



HLO Musical Company PATIENCE 2025

Concept and characterisation

Aim – To ensure the production can embrace a truly inclusive cast, particularly with regards 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 is an ex-union official whilst Ibrahim 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) – she is overly sincere in her beliefs, for example, Bunthorne's poetry is the best, everyone should be in love with someone, and so on. She has to be 'on trend' and thinks everyone else should be too. In terms of role within the retirement village, one option is for her to be the yoga teacher, yoga enabling her to reach the transcendental state required to appreciate Bunthorne's poetry!

Lady Saphir (Mezzo-Sop) – melodramatic! Everything is a drama. Saphir is the character who always uses the longest, most complicated words. One option is to characterise her as the village librarian, leading the reading and poetry writing groups.

Lady Ella (Soprano) – smallest of these 3 roles but has some important lines to sing and speak at the start of Act 1, as well as singing the top line of the sextet in the Act 1 Finale. As character goes, she follows Angela without question.

These ideas are just one option. We can characterise these 3 ladies 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 (Contralto)

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. She is an artist and, rather than playing the cello (as is traditional at the start of Act 2), I envisage her painting a self-portrait during her solo.

Patience (Soprano)

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. She is often played as the rather wet and simpering milkmaid but I would prefer to see her as an independent thinker who avoids following the crowd until Lady Angela questions her and puts her under pressure to go and fall in love with someone.

Ensemble

Made up of residents of the retirement village and staff.

Audition pieces

Musical score – Chappell edition

Available from [Forwoods Score Store](#) 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 jocularities – 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!”



Name	
Address	
Mobile	
Email	

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						
<p>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</p> <p>Do you want to add anything else that you think may help the audition panel?</p>						

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.

Signed:		Date:	
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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!