

Auditions: Daughters of Heaven

By Michelanne Forster

Directed by Helen Mackenzie

AUDITIONS will be held on 18 and 19 February at Toi Poneke Arts Centre, Abel Smith Street, Wellington.

Call backs one evening of the following week may be required.

Auditions will be held in small groups at specified times. Audition pieces will be provided prior to the auditions.

Please email auditions@stagecraft.co.nz to book a time or with any questions.

Performance dates: 17 – 27 May 2017.

About the Play:

On June 22, 1954 in a secluded part of Victoria Park in Christchurch, Juliet Hulme and Pauline Parker battered Pauline's mother to death. The infamous murder, also depicted in the 1994 Peter Jackson movie *Heavenly Creatures*, arose from the passionate friendship of the two girls. The story examines both the reactions of conservative 1950s Christchurch confronted with evil and the consuming power of love gone awry.

The play tells the story of how the two girls' obsession with each other drove them to commit a heinous act. With Bridget, the Hulmes' maid, we follow how the girls' friendship blossoms and how the imaginative worlds they create together become their solace. Pauline and Juliet's parents deem their utter devotion to each other as unhealthy and try to separate them, forcing them further into their fantasy world. While the world as they know it starts to crumble, Juliet's family becomes the means to their Hollywood ending and Pauline's mother the only thing standing in their way. The aftermath and its revelations shock the people of Christchurch further while Juliet and Pauline emerge from their fantasy to face the consequences of their actions.

The Characters:

A total of 9 actors are required, with some doubling of roles.

Actor	Character	Description	
Single character roles			
1	Female, age 18-22	Juliet Hulme	15 ½ at the time of the murder. Youthful, manipulative, passionate and enthralling. Looking for a storyteller who can absorb people into their world.
2	Female, age 18-22	Pauline Parker	16 at the time of the murder. Youthful, willing and sickly. Looking for someone with vulnerability and imagination.
3	Female, Age 20-25	Bridget O'Malley	Older than the girls, pious, proper and the gossip of the story. Voice of the people of Christchurch at the time. Preferably able to speak with an Irish accent.
4	Female, Age 40+	Hilda Hulme	Juliet's mother, younger than her husband and Honora. Unhappy with her life, seeks comfort outside her marriage. Will require British accent.
Multiple character roles			

5	Male, Age 50+	Dr Henry Hulme	Rector of Canterbury College, an academic man. Will require British accent.
		Prison Officer	
		Justice Adams	
6	Female, Age 40+	Honora Mary Rieper	Kindly, loves spouse and children, older than Hilda, slightly overbearing .Think Mrs Wheeler in Stanger Things but older.
		Police Matron	
7	Male, Age 50+	Herbert Rieper	Kindly, loves spouse and children
		Terrence Gresson	Counsel for Juliet.
8	Male, Age 30+	Walter Perry	Friend of the Hulmes'. Dapper, well spoken, younger than Dr Hulmes.
		Dr Reginald Medicott	Psychiatrist for the Defence.
9	Male, Age 40+	Alan Brown	Crown Prosecutor.
		Police Detective.	