

# **A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder**

## **Character Descriptions**

### Lead Roles

**Monty Navarro** (20s to 30s, A2-A4): Ever the optimist, Monty nevertheless struggles as he seeks to join the D'Ysquith family whilst watching the woman he loves marry another. He perseveres with panache and strong physical comedy skills.

**The D'Ysquith Family** (30s to 50s, B2-F4): This actor plays all nine of the D'Ysquith family. They are farces of British high society in the early 20th century. The actor in this role should have strong physical comedy skills and accent abilities that help differentiate the multiple characters. Must have stamina to carry the different characters throughout the show and make quick costume changes.

**Sibella Hallward** (20s to 30s, Gb3-A5): The girl Monty loves. Sibella has true affection for Monty but more so for social status. Sibella is smart, funny and stylish, and as far as relationships are concerned, she wants to have her cake and eat it too.

**Phoebe D'Ysquith** (20s to 30s, C4-C#6 with an optional Eb6): Monty's cousin. Phoebe was raised high-class with idealistic fantasies of love. She foils Sibella in her interest in love over status and tries to find the true virtue in people. Though she is smart and earnest, she can also be naive. Must be a true soprano with a legit, possibly operatic sound.

### Ensemble Roles

(Must be able to portray a variety of characters with a variety of accents; in some instance, vocal parts are interchangeable.)

**Woman 1** (20s to 30s, Gb3-A5): Mourner, Tour Guide, Ancestral Portrait (off stage), Couple Skater, Bridesmaid, Pub Owner's Wife, Mrs. Pebworth, Phoebe's Maid, Selina Chard (servant), Wedding Guest, and Crowd.

**Woman 2** (20s to 30s, Gb3-A5): Mourner, Tourist, Ancestral Portrait, Bad Skater, Bridesmaid, Mrs. Hetherington, 4<sup>th</sup> Newsboy, Lady Eugenia, and Crowd.

**Woman 3** (30s to 40s, G3-C6): Mourner, Tourist, Ancestral Portrait, Miss Evangeline Barley, Bridesmaid (off stage), Miss Hayes, Ancestral Bust, Wedding Guest, and Crowd.

**Woman 4** (40s to 60s, A3-A5): Miss Shingle (Monty's unexpected visitor, mysterious, has an obvious sense of justice and comes to tell Monty the secret of his D'Ysquith lineage with a pivotal song in Act 1 that sets up the story of the show); also plays Mourner, Tourist, Ancestral Portrait, Bridesmaid, 3<sup>rd</sup> Newsboy, and Ancestral Bust.

**Man 1** (30s to 50s, A2-A4): Mourner, Tourist, Ancestral Portrait, 2<sup>nd</sup> Clerk, Skater Rental Guy, Groomsman, Tom Copley, Dr. Brownlee, 1<sup>st</sup> Newsboy, Weight Lifter, 3<sup>rd</sup> Actor, Walter (servant), Wedding Guest, Dr. Pettibone (medical examiner), and Prison Guard.

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**Man 2** (20s to 30s, C2-Ab4): Mourner, Tourist, Ancestral Portrait, 1<sup>st</sup> Clerk, Couple Skater, Tailor 2, Groomsman, Pub Owner, Mr. Cross, 2<sup>nd</sup> Newsboy, Wight Lifter, 1<sup>st</sup> Actor, Lord Asquith's Physician, Ancestral Bust, Chief Inspector Pinckney, and Crowd.

**Man 3** (30s to 50s, Bb3-Bb4): Mourner, Tourist, Ancestral Portrait, Speed Skater, Tailor 1, Groomsman, Pub Patron, Mr. Goodsall, Weight Lifter, 2<sup>nd</sup> Actor, Alfred Gorby (butler), Wedding Guest, Lord High Steward (off stage), and Magistrate.