is, to her, a sealed book! Oh, he cannot be serious!”

**LADY SAPHIR**

Music – Act 1 no. 4, p.35 *Though so excellently wise*

Dialogue – p. 2 With Angela and Ella “There is a strange magic in this love of ours! Rivals as we all are in the affections of our Reginald, the very hopelessness of our love is a bond that binds us to one another!” to “But Patience boasts that she has never loved – that love is, to her, a sealed book! Oh, he cannot be serious!”

**HLO Musical Company Patience audition form**

Please fill in all sections of this form.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Name**  |  |
| **Address** |  |
| **Mobile** |  |
| **Email**  |  |

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| --- | --- |
| **Roles auditioning (in order of preference)**The panel reserves the right not to call you for a third role | 1. |
| 2. |
| 3. |
| **Willing to play as cast?**  | **YES/ NO**  |
| **Willing to be considered for ensemble?** | **YES/ NO** |
| **Previous experience** |

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Voice type** | Soprano | Mezzo/Alto | Tenor | Baritone | Bass | Don’t know |
| **Dance standard** | Dancer | Mover | Beginner |
| **If unsuccessful in auditioning, are you willing to help in some other way?** |
| Stage crew  | Costume | Make up/ Hair | Props | FOH | Box office | Other |
| **Previous experience** |
| Please list any dates you know you can’t make rehearsals **including other show commitments.** Rehearsals will be as follows.**Monday** evenings **7.30pm for all.** Some **Thursdays** for principals from around mid-July and for all nearer the show. **Saturdays** from **September** 10am-3pm approx. You can download a draft rehearsal schedule from our website [www.hlo.org.uk](http://www.hlo.org.uk)Do you want to add anything else that you think may help the audition panel? |

**IMPORTANT** If you’re **not** already a fully paid-up HLO member and are cast, you’ll be required to join and pay the basic membership fee of £25 **and** the show fee of £80, making £105 to be paid by bank transfer.

1. **Successful auditionees agree to pay a show fee of £80, plus basic HLO membership of £25.**
2. **Being in the show is likely to include publicity-related photography and video that will be shared on social media. By signing below, you confirm you’re happy to be filmed and photographed for publicity purposes. If you’re not, please tell the production team you don’t want to be included in any publicity.**
3. **The production team reserves the right to re-cast roles during rehearsals if you can’t attend when called, are regularly late, or don’t achieve the desired standard of performance.**

**By signing below, you agree you accept all the above.**

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| **Signed:** |  | **Date:** |  |

Once you’ve filled in all sections of this form, please return it to Elizabeth Malone. You can print it out and give it to her at a rehearsal, or email it to elizabethmalone17@outlook.com no later than **Wednesday 11 June 2025.**

Auditions will be held on **Saturday 14 June 2025** at the 3rd Osterley Sea Scouts Hut, Richmond Road, Isleworth, TW7 7BU. Auditions will start from around 10am. You will be emailed a timeslot before the day.

If you can’t audition on this date but would like to audition either on a different date or by video, please let Elizabeth Malone know.

If you have any problems, please email elizabethmalone17@outlook.com or phone Elizabeth on **07936 817643**.

**Thank you and good luck!**