



## Audition Notice - Female roles

### Ravenscroft

*by Don Nigro*

**Directed by Pauline Davies**

**Venue:** Windsor School of Arts, 381 Lutwyche Rd, Windsor

**Performance dates:** 15, 16, 21, 22, 23, 28, 29 August 2026

**Rehearsals:** Starting Sunday 7 June  
Monday & Thursdays 6:30 - 9:30 pm  
Sundays 1:30 - 5pm

### Audition Details

**Audition date/time:** **Sunday 24th May, 6:30pm**

**Call Backs (if required):** Monday 25th May, 6:30pm

#### Audition Information:

- **Open Auditions** - This is an open audition and no roles have been pre-cast.
- **Check the dates.** If you cannot make any of the performance dates or critical rehearsals, **do not audition.**
- **Complete the Audition Registration Form** to [register your interest](#) with your name, phone number.
- Email a **headshot** and **Acting CV** to the Directors at [production@growltheatre.org.au](mailto:production@growltheatre.org.au)
- **Practice the audition pieces**

**Membership fees:** If you are cast for a role, you will need to become a financial member of Growl Theatre for 2026, which is \$30 per calendar year.



## CHARACTER DESCRIPTIONS

### **Mrs. Ravenscroft, 50-60 years**

Elegant, composed, and seemingly gracious - the lady of the manor. Beneath her refined exterior lies ambiguity. Is she fragile? Manipulative? Haunted? She must command the room without ever appearing to try too hard.

### **Gillian, 18-25 years**

Mrs. Ravenscroft's daughter. Playful, flirtatious, and unpredictable. She delights in teasing Inspector Ruffing and destabilising the room. May appear naïve, but she is sharper than she lets on. Must have the ability to pivot between innocence and menace.

### **Marcy, 25-40 years**

The governess. Intelligent, restrained, and tightly controlled. Carries emotional weight and suppressed tension. She may be the most grounded presence in the house - or the most dangerous

### **Dolly, 20-40 years**

The maid. Talkative, superstitious, and slightly eccentric. Offers moments of comic relief, but never plays as a caricature. Her belief in the supernatural adds texture to the gothic atmosphere.

### **Mrs. French, 50-65 years**

The housekeeper. Stern, protective, and fiercely loyal to the household. Practical and sharp-tongued. Provides resistance to the inspector and strength within the ensemble.

## SYNOPSIS

A body lies at the foot of the stairs in a lonely country manor. Inspector Ruffing is called in to discover the truth, but nothing at Ravenscroft is straightforward. Five women—each with her own secrets, suspicions, and eccentricities—draw the detective into a world of tangled relationships, eerie undercurrents, and darkly comic revelations.

Is Ravenscroft haunted? Is the truth hidden in the walls—or in the hearts of its inhabitants?

Don Nigro's *Ravenscroft* is a witty, gothic mystery with a dry sense of humour, twisting suspense, and a cast of characters who keep both the detective and the audience guessing until the very end.



## Rehearsal Schedule:

*Monday & Thursdays 6:30 - 9:30 pm*  
*Sundays 1:30 - 5pm*

<b>Week 1</b> - Sunday 7 June	Monday 8 June	Thursday 11 June
<b>Week 2</b> - Sunday 14 June	Monday 15 June	Thursday 18 June
<b>Week 3</b> - Sunday 21 June	Monday 22 June	Thursday 25 June
<b>Week 4</b> - Sunday 28 June	Monday 29 June	Thursday 2 July
<b>Week 5</b> - Sunday 5 July	Monday 6 July	Thursday 9 July
<b>Week 6</b> - Sunday 12 July	Monday 13 July	Thursday 16 July
<b>Week 7</b> - Sunday 19 July	Monday 20 July	Thursday 23 July
<b>Week 8</b> - Sunday 26 July	Monday 27 July	Thursday 30 July
<i>Critical Tech rehearsals</i>		
<b>Week 9</b> - Sunday 2 August	Monday 3 August	Thursday 6 August
<i>Dress rehearsals &amp; photography</i>		
<b>Week 10</b> - Sunday 9 August	Monday 10 August	Thursday 13 August

### Performances:

1. Saturday 15 August 7:30pm
2. **Sunday 16 August 2:00pm**
3. Friday 21 August 7:30pm
4. Saturday 22 August 7:30pm
5. **Sunday 23 August 2:00pm**
6. Friday 28 August 7:30pm
7. **Saturday 29 August 2:00pm**
8. Saturday 29 August 7:30pm

*7:30pm evening shows, 2:00pm matinee shows. Call times are 1 hour before the show starts.*

### Bump Out:

Sunday 30 August, 10am

### Audition Side 3 - Inspector Ruffing & Marcy

RUFFING. I'm afraid I'm going to have to ask a few questions.

