

Trevor EPA

5.

PRESHOW ACTIVITY:

As the audience enter TREVOR is finishing off laying the floorboards USR under the upper level. His hammer breaks.

Two members of STAGE CREW are searching the stalls and circle for a missing Duran Duran CD and for Winston a dog needed for later in the show.

CHRIS greets members of the audience as they arrive in his best tuxedo.

ANNIE is by the fireplace trying to stick a mantelpiece above it and trying to stick an old journal to the mantelpiece. She enlists the help of an audience member and gets them to hold the mantelpiece in place before disappearing offstage. TREVOR appears and commandeers the audience member to sweep the stage. As they start sweeping the head of the broom falls off. ANNIE reappears and brings the audience member back to help with the mantelpiece. She sends them to get her toolkit. The audience member can't lift it. After several attempts ANNIE crosses over and picks it up easily. The mantelpiece is eventually stuck in position over the fireplace and the audience member is sent back to their seat.

TREVOR comes DSC. ANNIE scuttles off.

TREVOR

Good evening ladies and gentle-

The mantelpiece falls off the wall. ANNIE emerges from the wing.

ANNIE

[To the audience member.] You said that was fine.

TREVOR

[Aside to ANNIE.] Just leave it, leave it.

[ANNIE starts to try and repair the mantelpiece. TREVOR address the audience.]

Right, welcome to *The Murder at Haversham Manor*. Can I kindly request that all your mobile phones and other electronic devices are switched off and please note that photography of any kind is strictly prohibited. Also if anyone finds a Duran Duran CD box set anywhere in the auditorium, that is a personal item and I want that back. Please do drop it at my tech box end of the show. Enjoy the performance.

[House and stage lights go down. TREVOR exits SL.]

TREVOR

[On his radio but broadcast to the whole theatre.]
Alright, can we prepare for lights up on act one, note for the cast Winston is still missing, we need to find him before the guard dog scene-

CHRIS

Trevor! Trevor!

TREVOR

[Still over the speakers.] -we need him back in his cage as soon as possible. What's Annie doing on stage? Get her off so Chris can do his stupid speech- oop!

[TREVOR's microphone cuts off. ANNIE hasn't finished repairing the mantelpiece. CHRIS enters from the SR wing in the darkness.]

End

CHRIS

Leave it. Just leave it.

ANNIE

You need it...

CHRIS

We don't have time.

[ANNIE hurries off into the wings taking the mantelpiece and toolkit with her. Spotlight comes up on CHRIS, cutting off his head.]

CHRIS

Good evening ladies and gentlemen and...

[CHRIS steps forward into the spotlight.]
...welcome to The Cornley Polytechnic Drama Society's presentation of *The Murder at Haversham Manor*. Please allow me to introduce myself; I am Chris the director, and I would like to personally welcome you to what will be my directorial debut [Pronounced day-boo.] and my first production as head of the drama society.

Firstly I would like to apologise to those of you involved in our little box office mix-up. I do hope the three hundred and seventy-six of you affected will enjoy our little murder mystery just as much as you would have enjoyed *Mamma Mia*.

We are particularly excited to present this play because, for the first time in the society's history, we've managed to find a play that fits the society's

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