

THE *chaotic* NEW MUSICAL COMEDY

THE VILLAGE HALL



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PRODUCED BY **WOODHOUSE MUSICAL THEATRE COMPANY**
AND **LAWRENCE BATLEY THEATRE**

World Premiere

10 - 13 SEPTEMBER 2025

LAWRENCE BATLEY THEATRE

Audition Pack
Company

A very warm welcome to 'The Village Hall'...

Thank you for your interest in being part of this unique show. As it's a premiere there aren't any reference points to go by when creating your character for the audition. Some find this 'freeing', some; find it 'utterly terrifying'. It's going to be staged in-the-round (see above 'freeing/terrifying' comment) with a 9-piece live orchestra and no click-tracks. It's as live, vibrant and exciting as we can make it and if its' predecessor 'By George' is anything to go by, the rehearsals and process of creating the residents of 'Cheeley Village Hall' will be hugely enjoyable. The entire production team are routing for you to give the best audition possible.



To help, you can find guide vocal files and backing tracks using this QR code, just view it through a smartphone camera and click the yellow link. You'll find a drive with an audition folder, a full script and demos. Please **download them before opening**. Any issues - contact rich@richsykes.com.

Précis

Cheeley Village Hall and its committee are stretched to their limits when the keys disappear. A hasty rearrangement by determined committee treasurer Frances, sees the morning's missed activities scheduled alongside the afternoon's programme. Chaos and farce ensue, with battles for territory and power causing the villagers' secrets to be revealed – particularly when outsiders Helen and Ken stir things even further.

Cast of Characters

Rvd. Geoffrey Potts	Cheeley Village church's vicar
Melanie Potts	The vicar's wife
Frances Waring	Committee treasurer and wife of Robert Waring
Helen Gorsage	Widow of Mollie
Diana ('Di') Coombs	Excitable secret partner of David
David ('Dave') Goosham	Excitable secret partner of Diana
'Big' Ken Rushton	Brash know-it-all from Stackworth,
Jennifer Crump	Lollipop lady for Cheeley Infants School
Joan Blacker	Dinnerlady at Cheeley Infants School

Other named characters include Gordon, Pam, Christine, Deidre, Dot, Freya and Carol. These will be part of multiple role company parts with a standard audition piece for all genders. If you'd like to be considered for a specific role, please let the panel know on the day of the auditions.

From all at LBT and Woodhouse Musical Theatre Company - the very best of luck.

Company Roles

To use a team sports metaphor, the company of The Village Hall requires a “very deep bench”. To make the village and the hall believable, it has to be populated by realistic characters. Fortunately, everyone portrayed by the company will be someone you know very well. Most company members will be required to play at least three different characters through the course of the show.

You might be one of the yoga group - maybe its stressed out leader Pam.

Possibly a line dance enthusiast - or their leader who attempts but fails to do a mid-west american accent.

Taking things easy with the Chairobics and Silver Surfers groups. Their leader Dot heads the company number ‘I’m Doing Fine’ which has nine verses sung by nine different group members.

A life drawing class attendee, or maybe one of the Highland Dance group they do battle with. Carol is the singer of ‘They’ll Never Take Away Our Freedom’ caught in the melee.

There’s Freya who delivers a passionate solo about bourbon biscuits and there are two others at the literary circle.

A full hockey team charges through for the massive company number ‘Wherever I Hear Music’ - along with their long-suffering kit-carrier.

And the whole village is present for the Cheeley Players’ panto rehearsal featuring the massive company number, ‘Together’.

And there’s lots more to enjoy.

For the auditions, even if you’re reading for a specific company member, we’d like you to perform the first speech of a very pissed-off ‘Pam’ whose Yoga group has been waiting outside in the rain for the hall to open. There’s also a couple of verses of a song called ‘I’m Doin’ Fine’ - a song about ageing.

The important thing with the song is to make sure the comedy comes across. Use loose timing to present the lines with as much clarity and comedic delivery as you can.

PIECE 1 - pg. 5-6

Pam (soaked) is pushed through the doors by the villagers.

Pam *(insistently)* Excuse me. Can we come in now?

Frances Oh Pam. Good. Quick question. Do you think they'd be very upset if we cancelled yoga?

Pam fires Frances a look of venom.

Pam Seventy three minutes... *(she wipes the rain off her sopping phone with one sweep)* ... seventy four minutes we've had "It's usually open Pam", "This is chaos Pam" and "Can we break in through the toilet window, Pam?". It stopped raining at quarter past. Things were looking up. Then at twenty-past – it started hailing. But that lot stood firm. "When's someone coming Pam?", "Where are they all Pam?", "Who's got the keys Pam?". And then, the thunder and lightning started and it was "What if I get struck by lightning Pam?", "Health and Safety Pam" and "Is Deidre's luminous golf broly a potential lightning rod Pam". And now you are inside. And they are outside. Like the brave of Babylon after the final flood. So yes... yes... I think they'd be upset, very upset, cataclysmically upset if I popped out there and said 'see you next week?'... Has that answered your question?

Everyone is gawping at Pam.

Pam Good. Now would you answer mine? Can we come in now?

Mel Of course you can.

Mel dashes to the door.

Come in everyone. So sorry about the delay.

The remaining drenched villagers push in – including Helen - carrying brightly coloured yoga mats, towels (which they use to dry themselves) and water bottles. Christine is carrying a pod-type speaker. The villagers prepare for their yoga session placing the mats in a circle.

I'll open the fire door too. Give us a bit of fresh air.

Pam *(sarcastically)* Oh yes, that's just what we need. More fresh air.

Mel humbly exits to the fire door.

PIECE 2 - pg. 49-54

VERSE 1 MY MUFFIN TOP IS SHOWING AND I'VE FIN'LY TWIGGED
(BUT I'M DOING FINE)
I BUY A LARGER SIZE CAUSE I CAN'T BE FRIGGED
(BUT I'M DOING FINE)
COMFORT OVER STYLE
IS BETTER BY A MILE
AND TUMMY TUCKING KNICKERS ARE MORE VERSATILE.
I'M GROOVING
(BUT I'M DOING FINE)

VERSE 2 I'VE TRIED TO RID MY LIFE OF ALL THE FEAR AND DOUBT
(BUT I'M DOING FINE)
PUTTING BOTH MY SOCKS ON TENDS TO STRESS ME OUT
(BUT I'M DOING FINE)
I NEVER NEED TO FRET
OR EVER GET UPSET
I LIKE TO WATCH REPAIR SHOP BUT I'M NOT DEAD YET.
I'M VIEWING
(BUT I'M DOING FINE)

I'm Doin' Fine

9 A

My muf - fin top is show - ing and I've fin' - ly twigged. But

12

I'm do - in fi - ine__ I get a larg - er size 'cause I can't be frigged. But

16

I'm do - in' fi - ine__ Com - fort ov - er style is bet - ter by a mile. And

20

tum - my tuck - in' knick - ers are more vers - a - tile. I'm groo - vin', but

B

23

I'm do - in' fi - - ine. I've tried to rid my life of all the

27

fe - ar and doubt. But I'm do - in' fi - - - ine_____

30

Put - tin' both my socks on tends to stress me out._ But I'm do - in fi -

33

- ine.____ I ne - ver need to fret. Or ev - er get up - set. I

36

like to watch Re - pair Shop but I'm not dead yet. I'm view - in', but

39

I'm do - in' fi - - ine.