MARCY. It's begun to snow.

RUFFING. Miss Kleiner? Are you listening?

MARCY. Yes. But not to you. Why are you afraid?

RUFFING. I beg your pardon?

MARCY. You said you were afraid to ask questions.

RUFFING. No, I said I was afraid I'm going to have to ask you—

MARCY. There, you said it again.

RUFFING. That's a polite apology for the inconvenience, not an admission of terror.

MARCY. So you're not afraid to ask questions? You like asking questions?

RUFFING. It's my job to ask questions. That's what police inspectors do.

MARCY. And why is that?

RUFFING. Because we need to find the truth, of course.

MARCY. Why do we need to find the truth?

RUFFING. So that people who commit crimes will be apprehended and punished.

MARCY. And why must they be apprehended and punished?

RUFFING. Miss Kleiner, we're wasting time.

MARCY. So when I ask questions, it's a waste of time, but when you ask questions, it's not?

RUFFING. Your job is not to ask questions, your job is to answer the questions, all right?

MARCY. Is it? Is it all right?

RUFFING. You work as governess here?

MARCY. If you're concerned about wasting time, why do you ask a question to which you already know the answer?

RUFFING. I would take this matter a little more seriously if I were you, Miss Kleiner.

MARCY. Why would you do that?

RUFFING. Because a man is dead.

MARCY. Yes, well, that's fairly serious, that's a rather serious thing, I'll grant you. Yes, Inspector, I work as a governess and companion to Gillian, Miss Ravenscroft.

RUFFING. Can you tell me what happened here?

MARCY. Patrick Roarke attacked me, and I pushed him away. He fell down the staircase and was killed.

## Audition Side 4a - Inspector Ruffing, Mrs Ravenscroft

RUFFING. Did you suspect that Patrick might be misbehaving with the help?

MRS. RAVENSCROFT. He was a charming young man. I expect Dolly had some sort of an infatuation with him, she's an awfully silly girl. But it was nothing serious, I'm certain.

RUFFING. But this was by all accounts a handsome, well-put-together young man in his twenty-ninth year. He must have had some sort of female companionship.

MRS. RAVENSCROFT. Oh, he was quite popular with many of the village girls, I think, but I had no sign from his behavior here that he would ever assault any woman, certainly not in the house. He was too good looking to have to force his attentions. If he had, I'd have hauled him on the carpet.

RUFFING. What happened the night he died?

MRS. RAVENSCROFT. I retired about ten. I read in bed for twenty minutes or so, Byron, I think, or Rossetti, something wicked. Gives me pleasant dreams. Then I put out the light and went to sleep. I drop off right away, it's a gift I've always had, used to infuriate my husband. I was awakened some time later by a commotion in the hall. I put on my dressing gown, went out into the corridor and found Marcy at the top of the stairs, and poor Patrick lying at the bottom like a rag doll. I called for Mrs. French, and went down the steps, but poor Patrick appeared to be quite dead. His neck seemed to be broken. I sent Dolly for the doctor, I'm sure he could verify—

RUFFING. Yes, I've spoken to the doctor. What did Miss Kleiner say to you about what had happened?

MRS. RAVENSCROFT. At first she didn't say anything. She stood there at the top of the steps for the longest time. Then my daughter came out of her room. Marcy tried to keep her from seeing Patrick, but Gillian must have seen him, for she began to be quite upset. She's only seventeen, and it was a very shocking thing to look at—he was twisted grotesquely and staring up—it was horrible. Then Marcy took Gillian back into her room. I left Mrs. French with the body and went back up the steps to see my daughter.

RUFFING. Did you ask Marcy what happened?

MRS. RAVENSCROFT. She said it was an accident.

RUFFING. She mentioned nothing about Patrick assaulting her?

MRS. RAVENSCROFT. Not in front of Gillian. She did later, when she and I were alone.

RUFFING. And what exactly did she say to you?

MRS. RAVENSCROFT. She said Patrick tried to push her into her bedroom, that she'd struggled and run away from him, that he'd caught her at the top of the staircase and in the struggle he lost his balance and fell. I'm afraid that's all I know about it.

RUFFING. Did you believe what she told you?

MRS. RAVENSCROFT. I saw no reason not to. Don't you?

## Audition Side 4b - Inspector Ruffing, Mrs Ravenscroft, Dolly

MRS. RAVENSCROFT. I do hope you haven't upset poor Marcy. She's a frail little thing, and she's had such a terrible experience. Good Lord, look at the snow come down. You're going to have a time of it getting home tonight, Inspector.

RUFFING. Mrs. Ravenscroft, how long has Miss Kleiner been employed by you?

MRS. RAVENSCROFT. Marcy's been here six months.

