

# AUDITION NOTICE – THEATRE CALGARY

## *Blithe Spirit*

by Noël Coward

Directed by Nikki Loach

*Blithe Spirit* is set at the house of writer, Charles Condomine, and his wife, Ruth. One evening, Charles invites local eccentric medium, Madame Arcati, to hold a seance at his house. He asks along his friends, Doctor and Mrs. Bradman, intending to gather character inspiration from Madame Arcati for his latest book. Despite initially thinking the seance has been a failure, it soon becomes clear that Madame Arcati has unwittingly brought back Charles' first wife, Elvira, to haunt him. Once in his house, Elvira is unable to leave and, as she cannot be seen or heard by Ruth, she causes all kinds of mischievous trouble between the married couple. When Elvira unwittingly causes Ruth's death in her attempts to bring Charles over to be with her, Charles becomes haunted by both of his now-deceased wives. Frustrated by their odd situation, the threesome call on Madame Arcati once more to send Elvira and Ruth back to the other side. Intensely funny and character-driven, *Blithe Spirit* combines farce, emotion, and wit.

### CALGARY CONTRACT DATES:

1<sup>st</sup> Day of Rehearsal: Tuesday, February 18, 2025

1<sup>st</sup> Preview: Tuesday, March 18, 2025

Opening: Friday, March 21, 2025

Closing: Sunday, April 13, 2025

## **AUDITION INFORMATION**

**AUDITIONS IN CALGARY:** May 12 & 13, 2024 in the Theatre Calgary Rehearsal Hall

### **SUBMISSION PROCEDURE FOR CALGARY AUDITIONS:**

- We are currently **only considering submissions from Calgary-based actors.**
- All submissions should include ONE PDF FILE with both a Headshot and a Resume (in that order). Please label the file LAST NAME\_FIRST NAME.
- Email submission to [auditions@theatreocalgary.com](mailto:auditions@theatreocalgary.com). Write "*Blithe Spirit*" in the subject line and indicate the role you are interested in reading for in the body of the email. We accept online submissions only.
- Audition materials will be made available to selected Artists.
- While we thank all those who submit, only those selected to audition will be contacted.
- **Submission deadline is Friday April 26<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm (MT)**

## CHARACTER BREAKDOWN

*The pronouns and ages listed are descriptions of the characters. Actors are welcome to express interest for any roles, regardless of gender or age.*

**Charles Condomine** (He/Him, 40 – 50, any ethnicity) - a novelist. Charles is bright, sophisticated, articulate, and debonair but somewhat at the mercy of his wives, past and present. His interest in spiritualism as a subject for a novel leads Charles to ask Madame Arcati to dinner and a séance. He is skeptical but becomes a believer when the ghost of his first wife appears and stays. RP Accent.

**Ruth Condomine** (She/Her, 35 – 45, any ethnicity) - Charles's second wife. Like her husband, Ruth is witty and sophisticated, and she is quite the society matron. Ruth is a bit stuffy and a little predictable. She is convinced that Charles has lost his mind when Elvira appears. Ruth acts as a concerned wife, trying to restore Charles to normalcy. RP Accent.

**Elvira Condomine** (She/Her, 25 – 35, any ethnicity) - the ghost of Charles's first wife. Only Charles can see or hear her. In life, Elvira was spirited, outgoing, wild, and carefree. In death, she is no different; she socializes with Genghis Khan. She does love Charles, if somewhat casually, and is jealous of Ruth. RP Accent.

**Madame Arcati** (She/Her 50 – 70, any ethnicity) - Madame Arcati, the local spiritualist and medium. Elderly but spry. She truly is in contact with the other world and inadvertently is the "medium" through which Elvira is called back to this one. She is eccentric, effusive, and boisterous. Dramatic but genuine.

**Dr. George Bradman** (He/Him, 40 - 60, any ethnicity) - a good friend of the Condomines who is invited to dinner and the séance. He is entirely skeptical of anything to do with the occult but tries his utmost to go along with the proceedings for the sake of Charles' research. British.

**Violet Bradman** (She/Her, 35 – 45, any ethnicity) - Dr. Bradman's wife. Simple and naïve, she is quite excited about being in the presence of the medium, whom she finds fascinating. British.

**Edith** (She/Her, 20 – 30, any ethnicity) - the Condomines' new maid. She is nervous and tears around at breakneck speed trying to do things right and make a good impression. Good physical agility and comedic timing. Could possibly have a non-British accent.

## EQUITY, DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION COMMITMENTS

### **THEATRE CALGARY**

Theatre Calgary is committed to equity, diversity, and inclusion, and is actively seeking to dismantle inequity in the theatre sector. We encourage applications from our diverse community which includes gender non-conforming people, people of colour, indigenous peoples, people with disabilities, people who are neurodiverse, people of all sexual orientations, and all others who face systematic marginalization. For more on Theatre Calgary's Equity, Inclusivity, and Diversity commitments, please visit: <https://www.theatrecalgary.com/artists-and-education/3550-initiative/>.

In the spirit of reconciliation, Theatre Calgary acknowledges that we live, work, and create on the traditional territories of the Blackfoot Confederacy (Siksika, Kainai, Piikani), the Tsuut'ina, the Îyâxe Nakoda Nations, and the Métis Nation of Alberta (Districts 5 & 6). They were the original occupants of this land and continue to be here to this day. Theatre Calgary is grateful to have the opportunity to present in this territory.

**Accessibility:** All Theatre Calgary facilities are accessible. Including rehearsal halls, performance spaces, and administrative offices. Our building is equipped with elevators and numerous accessible washrooms. The Max Bell Theatre stage and backstage are accessible to artists that have mobility access needs; the backstage area includes elevator access, accessible washrooms (including roll in showers), and an accessible dressing room.