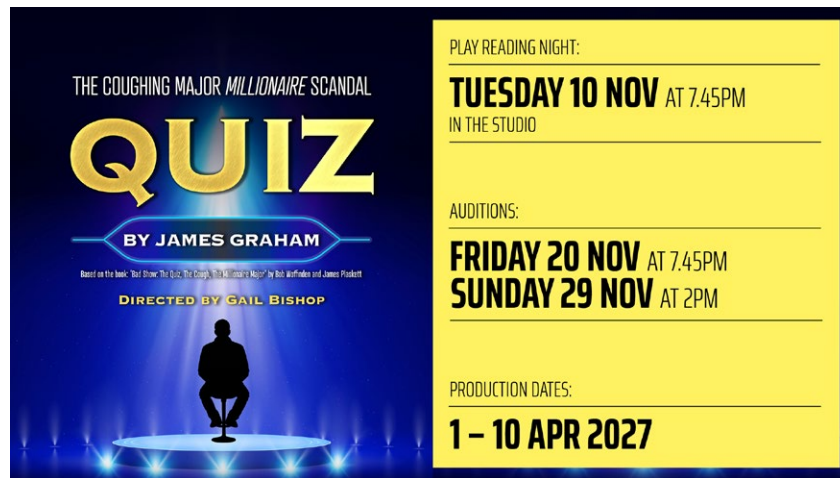


AUDITION NOTICE



READ THROUGH

Tuesday 10 November, 7.45pm in the Studio

AUDITIONS

Friday 20 November 2027, 7.45pm in the Theatre

Sunday 29 November, 2pm in the Theatre

FIRST REHEARSALS

Beginning Wednesday 27 January 2027

Rehearsals are at 7.45pm, Mondays, Wednesdays & Thursdays, with Sunday afternoons at 2pm from 7 March 2027

NB: Easter weekend is Friday 26 March – Monday 29 March 2027 and our final technical rehearsals will take place during those dates

PERFORMANCES

1 – 10 April 2027 at 7.45pm

Matinée: Saturday 3 April at 2.30pm

DIRECTOR

Gail Bishop gail.e.bishop@gmail.com 07763 727263

PA

Lucy Auva lucyauva@gmail.com 07977 499793

Scripts available from Lucy.

April 2003. Army Major Charles Ingram, his wife, and a coughing accomplice are convicted for cheating on Who Wants to Be a Millionaire? The evidence is damning. The nation is gripped by the sheer audacity of the plot to snatch the £1,000,000 jackpot. But were they really guilty? It's time for the audience to decide. Quiz premiered at Chichester Festival Theatre in 2017 before transferring to the West End in 2018, and was adapted for TV in 2020.

CHARACTERS AND AUDITION PIECES

There are 60ish characters in this play, ranging from large roles to fleeting appearances with a couple of lines (and everything in between), so this will call for a lot of multi-roling. The original production at Chichester Festival Theatre was done with a cast of 11 (so that is our minimum necessary number). I am open to having perhaps 14 in the cast and sharing these characters out to the right actors. I've identified where characters should be male or female, but there are several characters that can be played by any gender (AG).

CHARLES INGRAM – male, late 30s/early 40s

Large role. Army major. Contestant accused of cheating on WWTBAM? Very competent at his role in the military, but out of his depth a lot of the time with the scandal. (Has he been pressured into trying to pull this off, or is he genuinely innocent?) Single role only, no doubling.

Audition Pieces:

Pages 11-12 "Having said that, nothing wrong..." "Sir." (with Major General Roberts)

Pages 51-53 "We're welcoming back Major Charles Ingram ... YEAH!" (with Chris Tarrant)

Pages 67-69 "I have to run away ... Ta-ta for now." (with Diana Ingram and Adrian Pollock)

Pages 78-79 "Bugger! ... Diana, listen to me!" (with Diana Ingram)

DIANA INGRAM – female, late 30s/early 40s

Large role. Charles' wife. Quiz show fanatic and pressures her husband into going on WWTBAM? There is a touch of Lady Macbeth about her. Single role only, no doubling.

Audition Pieces:

Pages 67-69 "I have to run away ... Ta-ta for now." (with Charles Ingram and Adrian Pollock)

Pages 78-79 "Bugger! ... Diana, listen to me!" (with Charles Ingram)

SONIA WOODLEY QC – female, 50s/60s

Large role. Barrister for the Ingrams. A woman with plenty of experience in her job and the authority to hold her own in court. Was played by Helen McCrory in the TV adaptation.

Audition Pieces:

Pages 89-90 "The call records between yourself ... I wouldn't have thought so."

Pages 92-95 "You've isolated on here ... to support that assumption?" (with Hilliard QC)

NICHOLAS HILLIARD QC – male, 50s/60s

Large role. Barrister for the Crown. Equally as capable as Woodley, making for some fantastic showdowns between them.

Audition Pieces:

Pages 47-48 "Detective Sergeant Ian Williamson ... didn't do very well, wasn't it?" (with DS Williamson)

Pages 92-95 "You've isolated on here ... to support that assumption?" (with Woodley QC)

PAUL SMITH – male, 50s

Large role. CEO of TV production company, Celador. Has staked his own personal finances on the success of WWTBAM? and if it fails (or contestants win too much money), it'll bankrupt him.