*(DOLLY moves into the light and looks at them nervously.)*

MRS. RAVENSCROFT. I think it's six months. Is it six months, Dolly?

DOLLY. Yes, mum. I don't know, mum. I think so.

RUFFING. Has her work been satisfactory?

MRS. RAVENSCROFT. I suppose so. What is it, Dolly?

DOLLY. Would you like tea, mum?

MRS. RAVENSCROFT. Tea, Inspector?

RUFFING. No, thank you. Nothing for me.

MRS. RAVENSCROFT. Nothing for us, thank you, Dolly, unless the Inspector would like a little crumpet.

RUFFING. Just satisfactory?

MRS. RAVENSCROFT. No, they're excellent crumpets. Mrs. French makes them.

RUFFING. I was speaking of Miss Kleiner.

MRS. RAVENSCROFT. No, I don't think Marcy makes crumpets. She did make a wonderful hot strudel once. She's Viennese, you know. Dolly, do you recall Marcy's strudel?

DOLLY. Yes, mum. I do. Very sticky.

MRS. RAVENSCROFT. Would you like some strudel, Inspector?

DOLLY. We don't have any strudel, mum.

MRS. RAVENSCROFT. But I'm certain Marcy could whip up her strudel, if the Inspector wants it that badly.

RUFFING. I don't want any strudel, thank you.

MRS. RAVENSCROFT. I appreciate that, Inspector, because, to tell you the truth, in her present state, I couldn't promise you her strudel would come out quite as nicely as it might otherwise. Is there something else you wanted, Dolly?

DOLLY. No, mum.

MRS. RAVENSCROFT. Well, then, don't stand there like a wooden Indian, go and get the crumpets. No, never mind, just ask Marcy if she and Gillian want something.

DOLLY. Yes, mum. Thank you, mum. *(SHE moves out of the light.)*

## Audition Side 5 - Inspector Ruffing, Gillian

RUFFING. Were you fond of Patrick?

GILLIAN. Patrick was very funny. He had a knack for making women happy. He also had a knack for making them unhappy. I suppose the two go together. I mean, the one tends to lead more or less inevitably to the other.

RUFFING. Did he ever make you unhappy?

GILLIAN. Everybody makes you unhappy sometime or other. We were good friends.

RUFFING. Did Patrick also have other good friends in the house? Was he friends with Miss Kleiner?

GILLIAN. He liked her a lot. We all do. We all love Marcy. Except perhaps for Mrs. French and Mother, but it's hard to tell sometimes what Mother loves. She's tricky that way. I think Marcy is the most beautiful woman I've ever seen. Don't you?

RUFFING. Did you hear anything last night, before you came out of your room?

GILLIAN. You don't really want to be my friend, you just want to find things out. I don't think that's very nice. I especially don't think it's nice to use your daughter and your poor dead wife and child to get on my good side.

RUFFING. Now look here, Gillian. You asked me about them and I told you. And I'd be very happy to be

your friend, but a person has died here, and I've got to be certain just what happened.

GILLIAN. Why?

RUFFING. Because that's the law.

GILLIAN. And the law, of course, is a lot more important than a real, living person like me.

RUFFING. Patrick was a living person, too, and now he's dead. The law is there to protect everybody. We need to make sure how it happened so people can't just go around pushing people down stairs when they feel like it. So did you hear anything or didn't you?

GILLIAN. No.

RUFFING. But you must have heard something. Otherwise, why would you come out of your room?

GILLIAN. Well, that makes sense. I suppose I must have heard something, perhaps the sound of Patrick clattering down the steps. It must have made a frightful racket, with his boots and all. He was always polishing his boots, he was quite vain about them. I expect they'll bury him in them. Seems like a waste of good shoe leather to me. I mean, a perfectly good cow died for those boots.

## Audition Side 6 - Inspector Ruffing, Mrs French

RUFFING. How long have you been housekeeper here?

MRS. FRENCH. I was housemaid for Mr. Ravenscroft's parents when I was a girl. I grew up in this house.

RUFFING. How long have you known Mrs. Ravenscroft?

MRS. FRENCH. Since Mr. Ravenscroft brought her from London, eighteen or nineteen years ago.

RUFFING. Where were you when Patrick died?

MRS. FRENCH. In bed. I heard Mrs. Ravenscroft calling me and got up to see what was the matter. My room is back of the kitchen. I went into the front hallway, and there was Patrick at the foot of the steps, just like—

RUFFING. Just like Mr. Ravenscroft?

MRS. FRENCH. I thought at first it was a bad dream, it happening again that way, I just couldn't believe it.

RUFFING. Where was Mrs. Ravenscroft?

MRS. FRENCH. Standing over him, at the foot of the stairs.

RUFFING. What did she say to you?

