

# AUDITION NOTICE | DEATHTRAP



## TIMING & LOCATION

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**Sunday February 6th, 2022**

Registration: 12:30 pm

Auditions: 1:00 pm

Location: The Farmington Players Barn Theater 32332 W. 12 Mile Rd, Farmington Hills, MI 48334

*Please Note: In accordance with The Farmington Players 2021-2022 vaccine policy, all members of the cast and crew must be fully vaccinated from COVID-19 to participate in this production.*

## SYNOPSIS

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**Setting:** Deathtrap takes place in the study of Sidney Bruhl's house in Westport, Connecticut, a wealthy suburb of New York in 1978. Bruhl is a famous playwright, an author of thrillers, best known for his wildly successful hit, The Murder Game.

Deathtrap is a classic comedic thriller. A washed-up playwright finds a chance to rise to the top once more, a shot he'd be willing to kill for. Sidney Bruhl hasn't written a hit play for 18 years when he receives a script from a former student, Clifford Anderson, that's a guaranteed success. His wife, Myra, suggests the two men could collaborate. When Clifford arrives later that evening, no one- not even the visiting psychic- could predict where the dark events of the night will go. Who is innocent? Who only seems that way? Deathtrap is a sharply funny play full of twists and turns that keep an audience on the edge of their seats. Is anyone safe when a man sees a clean shot at success?

## CHARACTERS

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**Sidney Bruhl** – male, age 40-60. Polished, dashing, devious, clever, thinks he's the smartest man in the room and wants people to know it. Is "on stage" even when at home. Requires kissing between Sidney and Myra and Sidney and Clifford. Must be able to help lift a "dead" body. Stage combat experience a plus.

**Clifford Anderson** – male, age 20-30. Student. Looks physically fit, good looking, clever. Knows he's the smartest man in the room and can bide his time to display it. Requires kissing between Sidney and Clifford. Must be able to help lift a "dead" body. Stage combat experience a plus.

**Myra Bruhl** – female, age 35-60. Sophisticated, upper class but embraces the country life. Innocent, sweet, caring, emotional, nervous, even skittish, supportive of Sydney's career and moods but grows some backbone when he crosses the line. Requires kissing between Sidney and Myra. Must be able to help lift a "dead" body.

**Helga ten Dorp** – female, age 30-70. Psychic. Wild, individual, Gypsy-like. Is in and out of this world. Knows she's a celebrity and buys into the show of her gift. Has a Dutch accent. Is disarming and brave when faced with pain and violence.

**Porter Milgrim** – Male, age 30-70. Sidney’s attorney and long time friend. Professional, solid and observant.

#### **PRODUCTION TEAM**

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Director | Maureen Mansfield

Assistant Director | Eric Nogas

Producer | Anne Craft and Kristi Schwartz

Stage Manager | Jill Jones

#### **RESOURCES**

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Audition cuts will be available at [Farmingtonplayers.org/audition](http://Farmingtonplayers.org/audition)

Please feel free to email Maureen at [maureen.mansfield@gmail.com](mailto:maureen.mansfield@gmail.com) with questions.

#### **SCHEDULE (REQUIRED AVAILABILITY DATES)**

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**Performance Schedule:** May 6, 7, 8, 13, 14, 15, 19, 20, 21, 2022

**Tech Rehearsal:** April 30<sup>th</sup> 2022

**Dress Rehearsals:** May 2, 3, 4, 2022

**Rehearsal Schedule:** 3 days a week, starting the beginning of March, 2022

#### **NOTES FROM THE DIRECTOR**

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The tension in Deathtrap should be constant, starting high from the very first moment of the first scene. Yet so much of this tension is never seen and never felt, with the greatest tension, perhaps, coming from the efforts of all the characters pretending to be normal: acting as if nothing is wrong, while the deadliest moments of violence remain just barely submerged. It’s the anticipation of violence that provides the audience with thrill and excitement, having just a glimpse into the inner minds of all of the characters, and watching the way they manipulate each other as they work to pretend that all is well.