

# Equus

by Peter Shaffer

## Headgate Theatre Productions

**Directors:** Toby Roberts & Sharon Carter

**Production week:** w/c Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> November

**Rehearsals:** Monday and Wednesday evenings at 7.30pm, with some Sundays (days and times to be agreed, once cast). There will be a readthrough in August, with rehearsals officially commencing from September.

**Introductory Workshop:** Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> May at 2.30pm

Workshop places bookable via

<https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/headgatecommunity/t-gagarn>

**Auditions:** Monday 24<sup>th</sup> or Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> June at 7.30pm

This interpretation of Peter Shaffer's evocative and intense play will take the audience on an immersive and multi-sensory journey. Exploring themes of passion and sexuality, religion, society, loneliness, and personal conflict, the whole cast will be on stage (and visible) for the duration of the performance.

The play follows Alan Dysart, a child psychiatrist, who attempts to treat a young man who has a pathological religious fascination with horses.

Using a mixture of live and pre-recorded sound, backed by a stunning score of music, smells, and a focus on texture - this production of Equus will bring this gripping story to life.

## Casting notes

There are 9 speaking roles and 5 non-speaking roles. **All** cast members will be on stage the entire time, and all involved in creating live sound.

The script requires some nudity from the actors playing Alan and Jill. Whilst this is important to the action, it is not essential and will be discussed with actors cast.

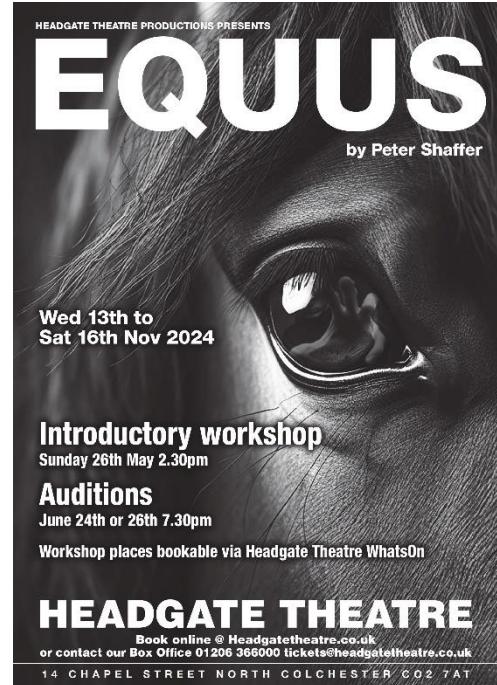
**Martin Dysart** (Psychiatrist); Male. Playing age early 40s to late 50s.

**Alan Strang** (17-year-old boy); Male. We are looking for an actor aged 18 to mid-20s who has a playing age of 17/18.

**Frank Strang** (Alan's father); Male. Playing age mid-40s to late 50s.

**Dora Strang** (Alan's mother); Female. Playing age late 30s to late 40s.

**Hester Salomon** (A magistrate); Female. Playing age 40s.



**Jill Mason** (a young stable girl); Female. We are looking for an actor aged 18 to mid-20s, who has a playing age of 17/18.

**Nurse** (Dysart's nurse); Female. Playing age mid 30s and above.

**Harry Dalton** (The stable owner). Male. Playing age mid 50s+.

**Nugget/The horseman**; This actor plays the part of Alan's favourite horse and also plays the part of the Horseman. The Horseman has a small number of lines and as 'Nugget' is the horse central to Alan's attention. We are looking for a male actor to play this part with a playing age of 20s to early 30s. Ideally, we are looking to cast someone tall and strong.

**The Horses**; Five actors. All ages and genders. Involved in live sound and scene creation. Essential to the action, we are looking for actors/dancers who can depict strong physicality of emotion.