



Richmond Shakespeare Society

# AUDITION NOTICE

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## 'Tis Pitty Shee's a Whore by John Ford

**Director: Rodney Figaro**  
**r.figaro111@hotmail.com 07 909 33 11 32**

**Reading: Monday, January 6<sup>th</sup> at 7.45pm** at the Mary Wallace Theatre

**Auditions: Monday, January 27<sup>th</sup> at 7.30pm** at the Theatre. **Registration at 7pm**

**Playing dates: Saturday, 19<sup>th</sup> - Saturday, 26<sup>th</sup> April, 2025**

**Rehearsals: From Sunday, February 9<sup>th</sup>, 2025.**  
(and from then on - Tuesday, Thursday, Friday evenings & Sunday afternoons)  
Rehearsals will take place in or near the theatre.

**AUDITIONS ARE OPEN TO ALL.** The Richmond Shakespeare Society actively encourages diversity in casting and casting decisions will *not* be constrained by the perceived gender or ethnicity of the roles being auditioned, unless specified by the author.

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Annabella and Giovanni, brother and sister, embark on an incestuous relationship which, when her later pregnancy is revealed, leads inevitably to discovery, retribution, and slaughter. **'Tis Pitty...** is a no-holds-barred, visceral and unapologetic exploration of the themes of incest, corruption, torture and murder. First performed in 1630, post-Shakespeare but no less lyrical, romantic and dramatic.

N.B. From the outset of rehearsals this production will have the full participation of an Intimacy Coordinator while we explore the inescapable implications of the siblings' forbidden and unlawful carnal love. Applicants for these roles should be fully aware of the central theme of the play and the need to portray it honestly.

### Characters

**ANNABELLA** Hesitant at first, drawn into the incestuous relationship by her brother's pleading. Inevitably, pregnancy, exposure and a number of violent deaths ensue. Her age is anywhere between adolescence & early 30's but actors of any age are urged to apply. Note - any actor auditioning for this role should be fully aware of the implications of the script. Physical contact (kissing and embracing) is expected to occur in rehearsal and performance, but is not required at the auditions. Any more intimate acts are presumed to take place between the lovers offstage.

**GIOVANNI** Annabella's brother and the instigator of the relationship. Age should be similar, although he could be slightly older than his sister. Some physical contact in rehearsal and performance. Again, please be fully conversant with the implications of the script. Physical contact (kissing and embracing) is expected to occur in rehearsal and performance, but is not required at the auditions. Any more intimate acts are presumed to take place between the lovers offstage

**FLORIO or FLORIA** (Gender-blind casting for this role). Parent to the siblings, beset by three suitors for Annabella's hand and prepared to give her to any one of them, provided Annabella consents.

**SORANZO** A powerful personality, self-confident, arrogant and dangerous. Citizen of Parma and principal suitor to Annabella. After marrying her, when her pregnancy is revealed he is consumed with rage and the lust for revenge.

**VASQUES** Servant to SORANZO. Unscrupulous, devious and corrupt. He will double-cross, betray or serve whichever master or mistress offers the best opportunity of preferment.

**GRIMALDI** Another suitor and citizen. Ex soldier but a coward and a murderer.

**DONALDO** A wealthy citizen. Uncle to Bergetto (see below). Desperately promoting Bergetto's pursuit of Annabella in the face of his nephew's crass ineptitude.

**BERGETTO** The third of Annabella's suitors, nephew to Donaldo. A dim-witted fop, easily distracted by trifling matters of fashion and leisure - a clumsy and hopeless suitor. A gift of a comedy role.

**POGGIO** Bergetto's servant. Quick-witted, long-suffering and faithful. Doubles as Bandit later

**HIPPOLITA** Former mistress to Soranzo but now abandoned by him. Firey and vengeful, she plans, with Vasques' connivance, to murder Soranzo. A wildcat. "Hell hath no fury..."

**RICHARDETTO** Hippolita's husband, reported dead but now returned in the disguise of an apothecary, planning to punish his wife and Soranzo for their adultery.

**PUTANA** Cheeky nurse/confidant to Annabella. Colludes in the couple's incestuous relationship but is tricked into betraying her mistress and, ultimately, suffers horribly. Comedy until it turns dark.

**PHILOTIS** Young niece and ward of Richardetto. She becomes companion to Annabella and is persuaded into a short-lived betrothal to Bergetto. Will double as a masked Lady in party scene.

**FRIAR** A mature cleric, formerly teacher and mentor to Giovanni, now his confessor, horrified by Giovanni's revelations and desperately trying to save his soul.

**CARDINAL** Corrupt nuncio to the Pope. He gives sanctuary to Grimaldi, a self-confessed murderer.

**\*BANDITTI/SERVANTS/OFFICERS\*** Unscrupulous mercenaries who will kill without mercy. Three or four un-squeamish actors are required. Initially they will not need to attend all rehearsals. Doubling between roles. N.B. Our Fight Director will devise and co-ordinate all fights and stabbings.

**\*2 MASKED LADIES of the COURT\*** They bring wedding gifts to Annabella and attend her marriage celebration ball. Will be required for later rehearsals only.

**\*Actors who are not cast in their chosen roles but who want to be involved in this remarkable production are urged to give their support by accepting one of these essential supporting roles, without which we will be unable to mount a convincing production.**

## **Audition Pieces**

Please contact the director at [r.figaro11@hotmail.com](mailto:r.figaro11@hotmail.com) for the audition pieces which, together with scripts, are also currently available in the Mary Wallace foyer.

We will be using the New Mermaids/Bloomsbury edition of the play, edited by Martin Wiggins.

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**You do not have to be an RSS member to audition but, if cast, you will be required to become a member before the first rehearsal. Membership Application** forms are available in the theatre - or contact the Membership Secretary at - [membership@rss-mwt.org.uk](mailto:membership@rss-mwt.org.uk)

**Audition Application** forms are available in the theatre, or can be downloaded via the GET INVOLVED and ACTING pages of [www.richmondshakespeare.org.uk](http://www.richmondshakespeare.org.uk) Please return your form to the Hon. Secretary at the theatre, or by e-mail to [secretary@rss-mwt.org.uk](mailto:secretary@rss-mwt.org.uk)