



# *A Lighter Shade of Noir:* **Audition Package**

Attached you will find all the information you need to audition for *A Lighter Shade of Noir*. Please read through the entire package carefully. If you have any questions, please reach out to Ms. Cicchillo, Ms. Bevacqua, or Ms. Barbanchon.

Auditions will take place on Thursday September 7th 3:30 to 5:30 and Friday September 8th 3:30 to 5:30. You can sign up for an audition time in the Senior School office.

If you are auditioning to be a cast member (as an actor on stage), you will be required to perform a scene from the play at your audition. You will also be asked to try a British, French and Jersey/NY accent.

If you are auditioning to be part of the crew (Stage manager, sound, lighting, costumes, etc), then your audition will take the form of an interview. You must still complete the audition form.

*Audition Form:* This is a [Google Form](#) that you must complete.

## *Show Synopsis*

*A Lighter Shade of Noir*  
by Patrick Derksen

Trent Trowel is your typical gumshoe. Searching the mean streets for crimes to solve and dames to fall for. He joins some of the world's most famous detectives at the International PD gala. There's Shirley Holmes, Jean Louis Phillip Eustache... and Aunt Beatrice. But is this just an innocent gala? Will the world's most dastardly villains foil them with a fiendish master plan? Will Aunt Beatrice ever get an English muffin? Everything is not what it seems. A fabulously funny and high-styling take on film noir - it's a lighter shade of noir after all!

According to Encyclopedia Britannica: film noir (or in French, "dark film") is a style of filmmaking characterised by such elements as cynical heroes, stark lighting effects, frequent use of flashbacks, intricate plots, and an underlying existentialist philosophy. The genre was prevalent mostly in American crime dramas of the post-World War II era. This play is a spoof (funny interpretation) of film noir and the detective genre. For an example of a spoof of film noir, watch this short [video clip](#).

## *Costume Sketches*

Click on [this link](#) to see some costume ideas for this show.

## Audition Scene

*Enter TRENT TROWEL. Trent speaks the following lines in what seems to be monologue asides, but other characters can obviously hear him and react to what he's saying. He is oblivious to this fact and thinks that no one hears what he is saying. Play this character with exaggeration.*

**Note:** the auditioners will read the SMITH and FLANNIGAN lines.

**SMITH:** Mr. Trowel! Trent Trowel? I've got to talk to you right away... in private!

**TROWEL:** I walked into the office to the familiar sound of some fool with a problem...

**SMITH:** Pardon me?

**TROWEL:** Day after day, they came to me. That's the problem with being the best. You get to feel like a cake at a four-year-old's birthday party - everyone wants a piece of ya...

**SMITH:** Does he...Why is he talking like we're not even here?

**FLANNIGAN:** He does this all the time - you get used to it.

**SMITH:** But...

**TROWEL:** Lucky for me Miss Flannigan kept the place from falling apart.

*MISS FLANNIGAN rolls her eyes and shakes her head, as she takes his coat, hat, and briefcase.*

**TROWEL:** Some coffee and fried eggs were the first things on my mind - anything to keep me going, really. It had been a long day, and it would probably be a longer night.

*MISS FLANNIGAN gives him his coffee and a newspaper.*

**TROWEL:** Miss Flannigan had a knack for reading my mind. No sooner than I thought it, a cup of joe was in my hand. These mean streets were no place for a private eye. But I've always been a glutton for punishment. Somebody had to stick up for the little guys, like the poor sap in my office today...

**SMITH:** Is that me? The poor sap? I'm standing right here!

**FLANNIGAN:** Sir, just have a seat and I'll let you know when he's ready. It'll save us all a lot of unnecessary stress.

**TROWEL:** Yeah, that was my life. I didn't ask for it, but it's the one I got. It was my job to clean up this town. It might have a shiny exterior, but its underbelly was as filthy as a two-legged turtle's.

**TROWEL:** Any messages while I was out, Miss Flannigan? (*he picks up a letter from a stack on her desk*) Who's Reggie? Why are there rose petals in here?

**FLANNIGAN:** Mr. Trowel, that's mine! (*she snatches the letter back*) I left YOUR messages on your desk. I put the most important one on top; remember the invitation for the International Private Detective Gala tonight?

