

'THE 39 STEPS' CHARACTER NOTES

**Audition scripts are available via email. Please contact me.
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Four actors play all the parts between them. Physical comedy is important.

RICHARD HANNAY— Playing age about 40. 1930s suave gent, dashing, debonair, intelligent and resourceful. Upper-class British accent.

ANNABELLA/PAMELA/MARGARET – One actor plays 3 characters. Playing age about 40.

Annabella Schmidt — An exotic German secret agent, beautiful and nervous. There is romantic tension between her and Hannay. Her death is a catalyst for the play's actions.

Pamela — A train passenger, stunningly attractive British ingenue. The progress of her and Hannay's relationship is a subplot to the main secret agent plot.

Margaret — Crofter's wife with a Scottish accent. Shy, pretty and attracted to Hannay. She helps him to escape.

CLOWN 1 & CLOWN 2 — Any age and gender. The two clowns play all the other characters: 35 roles between them. They must be physically agile, able to switch accents, have perfect comedic timing and perform physical comedy. They need to form a brilliant double act. Some of the characters they play:

Mr Memory — A performer at The London Palladium

Compere — Part of a comic partnership with Mr Memory

Milkman — A working class Londoner with a cockney accent.

Salesman 1 & 2 — Talkative underwear salesmen

Crofter — An aged, surly Scottish farmer married to a much younger woman, Margaret. He is suspicious of Hannay and informs on him.

Mrs Jordan — A severe elderly lady dressed as an eccentric. Married to Professor Jordan and involved in her husband's activities.

Professor Jordan — A wealthy English professor who is secretly a German spy. The antagonist of the play. Tries to recruit Hannay to his cause then later tries to kill him.

Sheriff — An apparently jovial Scottish Sheriff who is secretly loyal to the Professor.

Dunwoody & McQuarrie — Two men setting up a political meeting. Dunwoody is Master of Ceremonies and is fussy and dodderly. McQuarrie is the Chairman and is even more ancient and dodderly.

Mr & Mrs McGarrigle — A Scottish couple who run a hotel. Mrs McGarrigle is a romantic and thinks Hannay and Pamela are a dear young couple.

Audition dates: Tuesday 28th January at 7.30pm & Sunday 2nd February at 2pm in the Studio Theatre, Sherborne. Production dates 2nd - 7th June 2025. Ideally, rehearsals will start in late February if those cast are available.

If you would like to audition please drop me a line and express your interest - this would be most helpful. If unable to attend the auditions please contact me and we will arrange an alternative time. I am also looking for backstage crew / wardrobe / puppeteers / Front of House etc.