



# The Funeral to End All Funerals

## AUDITION NOTICE

### NON-PAYING / NON-EQUITY



#### THE TEAM:

**Director:** Todd Davies

**Playwright:** Steven Elliott Jackson

**Stage Manager:** Caspian Stonehouse

**Exec. Producers:** KW Little Theatre

**ABOUT THE SHOW:** Before the Kardashians, there were the Mitfords! Decorum disappears quickly when this dysfunctional family comes together on the day of a funeral. Filled with animosity and ever sharpening

tongues, Thomas, Pamela, Nancy, Diana, Unity, Jessica and Deborah resemble a complicated mix of beliefs, relationships, and lifestyles and yet they manage to gather with claws and words fully armed. Biting dark humour, and the dramatic complications of fame and infamy, flow through this acidic new comedy from the playwright of "The Seat Next To The King". By the end of this funeral, the family may need more than one coffin!

**INFORMATION SESSION:** There will be an online information session on Tues. Aug. 29, 2023 (or Tues. Sept. 5) at 7:00pm. You can join the Google Meet at this link:

<https://meet.google.com/chv-mtgn-mnv?hs=224>

Meeting ID: (CA) +1 587-795-9956

Passcode: 559577855

#### AUDITION DATES/TIMES:

Sunday, Sept. 10      12 - 4pm  
Monday, Sept. 11      7 - 10pm  
Tuesday, Sept. 12      7 - 10pm  
Wednesday, Sept. 13      7 - 10pm

#### CALL-BACKS:

Thursday, Sept. 14      7 - 10pm



**AUDITION/CALL-BACK LOCATION:** Audition: KW Little Theatre - 9 Princess St. E., Waterloo, ON. (between King and Regina), Callbacks: 44 Gaukel, Kitchener, ON

### **AUDITION REQUIREMENTS:**

Please prepare TWO monologues:

- The monologues must be no longer than 90 seconds. Be prepared to receive one or two redirects on the material.

When you fill in your audition form online (or when you arrive at your audition as a walk-up), you will be asked to provide a full list of conflicts. Be as complete as you can, especially around holidays. If there are changes in conflicts during the audition process, please inform us, or bring an updated conflict list to the audition and/or call backs.

The call-backs and rehearsal schedule will take into consideration the conflicts identified at the time of your audition. Adding more conflicts after casting may result in removal from the show.

### **CALL-BACKS:**

Individuals called back will be given a schedule specific to the characters for which they are being considered; this schedule will be communicated to each performer via email. People auditioning should inform the staff, at the time of their first audition, if there is any time on the callback day during which they are unavailable. **Please note** - though we will try, we may not be able to accommodate all conflicts for call-backs.

If called back for a role (or roles), actors will be asked to prepare specific scenes from the show. Lines do not need to be memorised for the callback, but you should be familiar enough with the material to take redirection and “play” with the scenes. These will be sent along with callback notifications and will be available for preview online ahead of time.



**REHEARSAL DATES:** Rehearsals begin Sunday, Sept. 17 with the READ THROUGH AND WELCOME BBQ and then continue:

Tuesdays and Wednesdays 7:00 to 10:00 pm

Sundays 12:00 to 6:00 pm

Additional or longer rehearsals will be held once the production has moved into the theatre. Rehearsals at the theatre are as follows (dates/times may be adjusted):

**Tech Move-in and Build:** November 4-10, 2023 9:00am – 9:00pm

**Tech Weekend (final touches and Q2Q):** November 11/12, 2023 9:00am - 9:00pm

**Technical Dress Rehearsal:** November 13, 2023 6:00pm – 11:00pm

**Dress Rehearsal:** November 14, 2023 6:00pm – 11:00pm

**Post Show Unit Clean Up:** December 3, 2023 6:00pm - 10:00pm

**A full rehearsal schedule will be given out the first week of rehearsals.**

**PERFORMANCE DATES:** November 16, 17, 18, 24, 25, and December 1, 2 at 8pm. Matinee performances are Nov. 19, 26 and Dec. 3, 2023 at 2pm.

Additional performances may be added on some or all of the following dates: Nov. 18 (2pm), 23 (8pm), 25 (2pm), 30 (8pm) and 2 (2pm). Cast and crew will be informed at least 1 month before opening night.

