

# **Blithe Spirit**

Comedy by Noel Coward

*Directed by Tom Morrow*

Run dates: May 30-June 2 & June 6-9, 2019

Questions? Contact director at [info@rhplayers.com](mailto:info@rhplayers.com)

A smash comedy hit on London and Broadway stages, this much-revived Noel Coward classic offers up fussy novelist Charles Condomine, re-married but haunted – literally – by the ghost of his late first wife. The clever and insistent Elvira has been called up by a flamboyant and eccentric medium, Madame Arcati, during a seance. In this clash of big personalities (both worldly and un-), Charles must navigate his way between two wives, creating many comical situations to a quite unexpected resolution.

CHARACTERS: 3m, 5f (Please note all ages are flexible. It is more important that the married couples are believable together age-wise.)

CHARLES CONDOMINE – *30's-60*. Charles is charming and intelligent. He is a successful writer and socialite, but is also arrogant and self-absorbed. He was married to Elvira until her death and is now married to Ruth.

RUTH CONDOMINE - *30s-50's*. Ruth is elegant and sophisticated. She's witty and very much Charles' intellectual equal. She can come across as a little bit superior and judgmental and, despite her struggles to hide it, is jealous where her husband's first wife, Elvira, is concerned.

ELVIRA CONDOMINE - *late 20s-early 40's*. Elvira is vivacious, mischievous and flirtatious. She is charming and sociable but also selfish and possessive of Charles. She died laughing.

MADAME ARCATI - *probably 40 or older, but open to younger with the right actor*. Madame Arcati is an eccentric medium and writer. She has true belief in her ability to communicate with the "other side" and has been doing so since she was a little girl. She is sensitive and easily offended when faced with cynicism or mockery but quick to forgive. She has an almost child-like delight in the world.

EDITH - *late teen-20's (but could be older)*. Edith is the Condomines' new maid. She tries hard but is clumsy and has a tendency to rush and fumble. But beneath her disorganized exterior is a depth and focus which the Condomines fail to see.

MRS BRADMAN – *30's plus*. Mrs Bradman is excitable and friendly. She seems superficial and is very much a product of the social circles of her time, but she truly cares about the people in her life and tries to be a good friend to Ruth.

DR BRADMAN – *30's plus*. Steady and respectable, Dr Bradman is the local medical doctor. He has a gentle manner and a sense of thinking far more than he speaks. He cares very deeply for his wife, despite the fact that the two of them are very difficult.