Audition Pieces:

Pages 13-15 "Paul Smith, I'm the chief executive ... Drinking, and being right."

Pages 30-32 "Wait, so you get to see it ... and the percentages will come up." (with David Briggs and David Liddiment)

Pages 35-36 "Rachel da Costa, from Middlesex! ... OK give her a hand." (with Chris Tarrant and Rachel)

CHRIS TARRANT – male, 50s

Large role. TV & radio personality. Presenter of WWTBAM? I'm looking for a plausible impression of Chris Tarrant, but not a caricature.

Audition Pieces:

Pages 35-36 "Rachel da Costa, from Middlesex! ... OK give her a hand." (with Paul Smith and Rachel)

Pages 51-53 "We're welcoming back Major Charles Ingram ... YEAH!" (with Charles Ingram)

ADRIAN POLLOCK – male, 40s

Medium role. Diana's brother. Quiz show fanatic. Slightly neurotic. Gets himself into some financial trouble which puts pressure on the relationship with his family.

Audition Pieces:

Page 46 "Adrian Pollock? Tecwen Whittock ... Huh." (with Tecwen Whittock)

Pages 67-69 "I have to run away ... Ta-ta for now." (with Charles Ingram and Diana Ingram)

TECWEN WHITTOCK – male, 40s

Medium role. Accused co-conspirator with the Ingrams. Welsh accent. University lecturer. Tentative and almost bird-like.

Audition Pieces:

Pages 16-19 "You from round here? ... controls the questions is God." (with Paddy Spooner)

Page 46 "Adrian Pollock? Tecwen Whittock ... Huh." (with Adrian Pollock)

PRODUCTION MANAGER – female, 30s-50s

Medium role. Production manager on WWTBAM? No nonsense, straight talking woman who just wants things to run smoothly.

Audition Piece:

Pages 41-42 "Alright everyone, listen up ... Would it be weird not to?"

DAVID BRIGGS – male, 40s/50s

Medium role. TV & radio producer. One of the co-creators of WWTBAM?, he has high hopes for his new format.

Audition Piece:

Pages 30-32 "Wait, so you get to see it ... and the percentages will come up." (with Paul Smith and David Liddiment)

DAVID LIDDIMENT – male, 40s/50s

Small role. Director of Programmes at ITV. Sceptical of WWTBAM? and takes some persuading that it might work as a format.

Audition Piece:

Pages 30-32 "Wait, so you get to see it ... and the percentages will come up." (with Paul Smith and David Briggs)

MAJOR GENERAL ROBERTS – male, 40s/50s

Small role. Army Officer, MOD. Charles Ingram's commanding officer.

Audition Piece:

Page 11 "Having said that, nothing wrong..." to p12 "Sir." (with Charles Ingram)

PADDY SPOONER – male, 50s/60s

Small Role. Previous contestant of WWTBAM? Runs a syndicate helping people get on the show. Menacing. A real chip on his shoulder.

Audition Piece:

Pages 16-19 "You from round here? ... controls the questions is God." (with Tecwen Whittock)

DES O'CONNOR* – *male, 60s*

Game show host of Take Your Pick from the 1990s. Caricatures welcome!

Audition Piece:

Pages 22-23 “Hello and welcome to Take Your Pick! ... a round of applause!”

JIM BOWEN* – *male, 50s*

Game show host of Bullseye from the 1980s-90s. Caricatures welcome!

Audition Piece:

Pages 23-24 “And here’s your host, Jim Bowen! ... Round of applause, audience!”

LESLIE CROWTHER* – *male, 50s*

Game show host of The Price is Right from the 1980s. Caricatures welcome!

Audition Piece:

Pages 24-26 “I-i-i-t’s Saturday night! ... A round of applause for our contestants!”

*In the original production, Des O'Connor, Jim Bowen and Leslie Crowther were all played in quick succession by the same actor

RACHEL DA COSTA – *female, 20s/30s*

Small role. Contestant on WWTBAM?. Wants to win the money to clear some debts and pay for a wedding. Nervous because of the pressure.

Audition Piece:

Pages 35-36 “Rachel da Costa, from Middlesex! ... OK give her a hand.” (with Chris Tarrant and Paul Smith)

DS IAN WILLIAMSON – *AG, 30s-50s*

Small role. Detective Sergeant in the Metropolitan Police. Lead investigator on the case.

Audition Piece:

Pages 47-48 “Detective Sergeant Ian Williamson ... didn’t do very well, wasn’t it?” (with Hilliard QC)

ELSIE TANNER (AG) & **HILDA OGDEN** (AG) – *40s-60s*

Small roles. Two characters from Coronation Street. The more caricatured the better!

Audition Piece:

Pages 74-75 “I’ve got something to say to you ... he’s good enough for you!”

There are approximately 40 further small roles including TV producers, studio technicians, glamorous quiz show assistants, marketing executives, international journalists, police officers, army officers, pub customers etc to be doubled with the above!