**TROWEL:** Not interested. No time for glitzy frou-frou parties: I've got a city to look after.

**FLANNIGAN:** That's what I thought you'd say.

**TROWEL:** (*looking at MR. SMITH*) What did the cat drag in today, Miss Flannigan?

**FLANNIGAN:** His name is Mr. Smith.

**TROWEL:** Obviously a fake name. What's the deal, mister? You one of Big Bill's new cronies? Spit it out then. I haven't got all day.

## Accents Lines

Please deliver the following lines in your best accent. **These lines do not need to be memorised - however you should still try to portray the character - be EXAGGERATED in your depiction.**

### **FRENCH (Note: these lines are written phonetically to help with the accent)**

**EUSTACHE:** Excusé-moi, Madame. I resent you talking about me in such a fashion. Private eenspectors like myself have solved many cases zat ze police simply could not. Take ze mask of the Pharaoh Tikamun ze First zat I found – (*to MR. SILENCIEUX*) aller chercher le masque. (*MR. SILENCIEUX looks confused*) Go get ze mask! (*MR. SILENCIEUX retrieves the mask*) Eet ees worth millions of dollars! Do you suggest zis ees ze work of an amateur? And where is your item in ze display, ein? Ah, zat is right – you do not 'ave one.

### **BRITISH:**

**HOLMES:** I see everything, Detective. You see, unlike all of you, details do not escape me. I've noticed there are 28 light bulbs in the room – one burnt out. I've noticed that the

mayor was late for the party tonight because he nicked himself shaving, indicating he was in a hurry. I've noticed Ms. Beatrice has already eaten one English muffin previous to this one because of the butter stain on the table where she set her current one down. I've noticed the scuff marks on the floor under the table, indicating a trap door of some sort, not that it has any bearing on this case, mind you, since it's not been opened since yesterday.

**JERSEY/NY:**

*BIG BILL:* You been sticking your nose into our business for so long. And you know what? I'm sick of it. I'm done running from you. You see, that's what I'm talking about, guys. Every time a crime happens in this town, I get blamed for it. Like I'm some sort of monster! Well, enough! It's time I come clean for the woman I love. Clarice, I was gonna save this for your birthday, but here it is. I AM done with crime.

