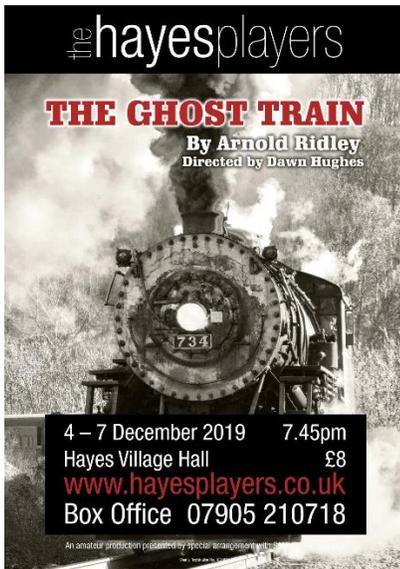


# The Ghost Train, by Arnold Ridley

Performance Dates: 4-7 December 2019

Director: Dawn Hughes  
dawnhughes.2014@gmail.com



## Synopsis

A group of passengers find themselves stranded at Fal Vale Railway Station in Cornwall where they have to prepare to spend the night in the dingy waiting room with no provisions.

The Station Master tells the tale of local belief that the station is haunted following a tragedy. The group are soon joined by a young lady in a distressed state, fleeing her brother and doctor, she is convinced the "ghost train" is approaching.

The mystery of the evening takes a surprising turn and things are not what everyone had been led to believe.

A play that is full of atmosphere but also peppered with humour as the unusual mix of characters discover more about themselves and their fellow passengers,

If you would like to know more about the play, are interested in auditioning or getting involved backstage, then director Dawn Hughes can be contacted on dawnhughes.2014@gmail.com (or 07957 401838) or you can contact us through info@hayesplayers.co.uk.

We will be holding auditions on Thursday 8 August (8pm) and – if needed - Saturday 24 August (2pm) at the Merrill Studio. If you want to prepare the set pieces, scripts can be obtained by contacting info@hayesplayers.co.uk.

## List of Characters

John Sterling - large role 62 pages - Age 20-50

Pretending to be the doctor in charge of Julia. Strong and believable, someone who commands respect.

Audition pages: 28, 39-41, 56

Richard Winthrop - large role 56 pages - Age 30-50

Brusk businesslike man who has no truck with disorderly behaviour. He is struggling with marital disharmony which shows a chink in his armour.

Audition pages: 1-2 & 7-9, 48

Charles Murdoch - large role 52 pages - Age preferably 20-30

Young enthusiastic and very earnest newlywed who is very protective of his wife who later finds himself in a position of responsibility to his fellow passengers.

Audition pages: 2-4, 8-9, 55

Elsie Winthrop (Richard's wife) - medium role - 28 pages - Age 30-50 - comparable with Richard.

Disillusioned with life and her marriage and presents a hard attitude. She subsequently is surprised to find that maybe things are not as bad as they seemed and her personality changes and softens.

Audition pages: 1-2, 7-8, 48

Peggy Murdoch (Charles's wife) - medium role 37 pages - Age preferably 20-30

At first presents as a shy newleywed but once tested shows she is made of stronger stuff and her confidence grows.

Audition pages: 10-11, 37-38

Teddie Deacon - medium but crucial role - 38 pages - Age 20-50

Annoying and irritating to all around him and all the passengers are very angry with him being the cause of their stranded situation. He tries to be the joker of the pack until he takes surprising command of events and the others find themselves surrendering themselves to his superiority.

Audition pages: 4-6, 37-38, 55-57

Julia Price - medium role 37 pages - Age 20-50

Posing as sister to John Sterling (therefore ages to be comparable) Julia arrives at the station in a very agitated and nervous state. Her character needs to be strong enough to hold the audience's attention during the scene of the "ghost train" approaching the station. Actress also needs to be able to do American accent at the end of the play.

Audition pages: 28, 39-41, 60-61

Herbert Price- small role - 28 pages - Age 20-50 (comparable to Julia)

Supposed brother of Julia. Quite forceful in his approach to everyone especially Julia.

Audition pages: 28-29, 32-33, 56

Miss Bourne - small cameo role - 18 pages - Age 60+

Cantankerous self-absorbed spinster lady who is intolerant of fools until she has too many sips of brandy and becomes intoxicated and promptly sleeps (on stage) throughout the rest of the play until almost the end.

Audition pages: 24-26, 17-18

Saul, Station Master - small role of 15 pages - Age 40-60.

Typical surly country worker who appears to do his job by the rules but is there another side to him? One that shows uncharacteristic self-importance and benefit.

Audition pages: 14-15

Jackson - Policeman - 6 lines (at end of play) – Any age

Smith - Policeman - no lines (at end of play) – Any age