

ABC PLAYERS PLAY PROPOSAL FORM
2026-2027

Play: Angel Street aka Gaslight

Author: Patrick Hamilton

Director: Ivory Mazur

Check Preferred Time(s): Fall December Winter Spring

Cast Requirements: (provide number needed)

 3-4 Men, 3 Women, 0 Boys, 0 Girls, 0 Any

Plot Synopsis:

A 1938 thriller play, set in 1880s London, written by the British novelist and playwright Patrick Hamilton.^[1] Hamilton's play is a dark tale of a marriage based on deceit and trickery, and a husband committed to driving his wife insane in order to steal from her.

The play is set in fog-bound London in 1880, at the upper middle class home of Jack Manningham and his wife Bella. It is late afternoon, a time that Hamilton notes as the time "before the feeble dawn of gaslight and tea."

Bella is clearly on edge, and the stern reproaches of her overbearing husband (who flirts with the servants in front of his wife) make matters worse. What most perturbs Bella is Jack's unexplained disappearances from the house: he will not tell her where he is going, and this increases her anxiety. It becomes clear that Jack is intent on convincing Bella that she is going insane, even to the point of assuring her she is imagining things.

The appearance of a police detective called Rough leads Bella to realise that Jack is responsible for her torment. Rough explains that the apartment above was once occupied by one Alice Barlow, a wealthy woman who was murdered for her jewels. The murderer was never found.

Jack goes to the flat each night to search for the jewels, and lighting the apartment's gas lights causes the lights to dim in the rest of the building. His footsteps in the supposedly empty apartment persuade Bella that she is "hearing things". Rough convinces Bella to assist him in exposing Jack as the murder.

Unusual Technical Aspects (set, costuming, music, lighting, dialect, etc.):

Set- Victorian 1800's interior. The set should be a character in its own

Lighting – onstage dimmable gaslight (bulbs that give that effect)

Costumes – Upper class 1880s clothing and maids outfits

Dialects both proper British and cockney
A lockable secretary desk with drawers

Names/Positions of Committed Staff (Optional):

Ivory Mazur – Director
Scott Manning – Stage Manager

Other Comments: Emotional Realism Required, Suspence Driven

Budget Estimates:

Costumes	\$2,00	Royalties	\$900
Lights	\$1,000	Scripts	\$300
Programs	\$500	Set	\$2000
Props	\$800	Sound Effects/Video	\$200
Publicity	\$600	TOTAL	\$8,400

Characters/Roles:

Bella – 30 – 50 years old
Mr. Manningham – 24-35 years old
Elizabeth – older Maid
Nancy – younger pretty maid
Rough – older police officer
A Police Officer/Muffin Man – 16+