

THE *chaotic* NEW MUSICAL COMEDY

THE VILLAGE HALL

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EDITED BY **MARIA SYKES**

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

World Premiere

10 - 13 SEPTEMBER 2025

LAWRENCE BATLEY THEATRE

Audition Pack
Melanie Potts

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.

Mel

Mel is a devoted vicar's wife. She keeps her dippy husband from life's unpleasantness and is an essential driving force of their partnership. She is also aware - after some prompting from Helen - that the church attendances are dwindling and that something needs to be done.

Though Mel doesn't have a solo, she contributes lines to a few numbers including:

Unbreakable - Mel is part of the committee's re-iteration of the rules for Helen's benefit.

Wherever I Hear Music - Here Mel enthuses over an aspect of village life.

Mel is energetic, extremely tolerant and a little naïve. It's only her role as 'Panto Stage Manager' that causes her real stress.

PIECE 1 - pg. 20-21

Frances IT'S NOT A SUBJECT WE CAN BROACH

Mel WE ALL SHOULD BE BEYOND REPROACH

Joan, Jenny, Di and David

BE FERAL AT OUR PERILS. KEEP OUR COOLS.

Joan, Jenny, Mel,

Frances, David and Di

SO NO DON'T ROCK THE APPLE CART
KEEP MEMBERS AND THEIR KEYS APART.
STICK IT TO THE MANIFEST AND DON'T OBJECT
'CAUSE IN THE HALL COMMITTEE'S CALL WILL BE CORRECT

Frances FOR CHEELEY'S SAKE, DON'T MAKE US LOOK LIKE FOOLS.

Joan, Jenny, Mel,

Frances, David and Di

PLEASE LISTEN!

RELIABLE, UNPLIABLE, UNSHAKABLE,
THEY'RE ALL-FOR-ONE AND ALWAYS UN-MISTAKEABLE
FOLLOW THE FEW UNBREAKABLE...

UN-GIVE-OR-TAKEABLE
UTTERLY UNFORESAKEABLE
UNCHANGEABLE, UNFAKABLE TOO

UNBREAKABLE RULES.

Frances Got that?

PIECE 2 - pg. 23-24

Mel enters from the toilet entrance.

Mel *(back towards Geoffrey in the toilet)* Alright now?

Mel notices Helen and walks towards her with a sympathetic look on her face as Geoffrey enters drying his hands on his trousers.

Geoffrey Splendid. One to wipe. One to polish.

Mel *(with urgency, to cover Geoffrey's faux pas)* Helen! Was Francis drilling the rules in? Sorry to pile on.

Helen They seem to be very important.

Mel I suppose so. We're the same at the church. Aren't we Geoffrey?

Geoffrey Rules? Oh absolutely. Got to have rules.

Mel They help things run smoothly. Keep the church free for... occasions. Don't they Geoffrey?

Geoffrey Hm?

Mel Making our lovely church available for special services. Weddings and...

Mel looks at Geoffrey who hasn't twigged that Mel is trying to guide the conversation towards Helen booking the church for Mollie's funeral.

Geoffrey Hm?

Mel ... baptisms and ...

Geoffrey is still lost.

Helen Funerals?

Mel Yes.

She smiles compassionately at Helen before turning back and scowling at Geoffrey – then returning with a smile to Helen. Geoffrey clicks that he might be in trouble with Mel if he doesn't start focussing.

Mel Oh Helen. It's so sad.

Geoffrey So sad.

Mel It was so quick.

Music Cue:

Whisper / Winter Sun (Geoffrey, Helen and Mel)

Geoffrey So quick.

PIECE 3 - pg. 87-88

Mel and Geoffrey emerge with the 'carriage'. It's a cheap looking prop

Mel Now that (*pointing to the pumpkin*) has to magically turn into this.

Geoffrey Hmm... tricky.

Mel Yes. But the way we've done it in the past is that the Stage Manager – me, comes on with this the other way round, there's a 'kablam' during which the pumpkin deflates, I turn the carriage round so it suddenly appears and exit.

Geoffrey What we're basically looking for is someone coming, a quick going down during a massive bang, and someone getting off with nobody seeing.

Di (*a little louder repeating her low moan*) Oooou...glgh.

Mel and Geoffrey slowly turn to the basket. Then to each other. Mel knows exactly what's happening, Geoffrey is confused. Mel reaches out, grabs Geoffrey by the dog collar and pulls him back towards the store room entrance where they gather themselves – speaking in hushed tones.

Geoffrey That came from the basket.

Mel Yes Geoffrey.

Geoffrey It sounded like a wild animal.

Mel Yes Geoffrey.

Geoffrey I don't think I've ever heard a sound like that before.

Mel (*suddenly frustrated*) No!

Geoffrey I'll handle this. Darling, get my gardening gauntlets and something to protect my face.

Mel Right.

Mel double takes, looking worriedly back at Geoffrey before she exits through the fire doors.

113 **rall.....a tempo**

We all should be beyond reproach.

118

So no don't rock the apple cart

124

Keep members and their keys a part.

127

Stick it to the manifesto and don't object.

129

In the hall committee's call will be correct.

134

Please listen reliable un-pliable un-shake-able They're

137

all-for-one and always un-mistake-able Follow the few un-

140

-break-able... Un-give-or-take-able utterly un-forsake-able un-

143

change-able un-fake-able too un-break-able rules.

