

The Devil's Disciple

Written by George Bernard Shaw
Directed by Joe Gull
A KWL Black Box Radio production



SYNOPSIS

Set during the American Revolutionary War, *The Devil's Disciple* follows Richard 'Dick' Dudgeon, the rakish reprobate of the play's title who finds himself an unlikely hero. In Websterbridge, New Hampshire, Richard's wild ways contrast sharply with the Puritanical piety of the townspeople. His family disowns him and his mother curses him. Only Anthony Anderson, the affable, open-minded Presbyterian minister, welcomes Richard into his home, much to his Judith, his wife's, disapproval. When British soldiers arrive to arrest the clergyman, Richard finds himself willingly taking Anderson's place at the gallows. To his - and everyone else's - surprise, the "Devil's Disciple" may have a hero in him yet. *The Devil's Disciple* was Shaw's first major theatrical success. Filled with Shaw's classic wit and paradoxical characters, the play continues to amuse, provoke, and surprise audiences over a hundred years later.

AUDITIONS

Auditions take place on June 25-27, with callbacks the following weekend. Actors will do cold reads from the script; it is not necessary to prepare a monologue.

CHARACTERS:

THE DUDGEON FAMILY

Mrs. Dudgeon (*Supporting*): Wife of Timothy and mother of Dick and Christy. Has a reputation for being pious and respectable.

Richard "Dick" Dudgeon (*Lead*): Eldest son of Timothy and Mrs. Dudgeon and self-named 'the Devil's Disciple'.

Christopher "Christy" Dudgeon (*Supporting*): Youngest son, around 22, not too bright.

Essie (*Supporting*): a girl of about 16-17. Illegitimate daughter of Peter Dudgeon. Sent to live with Mrs. Dudgeon after Peter's death

Mr. William Dudgeon (*Supporting*): Eldest of the Dudgeon Brothers. "A large, shapeless man, bottle-nosed. His clothes are not the clothes, nor his anxious wife the wife, of a prosperous man. He drinks, a lot, and he recently gave it up."

Mr. Titus Dudgeon (*Supporting*): Youngest Dudgeon Brother. "A wiry little terrier of a man, with an immense and visibly purse-proud wife, both free from the cares of the William household."

OTHER TOWNSFOLK

Anthony Anderson (*Lead*): Minister in Westerbridge, New Hampshire during The American War of Independence. Husband of Judith Anderson. "A shrewd, genial, ready Presbyterian minister of about 50, with something of the authority of his profession in his bearing."

Judith Anderson (*Lead*): Rev. Anthony Anderson's wife who falls in love with 'the Devil's Disciple'. She is more than twenty years younger than her husband. She is pretty and proper and ladylike.

Lawyer Hawkins (*Minor*): A brisk, middle aged man.

THE BRITISH

The Sergeant (*Supporting*): A British sergeant.

General Burgoyne (*Supporting*): Officer in charge of English and German troops in America during the War of Independence. Known as 'Gentleman Johnny'. "A well preserved 55-year-old man of fashion, gallant enough to have made a distinguished marriage by an elopement, witty enough to write successful comedies, aristocratically-connected enough to have had opportunities of high military distinction."

Major Swindon (*Supporting*): "A very conscientious looking man of about 45."

Mr. Brudenell (*Minor*): military chaplain.