

“NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH”
By Alan Ayckbourn



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PRODUCTION DATES 26th to 28th April and 1st to 5th May, 2018

AUDITIONS – Tuesday 5th December, 2017 at 7.30 p.m.

Brother and sister Martin and Hilda Massie live together, leading a quiet, Christian existence but just as they are preparing for a housewarming gathering, their peace is shattered by a young trespasser in their garden. The Massies' neighbours congregate and together form a neighbourhood watch group to safeguard against further incidents. But after the Massies' beloved garden gnome Monty is thrown through their window, matters swiftly escalate and what begins as a well-intentioned scheme for a safer community, ends in violence and acrimony.

Period: Modern Day
Set: The Living room of a house on a modern housing estate – door flats only and green drapes.
Costumes: Current day
Props: Comfortable furniture (3 seater and 2 seater settees and a chair) with scatter cushions and a coffee table. Crockery (afternoon tea) with tea and canapes. A small (approx. 1 foot) garden gnome and a life size garden gnome statue. Several mobile phones and a small plaster statue of Jesus.
Lighting: Straight forward for the majority of the play (few cues) with camera flashes at the beginning and a bright light off stage (security light), lights to give the impression of flames gentle then dancing (vigorous) and search light towards the end.
Sound: Door bells, breaking glass, fire engine siren (later two fire engine sirens), clarinet playing, a rifle shot, a brass band and applause.

Cast and audition pages

Ages are approximate, there needs to be visible differences in age between the characters.

Martin Massie	A jolly man in his 40s, who laughs at his own jokes giving the appearance of being a bit 'geeky'. Quietly authoritative at first then growing in confidence as the play progresses.	Pgs 29 to 30 (mmm) Pgs 48-49
Hilda Massie	Martin's older sister (40s/50s), who fusses over him. She is overprotective of her younger brother and is constantly quietly scheming against any potential threats.	Pgs 69-72 (I promise) Pgs 94-97 (Wash his feet etc.)
Luther Bradley	A bully in his late 30s, who's having an affair with Amy (Gareth's wife).	Pgs 33-37 (gullible idiot)
Magda Bradley	A kind, nervous character in her 20s, who has an underlying weakness.	Pgs 35-37 Pgs 72-73 (stop them)
Gareth Janner	Awkward character in his 40s, who knows his wife is having an affair and whose confidence grows as the play progresses. He has an unhealthy interest in medieval torture methods.	Pgs 61-62 Pgs 87-88
Amy Janner	Over confident character in her mid 30s, she knows she is attractive and can't help flirting. She is also tactless, constantly 'putting her foot in it' and doesn't appear to care either.	Pgs 56-top of 58 Pgs 82-84
Rod Trusser	Well built, in his 60s, a man who has evidently led an active life and is still in fair condition for his age. A bit of a 'know it all' who over dramatises.	Pg 15-1/2 way down 17
Dorothy Doggett	A widow, also in her 60s who knows everyone's business e.g. the eyes and ears of the Estate.	Pgs 17-20