

EDWARD ALDERTON THEATRE 2018/2019 NEW SEASON LAUNCH DETAILS

Title: Charley's Aunt
Author: Brandon Thomas
Director: Keith Neville
In Performance: 27 July – 3 August 2019
Theme: A farce in 3 Acts
Licence: samuelfrench.co.uk



Description:

This great classic farce was first presented at the Theatre Royal, Bury St Edmunds in February 1892. Since then it has been revived all over the world and continues to delight audiences today. It has even been made into a musical by Frank Loesser under the title "Where's Charley?" and filmed twice. In my production I will update it to the 1920's (easier to dress and also to create the right settings). However I will remain true to the text. As with farce it has many twists and turns and so I will just give a brief summary of the plot.

Two Oxford undergraduates, Jack Chesney and Charley Wykeham are in love, respectively, with Kitty Verdun and Amy Spettigue. Meanwhile Charley's aunt Donna Lucia d'Alvadorez, a rich widow from Brazil, where the nuts come from, is about to visit him in Oxford.

Keen to declare their love for the girls before they go off to Scotland with Kitty's guardian Stephen Spettigue they are thwarted when Jack's impoverished father Sir Francis Chesney arrives. The boys hatch a plan for him to "romance" the widow Donna Lucia so that Sir Francis will marry her and inherit her money. Everything is going to plan until a telegram arrives saying that Donna Lucia is delayed. When a friend of Jack and Charley's, Lord Fancourt Babberley arrives for lunch and to tell his friends that he too is in love with a young girl, Ela Delahay whom he met in Monte Carlo, the boys persuade him to dress up and impersonate Donna Lucia. He just happens to have a fancy dress costume to fit the part. As "Babbs" starts to impersonate Donna Lucia, in true farce style the real Donna Lucia turns up. After that all mayhem breaks loose as mistaken identity and intentions abounds.

The play is very stylized with upper middle class accents and has to be played sincerely with timing being a very important ingredient.

Cast:

		Audition Pages
Stephen Spettigue	Uncle of Amy, guardian of Kitty, and the story's villain (40 +)	38 - 39
Colonel Sir Francis Chesney	A likeable but rather dim impoverished father of Jack (50 +)	28 - 29 / 56 - 57
Jack Chesney	an Oxford undergraduate, in love with Kitty (20 - 30)	8 - 9 / 10 - 11 / 17 / 18 - 19 / 28 - 29 / 35 / 50
Charley Wykeham	an Oxford undergraduate in love with Amy (20 - 30)	9 / 10 - 11 / 17 / 18 - 19
Lord Fancourt Babberley	Undergraduate who impersonates Charley's Aunt (20 - 30)	17 / 18 - 19 / 38 - 39 / 50 56 - 57 / 72 - 73
Brassett	Jack Chesney's valet (40 +)	8 - 9 / 47
Donna Lucia d'Alvadorez	Charley's aunt from Brazil, where the nuts come from (40 +)	59 / 60 - 61
Amy Spettigue	Stephen Spettigue's young niece (20 - 25)	35 / 72 - 73
Kitty Verdun	Stephen Spettigue's young ward (20 - 25)	35 / 50 / 72 - 73
Ela Delahay	orphaned girl accompanying Donna Lucia (loved by Lord Fancourt) (18 +)	59 / 60 - 61

Audition Date:

Saturday - 16th June - 2pm - 4pm

Director's Contact Details:

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The full script can be purchased from amazon.co.uk:
'Charley's Aunt'
Publisher: Samuel French
ISBN: 9780573010675