

PREPARATORY NOTES for AUDITIONS for IN-HOUSE ONE-ACT PLAY

September 10th & 11th [in a Double-Bill with “Antic” by Karoline Leach directed by Mike Leach]

“DAVID’S BIRTHDAY” by Gillian Plowman - Directed by Arthur Cummins

Please confirm your interest by both phone & email – **whether or not you attend either audition.**

Contact arts@arthurdc.free-online.co.uk & 01 278 691 444 or 07 967 685 664

Ages & Genders not important: we are simply 5 Characters, each in need of an actor.

MAGGIE & LIZ, sisters & DAVID their handicapped younger brother. Their parents are long dead. Their Mother died giving birth to David after which FATHER taised his children strictly. We see flashbacks to their childhoods & meet Father (played by 'JOHN') in a scene that confirms the basis for the family's dysfunction. There is also a tender scene with Father & young David that illuminates stresses within the family. The three siblings as youngsters, sing children's hymns & all adults sing “Happy Birthday” to David. We also meet 2 Bullies & a Tart, played by 'members of the cast.

LIZ, the eldest child, left home, married JOHN & had kids. They live a distance away & dutiful but reluctant, visit only once a year, for David's birthdays. A 'spat' between David & Liz reveals their marriage is in the doldrums. John feels Liz doesn't “let him into her life, fully. Liz & John

MAGGIE, has been a bit of a teen rebel, & 'wears the trousers' in her relationship with PAUL, who feels partly rebuffed by Maggie. They are childless. They live a lesser distance from David's Care Home than do Liz & John & Maggie feels burdened, doing more for David than Liz does, 'tho' that seems precious little. Paul is caring & responsible toward David despite not being a blood relation. Neither woman gives herself wholeheartedly to her man.

DAVID's unselfconscious, lively innocence is a salutary counterpoint against Maggie's seething resentments toward her sister and perhaps, also toward her brother. who express their angst in the whirligig finale: an awful 'better-than-anything-else-available' ending, contrived by Ms Plowman, perhaps as a touching piece of psycho-drama therapy for the author's family.

Please note: Arthur may prefer to cast auditionees who crave more experience in acting rather than actors of proven talent. A great part of the objective for doing 'In-House projects' is to give opportunities to those who have not yet shown us enough of their capabilities.

2 Women

MAGGIE; Living with Paul –
Younger sister to Liz & older than David
Underlying resentment of Liz since childhood
Flustered, preparing Paul's birthday party.
Cross that Liz is late – John not blamed.

3 Men

JOHN; Husband to Liz (Teen kids left at home)
Professional man, solicitor type. Intelligent.
PAUL, Fairly long-term partner with Maggie
Caring, sensitive, 'cool' & laid back (drop out?)

LIZ, wife of John; Elder sister to Maggie & David. DAVID, (32 this day; mental age 8 ?)
Proud of herself, sacrificing for her family. Younger sibling to Liz & Maggie
Underlying guilt at not seeing more of David but Lovable, simple but trying on the nerves
prepared to rebuff expected crit from 'kid' sister.

DESIGNERS, TECHIES & CREW REQUIRED: Set: a living room with birthday cards on display.
SFX: car arriving etc. Props: pullover, bottle both wrapped. Birthday cake with candles. SM/DSM
Anyone, either experienced or newbies willing to have-a-go, welcome to volunteer for any of these.