**All cast members must be available for all performances and dress rehearsals**

**PERFORMANCE LOCATION:** KW Little Theatre - 9 Princess St. E., Waterloo, ON.  
(between King and Regina)



## CASTING INFORMATION:

### Physicality Legend

**C** = basic physical contact like shaking hands, arm-in-arm and partner dancing **E**=embracing  
**F** = fight choreography **K** = kissing **L** = weight bearing, lifting, or being lifted **S** = Stylized movement

NOTE: Ages given are of the characters, not of the actors playing them. However, the Director may cast characters based on their most formative period in their lives.

## ROLES AVAILABLE:

Please note that the age noted is how long the character lived. All roles are open to consideration regardless of age, background, ethnicity or sexual/gender orientation.

**Nancy Mitford** (28 November 1904 – 30 June 1973, 69) married Peter Rodd, whom she subsequently divorced, and had a longstanding relationship with French politician and statesman **Gaston Palewski**. She lived in France for much of her adult life. She wrote many novels, including the semi-autobiographical *The Pursuit of Love* and *Love in a Cold Climate*. She was also a biographer of historical figures, including the **Sun King**. (C,E,F)

**Pamela "Pam" Mitford** (25 November 1907 – 12 April 1994, 86) was called "Woman" by her siblings. **John Betjeman**, who for a time was in love with her, referred to her as the "Rural Mitford". She married and later divorced millionaire physicist **Derek Jackson**, and spent much of the remainder of her life living with Giuditta Tommasi (died 1993), an Italian horsewoman. (C,E)

**Thomas "Tom" Mitford** (2 January 1909 – 30 March 1945, 36), the only son, was educated at **Eton**, where he had an affair with **James Lees-Milne**. He later had a lengthy affair with Austrian Jewish dancer **Tilly Losch** during her marriage to **Edward James**. According to Jessica's letters, Thomas supported British fascism and was posted to the Burma campaign after he had refused to fight in Europe. He died in action. (C,E)



**Diana Mitford** (17 June 1910 – 11 August 2003, 93) married aristocrat and writer **Bryan Guinness, 2nd Baron Moyne** in 1929. She left him in 1933 for British fascist leader **Sir Oswald Mosley**, with whom she had two sons, Alexander and **Max Mosley**. The couple were interned in **Holloway Prison** from May 1940 until November 1943. (C,E,F)

**Unity Mitford** (8 August 1914 – 28 May 1948, 33) was known as "Bobo" or "Boud" to her siblings. Her adulation of, and friendship with, Adolf Hitler was widely publicised. She shot herself in the head just hours after Britain declared war on Germany, but failed to kill herself. The incident left her mentally infirm for the rest of her life. In 1944 her family sent her to the Scottish islet of **Inch Kenneth**, where she lived out the war. She died of **pneumococcal meningitis** at West Highland Cottage Hospital, Oban. (C,E,F)

**Jessica "Decca" Mitford** (11 September 1917 – 22 July 1996, 78), unlike the rest of her family, was a communist. She eloped with **Esmond Romilly** to Spain to participate in the Civil War; they subsequently moved to the United States, and Esmond died in action in the Second World War. She remained in the U.S. most of her adult life, where she married **Robert Treuhaft** and was a member of the American Communist Party until 1958. She wrote several volumes of memoirs and several volumes of polemical investigation, including the best-selling *The American Way of Death* (1963) about the funeral industry. She was the grandmother of **James Forman Jr.** and Chaka Forman, sons of the African-American civil rights leader **James Forman** by her daughter **Constancia Romilly**. (C,E,F)

**Deborah "Debo" Mitford** (31 March 1920 – 24 September 2014, 94) married **Andrew Cavendish**, who later became the Duke of Devonshire, and with him turned his ancestral home **Chatsworth House** into one of Britain's most successful stately homes. She wrote several books. (C,E)

#### **BOOKING AN AUDITION:**

To book an audition, fill out [this Google Form](#), or send an email to [ToddRDavies@hotmail.com](mailto:ToddRDavies@hotmail.com) stating which role(s) you are interested in and your preference of audition date/time. We will make every effort to accommodate you but we may have to offer you a different date/time. A return email will come to you. Please check your junk folder.

Walk-in auditions are also welcome.