

Character Descriptions for Agatha Christie's *A Daughter's A Daughter*

Note from the Director: TAP will be presenting an Agatha Christie show never before seen in the US: *A Daughter's A Daughter*. Originally written under a pen name, this show is not a murder mystery, and instead focuses on the relationship between a mother and daughter. While it tackles heavy subjects and has a great deal of conflict, there are certainly moments of lightness and humor. The audience should walk away feeling that love between a mother and her daughter will ultimately win, and that forgiveness is always possible.

Summary: *A Daughter's A Daughter* follows Ann and her daughter Sarah through 6 years in post war England. (*Please note, no accents will be used.*) In Act 1, Sarah returns home after WW2 and finds Ann engaged to Richard. Ann is a sweet woman, and her relationship with Richard is kind and caring. Richard and Sarah are like oil and water, and their disintegrating relationship ultimately forces Ann to choose between them. Ann sends Richard away. In Act 2, 4 years have passed and Ann lives a life of forced gaiety, constantly busying herself so she doesn't think of what she's given up. Her bitterness drives a wedge between mother and daughter. When Sarah must choose whether to marry sweet but poor Jerry or wealthy but dangerous Lawrence, Ann encourages her to wed Lawrence, knowing she will be unhappy. In Act 3, 18 months have passed. Anne is on the edge of a breakdown, Sarah is treated poorly and given drugs by Lawrence, and the two women have a massive falling out, each saying things that seem unforgivable. But in the end, they are both able to move on past the harm they've done to each other, and make the right choices for themselves. Woven in to the story are the supportive but sassy maid Edith, the gossipy Basil, and the fabulous Dame Laura.

On Casting: Age ranges provided are approximate, and are geared to what actors can appear as; if you think you're a great fit for a role and don't meet the range specified, please audition anyway! No British accents will be used. We do not precast any role. We hope to build a diverse cast with actors of all genders, races, ages, abilities, etc. If you have any questions please contact the Producers.

What to prepare: All auditions will consist of reading from the sides, which will be posted in advance here. No monologues. Additional sides may be provided to those invited to callbacks.

ROLES:

Ann Prentice*: In Act 1 Ann is sweet, caring, and a little old fashioned. In Act 2 and 3 she becomes nervous, unhappy, and increasingly bitter, and allows that bitterness to drive a wedge between her and Sarah. Must be able to show significant changes in personality and carriage between Act 1 and 2/3. Female, mid 30s-mid 50s

Sarah Prentice*: A vivacious, demanding, and lovely woman, Sarah hates change. She and Richard fight continually, and eventually Ann chooses Sarah and asks Richard to leave. Act 2 & 3 see a downward slide in Sarah's happiness and self-

worth. She ultimately chooses happiness with Jerry but not before learning some hard lessons by marrying Lawrence. Must be roughly of age with Jerry, and be able to play spoiled and cruel while still being a sympathetic character. Female, 20s – early 30s

Dame Laura Whitstable: A fabulous cross between the Dowager Countess from Downtown Abbey and a wealthy eccentric aunt in academia. She's perceptive, sarcastic, and always right. Sarah's Godmother and Ann's friend, she must be a commanding presence and able to deliver harsh truths with firmness and love. Female, Age open from 40s to 70s

Richard Cauldfield: Ann's fiancé in Act 1, Richard loves Ann deeply and cannot stand Sarah. He and Sarah bring out the worst in each other and ultimately Ann is forced to choose between them. Richard later visits with his new wife Doris. Must be of age or slightly older than Ann. Actor should be able to balance the kind caring side he shows to Ann and a frustrated, jealous side with Sarah equally convincingly. Male, mid 30s- 50s.

Edith: The Prentice's servant. She's seen it all, has opinions on everything, and while she is the "help" she might as well be a third member of the family. Edith is not on stage simply to announce visitors, but helps both Ann and Sarah come to important realizations. The actress must be able to portray a kind but no-nonsense demeanor. Female, Age open from 30s to 60s

Jerry Lloyd: A good man with bad luck, he is deeply in love with Sarah the entire play. He convinces her to leave Lawrence and run away with him to Argentina. The actor should be able to balance love sickness with Sarah in the first act tempered with some world-weariness in Act 3. Must be roughly of age with Sarah. Male, 20s – mid 30s

Basil Mowbry: Artistic, cutting, and a gossip. A social butterfly and good friend of Ann's. He's very trendy and obsessed with the Edwardian era. Male, 20s-30s

Lawrence Steene: Sarah's husband. He's wealthy, attractive, and just got divorced for the 3rd time. There is something dangerous about him, and Sarah starts drinking excessively and doing drugs after she marries him. The actor should be charming but very subtly menacing, the kind of person who sets your teeth on edge when he shakes your hand, but you can't figure out why. Male, Late 20s to early 40s

Doris Cauldfield: Lovely inside and out, Richard marries Doris after Ann rejects him. Kind, friendly and a country girl at heart. Female, late 20s-40s

**Special note for Sarah & Ann: This relationship must see a natural progression into bitterness and unhappiness, so please be prepared to show a change – between each other and within the character - between Act 1 and Act 2/3. Neither of these women is all good or all bad at any point.*