

Presents…

**Serial Killers**

By James Griffin

**Production Team**

Director Matt Bentley

Producer Nicola Gledhill

**Synopsis**

Serial Killers is a full-length play by James Griffin, arguably New Zealand’s most successful television mastermind, and co-creator of two of the most acclaimed New Zealand television series of all time: Outrageous Fortune and The Almighty Johnsons (currently streaming on Netflix).

This cleverly written and wickedly capricious comedy follows a week in the lives of the five writers of Heart of Hearts, a TV medical soap opera (which, for the purposes of our production, will be set in London).

As the play opens, the writers of Heart of Hearts gather at their work desk - aka the "table of pain" - attempting to think up a dramatic and gripping way to be rid of one of the main characters, heart-throb surgeon Dr Robert Gilligan. The character has become boring, ratings are falling and, besides which, the writers find the actor extremely annoying, so it's time for him to depart in a blockbusting storyline!

However, Andrew Lomas, who plays the role of Dr Gilligan, doesn't want to be written out - Heart of Hearts has become his life. Unable to cope with the reality of acting and the myth of the story, he takes action and the soap opera becomes all too real.

Interspersed with the editorial room scenes are scenes from Heart of Hearts itself - acted by the same writers (whose own interpersonal relationships, it becomes apparent, are not what they seem) taking the roles of their soap opera alter egos. As they play out the ever more ludicrous stories of lies, jealousy, lust, betrayal and revenge, it is evident that the lines between art and life are blurred almost beyond recognition.

**Style**

Serial Killers veers wildly between the realistic and the ridiculous. The soap opera snippets between the scenes provide both a sharp contrast to the ‘authentic’ backstage scenes (which are grounded in James Griffin’s experience working on Shortland Street), and also provide a target for them to reach as the action escalates. The production will be set in present-day London, allowing for a wide range of accents. The set will be a detailed writer’s room, with space for basic furniture to represent the appropriate scenes of ‘Heart of Hearts’.

**Characters**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Pauline | Mid 30s – early 40s. Story Editor. Co-creator of ‘Heart of Hearts’. Ex-wife of Alan. Also seen as the character of Nurse Sophie, her alter ego in the show. |
| Alan | 40s. Senior Writer. Co-creator of ‘Heart of Hearts’. Ex-husband of Pauline. Also seen as the character of Ned, the cleaner. |
| Simone | Early 30s. Storyliner. Cynical beyond her years. Ex-nurse. Also the character of Nurse Jane. |
| Matt | Late 20s. Storyliner. The butt of many jokes. Also the character of Darius, head of the unit. |
| Elaine | Early 20s. Junior Storyliner. Possibly not as naïve as she initially seems. Also the character of Dr Louise Strong. |
| Sally | 40s. Producer of ‘Heart of Hearts’. Also the character of Laura, head of administration. |
| Andrew Lomas | Mid 20s. Actor. Plays the character of Dr Robert Gilligan, the clinic’s heart-throb heart surgeon in ‘Heart of Hearts’. |

**Key Dates**

Pre-Audition Workshop Sunday 29 March

Auditions Sunday 12 & Monday 13 April

Recall Tuesday 14 April

First Read-Through Sunday 10 May

First Rehearsal Tuesday 12 May

Rehearsals will be on Tuesday and Thursday evenings, and Sunday afternoons.

Dress Rehearsal Monday 29 June

Performance Dates at the Bridewell Theatre: Tuesday 30 June – Saturday 4 July (including matinee)

**Workshop**

**Sunday 29 March. 1 Brewers Hall Gardens, Moorgate, EC2V 5DX. 3pm – 5pm.**

The workshop will include:

* Introduction to the team and the play
* Group activities
* A look at some scenes
* Adjourn to the pub

Please email [sedos.serialkillers@gmail.com](mailto:sedos.serialkillers@gmail.com) to register your attendance (note registration is not mandatory for attendance, but it would be useful to give us an idea of numbers).

**Auditions**

**Sunday 12 & Monday 13 April. 1 Brewers Hall Gardens, Moorgate, EC2V 5DX.**

Auditionees will have up to 15 minutes each. Auditions will take the format of dialogues opposite a non-auditioning actor. There is no need to prepare ahead of the auditions, but the audition pieces will be made available in advance.

**Recall (invitation only)**

**Tuesday 14 April. 1 Brewers Hall Gardens, Moorgate, EC2V 5DX. 7pm – 10pm.**

Recalls will take the format of group scenes. There is no need to prepare ahead of the recalls, and the pieces will be made available on the night. You will have some time to familiarise yourself with the pieces, to avoid cold-reading.

**Booking an Audition**

To book an audition, please email Nicola at [sedos.serialkillers@gmail.com](mailto:sedos.serialkillers@gmail.com) and include the following:

* Name
* Contact number
* Preferred audition date and any time restrictions
* Role preference, if you have one
* Availability on Tuesday 14 April in case we want to recall you

Please be aware that there is a slight overlap between the rehearsal period for Serial Killers and the production dates of Legally Blonde. If you are involved with Legally Blonde and would like to audition for Serial Killers, please inform us when booking your audition. Involvement in Serial Killers may also limit the extent to which you can participate in some Summer Season events.

**Fees**

Auditions are free for Sedos members and £5 for non-members (refunded if cast). If cast you will be required to become a Sedos member (currently £30 per year) and pay a participation fee of £30.

**Backstage**

Sedos is always looking for volunteers to help with set building, sewing costumes, working Front of House or backstage. If you are interested in getting involved, please contact Nicola at [sedos.serialkillers@gmail.com](mailto:sedos.serialkillers@gmail.com).

**Rehearsals**

Rehearsals will be held at 1 Brewers Hall Garden, Moorgate, EC2V 5DX on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 7pm – 9:30pm, and on Sundays from 2pm – 6pm. We will try to schedule rehearsals around cast availability as much as possible, but please indicate on your audition form any dates you are unavailable. Please be honest – it will not necessarily stop you from being cast, but will help us plan.

Thank you for your interest, and we look forward to meeting you at the workshop and auditions!