MRS. FRENCH. She told me to get Dolly to fetch the doctor, and when I'd done that, I stayed with the body and she went up the steps to Miss Gillian, who was very upset.

RUFFING. Where was Marcy during all this?

MRS. FRENCH. At the top of the steps, looking down. She tried to keep Gillian from seeing, and took her back to her room.

RUFFING. Did you ask Mrs. Ravenscroft what had happened?

MRS. FRENCH. No sir. It seemed pretty obvious what happened.

RUFFING. And what's that?

MRS. FRENCH. That he'd fell down the steps and broke his neck.

RUFFING. When did you first hear that Patrick had been pushed down the steps by Marcy?

MRS. FRENCH. Uh—Dolly told me.

RUFFING. How did Dolly know?

MRS. FRENCH. She didn't say.

RUFFING. Didn't you ask her how she knew?

MRS. FRENCH. I don't remember. I don't understand what difference it makes. Marcy admitted she pushed him, didn't she?

RUFFING. Do you believe it happened the way she said?

MRS. FRENCH. I'd rather not comment on that.

## Audition Side 7 - Dolly, Gillian, Mrs Ravenscroft, Inspector Ruffing,

DOLLY. Mrs. French wants to know would anybody like hot chocolate? Now don't start yelling at me because it wasn't my idea but Mrs. French says if everybody is going to be up shouting and screaming at one another all night perhaps somebody would like hot chocolate, and I begged her not to send me in, because I don't like being yelled at all the time, but she made me, so if nobody wants any, I'll just go away. Good night.

GILLIAN. I pushed Patrick down the stairs because I was jealous, because Patrick was sleeping with Dolly.

DOLLY. Pardon?

MRS. RAVENSCROFT. With Dolly?

DOLLY. Pardon?

MRS. RAVENSCROFT. Patrick was sleeping with Dolly?

DOLLY. Who was? It wasn't me, I didn't do anything, I just work here, and nobody wants no hot chocolate so I'm going now.

RUFFING. Stay right there.

GILLIAN. It's true, I was in love with Patrick, and I found out he was sleeping with Dolly, and I was very angry at him, so I pushed him down the stairs.

DOLLY. I want to go home.

MRS. RAVENSCROFT. Oh, shut up, Dolly. You ARE home.

DOLLY. I feel sick. I'm dizzy.

RUFFING. Dolly, listen to me. Gillian has just accused you of sleeping with Patrick. Is she telling the truth or isn't she?

DOLLY. Oh, Miss Ravenscroft is a good girl, Inspector. She'd never lie to a policeman.

RUFFING. Then you admit it?

DOLLY. Admit what?

RUFFING. That you slept with Patrick Roarke?

DOLLY. No sir, never, I swear on my mother's grave.

MRS. RAVENSCROFT. Your mother lives over a pub in Bristol.

DOLLY. I swear on my mother's pub.

RUFFING. Then Gillian is lying.

DOLLY. Oh, no sir.

RUFFING. Well, it can't be both. Which is it?

DOLLY. Which is what?

GILLIAN. Are you calling me a liar, Dolly?

DOLLY. Oh, I'd never do that, Miss, that would be disrespectful. I could lose my job.

RUFFING. Did you sleep with Patrick or didn't you?

DOLLY. I'm going to faint, I'm going to throw up, I'm going to die, I'm shaking all over, I can't stand it, I can't stand it, oh God, I wish I was in France.

## Audition Side 8 - Mrs Ravenscroft, Marcy, Inspector Ruffing

MRS. RAVENSCROFT. In any case, she's no better than the rest of us, the toast of Vienna, there. We all knew he was sleeping with HER.

MARCY. That's a lie.

RUFFING. In other words, in all likelihood, Patrick Roarke was bedding down turn and turn about with every woman in this house.

MARCY. Inspector, what's the point of all this, except to satisfy your own lascivious and morbid curiosity? Are you going to arrest anyone or aren't you?

RUFFING. By all rights I should arrest Gillian. She's confessed, and for want of a better explanation, I suppose I have no choice but to presume she's telling the truth.

MRS. RAVENSCROFT. But she's NOT telling the truth.

RUFFING. How do you know?

MRS. RAVENSCROFT. Well, because—because I saw Marcy do it.

MARCY. That isn't true.

MRS. RAVENSCROFT. Yes, I'm afraid it is.

MARCY. You saw no such thing.

MRS. RAVENSCROFT. I'm sorry, I was trying to protect you, dear, I felt so sorry for you, being a foreigner and all, but the truth will out, you might as well confess, it's all for the best, in the end.

MARCY. You shameless, shameless woman. After all I've gone through to protect your daughter—

MRS. RAVENSCROFT. Be quiet about my daughter.

RUFFING. What about her daughter?