



HEAVEN *Can* WAIT

by HARRY SEGALL

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4th – 8th March 2014

Director: Peter Bryans

Assistant Director: James Franey

Producer: Pip Deppeler

WHAT'S IT ABOUT?...

In an ethereal place between heaven and earth, the recently deceased queue to board the heavenly aeroplane. All wait patiently in line, except for one passenger, boxing pro Joe Pendleton. Joe – an under-educated and 'salt-of-the-earth' sort – insists that he can't be dead, there must be a mistake.

And indeed he is right.

Messenger 7013, an over eager angel new on the job, confesses that they saved Joe the pain of dying in a plane crash by pulling him from his body before it hit the ground. Further investigation by the senior Angel (Jordan) reveals that had Joe been left alone he would have saved himself and continued to live for a further 60 years! Putting Joe back into his body isn't possible; it was cremated. So the search for a replacement body begins.

This charming 1938 comedy fantasy charts Joe's struggle between fulfilling his dreams of becoming World Boxing Champion and his desire to help a young woman, Bette, with whom he falls in love. Does he take on the body of Farnsworth, a ruthless business man about to be murdered by his wife and her lover, and save Bette's father from ruin? Or does he continue to search for a body which is "in the pink" and will take him to the world title?

IS IT JUST A PLAY?...

*No, there have been several film and TV adaptations. The earliest (and most comparable to the play) is the 1941 film, **Here Comes Mr Jordan**, starring Robert Montgomery.*

*Other films include the 1978 adaptation, **Heaven Can Wait**, starring Warren Beatty and Julie Christie, and the 2001 Chris Rock film, **Down to Earth**. However the most well known programme to be inspired by Harry Segall's play is the 90's cult series **Quantum Leap**.*

IS THERE A PART FOR ME?...

Well let's see...

Male

1. **Joe Pendleton** (the main character; kind-hearted and endearing)
2. **Max Levene** (Joe's boxing trainer and loyal friend; slightly simple)
3. **Tony Abbott** (Farnsworth's financial secretary; dastardly)
4. **Inspector Williams** (Inspecting Farnsworth's death; serious and thorough)
5. **Lefty** (Rival boxing trainer to Max; shifty and untrustworthy)

...there are also a number of smaller roles: Doctor, Plainclothesman, Workman, 2nd Escort and Mansfield the Butler

Female

1. **Bette Logan** (Joe's sweetheart; firm yet vulnerable)
2. **Julia Farnsworth** (Farnsworth's wife, in love with Abbott; misguided and cold)
3. **Mrs Ames** (the head of running the Farnsworth residence; matriarchal)
4. **Susie** (a maid in the Farnsworth house; sweet and subservient)

...there are also a number of smaller roles: 1st Escort, Ann the maid and Nurse

Male OR Female

1. **Mr/Miss Jordan** (Joe's guide throughout his ordeal; confident and caring)
2. **Messenger 7013** (An angel new to heaven; nervous and unsure)

WHEN AND WHERE IS THE PLAY SET?...

The play as originally conceived; 1930s New York. Most of the parts will require a 'stock' (slightly posh) American accent with the exception of Joe Pendleton and Max Levene (more 'street') and Jordan, Messenger 7013, and the Escorts (these characters can have any English-based accent).

WHERE AND WHEN CAN I FIND OUT MORE?...

*There will be a workshop on **Tuesday 12th November** to give more information about the show and an insight into what to expect at the auditions.*

I THINK I WANT TO AUDITION, WHAT DO I DO?...

*The auditions will be held on **Saturday 7th December**, with recalls scheduled for 10th & 11th December. To contact the production team and secure a place email SEDOSHeavenCanWait@gmail.com. If you have any queries you can also email us.*

We look forward to hearing from you.