

## **Audition notice for Studio production: *The Lover* and *A Slight Ache*** by Harold Pinter

These two one-act plays from Pinter's early work were first performed in the early sixties. Age has not withered them: they are no less fascinating and enigmatic now than they were nearly sixty years ago.

Each play has a cast of three, but the main protagonists in both are married couples, with a brief appearance of a milkman in **The Lover**, and a much lengthier one by the matchseller in **A Slight Ache**.

In **The Lover**, the apparently routine domestic scene of wife tidying and husband about to depart for work is disturbed from the outset by the play's opening line, when Richard asks Sarah "Is your lover coming today?" Thereafter, nothing is routine as they act out a succession of roles, and their behaviour becomes increasingly erratic. Though the matchseller in **A Slight Ache** is a non-speaking role, he is crucial to the play's action, as Edward and Flora's comfortable rural existence is gradually undermined as the matchseller invades their lives both physically and psychologically.

While the couple in **The Lover** are described as "in their middle thirties", I won't be requiring birth certificates. Ideally, the couple in **A Slight Ache** should be older – 40s? – but the same applies.

Richard, Sarah, Edward and Flora are demanding roles. In particular, Edward and Flora have lengthy monologues which require varied and imaginative delivery – and quite a bit of line-learning. These roles present an opportunity for enthusiastic actors to relish. The director certainly relishes the opportunity of working with them to develop these four roles. Though the matchseller is a non-speaking role, it is vital to the action of the play. He is a real enigma! Again, the director looks forward to unravelling the meaning(s?) of this role with the actor.

Auditions take place at **7.30pm on Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> November** at The Players' Theatre. The plays will be performed on **Friday 25<sup>th</sup> – Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> February 2022**. If you would like to read the plays before the audition, please contact Catherine with your email address. She will then forward a pdf copy by We Transfer for you.

John Mackay

Director