

CASTING OPPORTUNITY - Casting Workshop

Sunday 31st May 2026 2pm Halifax Playhouse

THE RAILWAY CHILDREN

16th - Sunday 20th December 2026

Directors Chad Bunney & Andrew Naylor

Expressions of interest for the workshop need to be sent by midnight Friday 29th May to casting@halifaxplayhouse.org.uk

The workshop will be in 2 parts - first for the main characters and a second for the other parts.

Mike Kenny's imaginative stage adaptation of E. Nesbit's much-loved children's classic. Famously filmed, this story of a prosperous Edwardian family - mother and three children - forced into near-penury in the rural north of England captures the anxieties and exhilarations of childhood with great tenderness and insight.

As Mike Kenny says of his remarkably faithful adaptation, 'You don't need a real train to perform this play... the most powerful prop is the imagination of the audience, the most effective tool the skill of the actors.' So this version of The Railway Children, which offers three plum roles for young performers, is eminently suitable for schools, youth theatres and drama groups - anywhere, in fact, where the cry of 'Daddy! My Daddy!' is likely to provoke a tear.

Main Cast (Singular Roles)

Roberta (Bobbie) – The eldest & most mature child. Mid to late 20s

Peter – The middle child, and only son. Early to mid 20s

Phyllis (Phyll) – The youngest child. Late teens/early 20s

Mother – The devoted mother for the three children. 40+

Perks – The proud station porter. 40-60

The Old Gentleman – The kind old gentleman who befriends the three kids and helps them throughout the play. 50+

NB The 3 younger parts are playing their younger selves

Supporting Roles (Multi-role)

Cook/Mrs Viney: 30+

Maid/Mrs Perks: 40-60

Butler/Mr Szezcpansky: 30-60, Szezcpansky speaks in French & Russian

Father/Doctor: 40+

District Superintendent/Jim: Any age

Dependent on the number of people who audition, there will also be an opportunity to be involved in an ensemble capacity.