## *Character Descriptions*

### **THE DETECTIVES:**

**TRENT TROWEL:** A tough, but somewhat incompetent, hard-boiled P.I.

**TRACY DYCK:** A no-nonsense police detective who loathes private inspectors

**SHIRLEY HOLMES:** A confident and intelligent British detective

**JEAN-LOUIS-PHILIPPE EUSTACHE:** A refined inspector from France

**MS. BEATRICE:** An elderly lady who knows it all

### **SIDEKICKS:**

**DR. WATSON:** Holmes' long-suffering assistant

**MISS FLANNIGAN:** Trowel's long-suffering secretary

**MONSIEUR SILENCIEUX:** Eustache's long-suffering butler (silent character)

**JANE:** Ms. Beatrice's long-suffering niece

**SERGEANT MALONEY:** Dyck's long-suffering subordinate

### **ARCH VILLAINS:**

**BIG BILL:** A shadowy crime boss

**TONY:** A tight lipped-henchman who gives away more than he thinks

**VINNY:** Big Bill's henchmen

**CANDY:** A villainous beauty

**MARIO:** Another criminal thug

**MAUREEN ARTEE:** A cunning villain

**LE CAMBRIOLEUR:** An infamous cat burglar

**ETHEL:** Ms. Beatrice's good-for-nothing neighbour

### **SUPPORTING CHARACTERS:**

**MR. SMITH:** A hapless postman

**CLARICE LATRICHE:** A femme-fatale with mysterious motives

**MAYOR DEFEHR:** A boisterous and personable politician

**MRS. BENEDICT:** A wealthy socialite and hotel owner

**BEVERLY STEWART:** A very famous singer

**JANITOR 1:** A grumpy hotel-worker

**JANITOR 2:** A jaded hotel-worker

# A Lighter Shade of Noir. Rehearsal Calendar

## September 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>Please check the rehearsal calendar <b>CAREFULLY</b>, and declare all conflicts on your <i>Audition Form</i>.</p> <p><b>If an emergency arises</b> that will force an actor or crew member to miss rehearsal, please notify Ms. Cicchillo directly at (905) 833-1220, ext. 831, or at amy.cicchillo@cds.on.ca.</p> <p><b>Note:</b> Not everyone is called for Friday rehearsals. You will be notified the week before if you are needed on a Friday</p> <p><b>YES!</b> The cast and crew, as noted on the schedule, <b>DOES</b> rehearse on days where other after school activities do not run.</p>					1	2
3	4 <b>Labour Day</b>	5 Orientation Day	6 First Day of Classes Welcome Back BBQ	7 <b>AUDITIONS</b> <b>3:30 - 5:30</b>	8 <b>AUDITIONS</b> <b>3:30-5:30</b>	9
10	11 <b>Cast List Posted by 10:15</b> REHEARSAL 3:30-4:30	12 REHEARSAL 3:30-4:30	13 REHEARSAL 3:30-4:30	14 MS Band (No Rehearsal) Production Meeting	15 REHEARSAL (only for those called) 3:30-4:30	16
17	18 REHEARSAL 3:30-4:30	19 REHEARSAL 3:30-4:30	20 REHEARSAL 3:30-4:30 Music Camp	21 MS Band (No Rehearsal) Production Meeting Music Camp	22 REHEARSAL (only for those called) 3:30-4:30 Music Camp	23 Music Camp
24	25 REHEARSAL 3:30-4:30	26 REHEARSAL 3:30-4:30	27 REHEARSAL 3:30-4:30	28 MS Band (No Rehearsal) Production Meeting	29 REHEARSAL (only for those called) 3:30-4:30	30

# A Lighter Shade of Noir: Rehearsal Calendar

## October 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2 REHEARSAL 3:30-4:30 <small>Gr 9 Trip to Camp Wanakita Gr7 Trip t o Camp Mini-Yo-We</small>	3 REHEARSAL 3:30-4:30 <small>Gr 9 Trip to Camp Wanakita Gr7 Trip t o Camp Mini-Yo-We</small>	4 REHEARSAL 3:30-4:30 <small>Gr 9 Trip to Camp Wanakita Gr7 Trip t o Camp Mini-Yo-We</small>	5 <b>Lines to be memorised after the break</b> <small>Gr 9 Trip to Camp Wanakita Gr7 Trip t o Camp Mini-Yo-We</small>	6 <b>PD Day - No classes</b>	7
8	9 <b>Thanksgiving - No classes</b>	10 REHEARSAL 3:30-4:30	11 REHEARSAL 3:30-4:30 <b>ALL LINES MUST BE MEMORISED</b>	12 MS Band (No Rehearsal) <small>Production Meeting</small>	13 REHEARSAL (only for those called) 3:30-4:30	14
15	16 REHEARSAL 3:30-4:30	17 <b>EARLY OUT REHEARSAL 2:00-4:30</b>	18 REHEARSAL 3:30-4:30	19 MS Band (No Rehearsal) <small>Production Meeting</small>	20 NO REHEARSAL	21 <b>FULL-DAY REHEARSAL 9:00-3:00 In theatre</b>
22	23 REHEARSAL 3:30-4:30	24 REHEARSAL 3:30-4:30	25 REHEARSAL 3:30-4:30	26 MS Band (No Rehearsal) <small>Production Meeting</small>	27 REHEARSAL (only for those called) 3:30-4:30	28
29	30 REHEARSAL 3:30-5:30	31 Hallowe'en No Rehearsal				

# A Lighter Shade of Noir: Rehearsal Calendar

## November 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 <b>EARLY OUT REHEARSAL</b> 2:00 - 5:30	2 MS Band (No Rehearsal) Production Meeting	3 NO REHEARSAL	4 <b>FULL-DAY REHEARSAL</b> 9:00-3:00
5	6 REHEARSAL 3:30-6:00	7 REHEARSAL 3:30-6:00 in theatre	8 <b>Parent Teacher interviews after school</b> NO REHEARSAL	9 <b>Parent/Teacher Interviews - no classes</b>	10 <b>Mid-Term Break - no classes</b>	11
12	13 <b>Mid-Term Break - no classes</b>	14 <b>FULL-DAY DRESS REHEARSAL</b> 8:30-3:30	15 EMERGENCY REHEARSAL 3:30-6:00	16 <b>SHOW NIGHT</b> 7:00 pm	17 <b>SHOW NIGHT</b> 7:00 pm	18 <b>MATINEE</b> 1:30 pm <i>Would someone like to host a cast and crew party after the Matinee?</i>