

INTRODUCTION

Monstrous Productions are now casting for their new audio drama, The Lion and the Adder. The Lion and the Adder is a 1920s detective story set in a world where magic is a fact of life. It follows Robin Sylvester, a physicist who specialises in the science of demon summoning, and his psychic valet Evelyn “Bash” Sebastian as they assist D.I. Nicholas Hawthorn in his investigations of arcane crime.

We’re currently looking to fill out our core cast ahead of our crowd-funding campaign in April-May 2026. We intend to make three minisodes to introduce listeners to our main characters and give them a taste of what we have in store for them.

For the minisodes, we are offering **a flat £50** for approximately 10 minutes of total finished audio. For the rest of the season, all roles will be paid at a minimum rate of **£30 an hour** for simultaneous recording, and **£2 per line** of asynchronous recording.

Audition instructions

- The audition deadline is midnight UK time on January 31st. We will not consider any auditions sent after this point
- Save your file as “[YOUR NAME] - [CHARACTER NAME]”, as either an .mp3 or a .wav file, and send it to submissions@monstrousproductions.org
- If you’re auditioning for more than one character, save each audition as a separate recording. Include the names of all the characters you’re auditioning for in the subject line of your email
- Include no more than two reads of each audition piece
- If you’re using an accent other than your natural accent for your interpretation of the character, please also include a read in your natural accent
- Record your audition on the same set-up you intend to use if cast, and send it to us as is, with no compression, noise reduction, etc. However, takes should be edited, clear of flubs and errors
- You must be over 18 to audition

Note for actors with marginalised identities

As multiply marginalised creators, we are determined to make our production as welcoming to marginalised actors as possible. Please don't self-reject - we're excited to hear from you!

Many of our characters have a degree of flexibility around their identities. We will be happy to adapt parts based on feedback from our performers, crafting authentic characters together. For some characters, we've specified certain identities that are important to their role in the story. You can find details under "Notes" in each call.

Finally, you're welcome to let us know about any personal experiences you might feel are relevant. You don't have to disclose anything you don't feel comfortable sharing.

We are also more than happy to make any accessibility accommodations needed for either the audition process or, if cast, recording. If you would like to discuss accommodations, please get in touch with Hero at submissions@monstrousproductions.org.

Nicholas Hawthorn

Pronouns: he/him

Age: 30s

Scottish

Nicholas Hawthorn is a walking pile of contradictions dressed up as a policeman. He is profoundly kind and cares deeply for others, but is rude and dismissive to people whose opinions he's decided don't matter. He's impulsive, making his decisions based on emotion and instinct, but rarely shares his feelings with others. He joined the police because he wanted to protect people, only to become complicit in a criminal justice system that does more harm than good.

As a closeted gay man during a time when homosexuality is illegal, he's isolated from the wider queer community. He's openly supportive of Edwards' career, swimming against the current of general prejudice against women in the police force, and takes almost fatherly pride in her success.

At the same time, as a cis, white man, Nicholas is used to being taken seriously in every room he walks into. He struggles to appreciate what it's like for Edwards and others to lack that respect, and is sometimes blind to his own prejudices and preconceptions.

Nicholas moved to London from a remote village in the northwest of Scotland when he was 18. His accent has softened over the years, but he's still very much Scottish and gets even more so when he's tired, drunk, losing his temper, etc. He lost his hearing in one ear after an injury in the War and suffers from intermittent tinnitus. Physically, he's described by other characters as "a good-looking boy" and "built like a wardrobe".

What we're looking for

We need someone who can bring out the best and the worst of Nicholas's character. We want to hear genuine warmth, intelligence and humour - and also that he is, on occasion, a bit of wanker. In those moments, we don't want our listeners to make excuses for him. We want them to think, "Wow! I love this guy but he is being a total dick right now!"

Notes

- Scottish actors only
- Actors who are deaf, have hearing loss or have tinnitus preferred
- Ability to speak Scottish Gaelic a plus, but not required
- This character is cis, but we welcome auditions from trans and non-binary actors
- This character is white, but we welcome auditions from actors of all races and ethnicities

Payment

£50 for one minisode, approx. 10 mins long

Approx. £1000 for 10 regular episodes in a mix of simultaneous and asynchronous recording

[Click here for audition sides](#)

D.C. Edwards

Pronouns: she/her

Age: 20s

English or Welsh

Detective Constable Edwards was absolutely described by her teachers as “a pleasure to have in class”. She’s hard-working, conscientious, and not so much a stickler for rules as simply someone who assumes that if there’s a law against something, it’s probably for a good reason. If she ever had a USB stick, she’d always eject it before taking it out of her computer.

Despite these distinctly square tendencies, Edwards is no nerdy push-over. She’s confident in her own abilities and comfortable in her skin. Unfortunately, as a woman in the Met - and worse, a *young* woman - she is constantly underestimated. She tries to grit her teeth and concentrate on the job, but beneath her placid exterior is a core of steely determination.

Still, Edwards is very young. She’s got a lot of talent but lacks the experience to back it up. While she’s a world away from being hot-headed, she is desperate to prove herself - a desperation that can sometimes cloud her judgement.

What we’re looking for

We need someone who can bring out Edwards’ youth, energy, and occasional naivety without undermining her competence. We want to be rooting for her even as she makes mistakes. In the few moments where she lets herself be openly vulnerable, we want to hear the real depth of her frustration and anger.

Notes

- This character is British, but their exact background has not been finalised. We’d love to hear a regional accent in this role, but only if it’s natural - don’t push yourself to put on an accent that isn’t your own
- This character is cis, but we welcome auditions from trans and non-binary actors

- This character's race and ethnicity have not been finalised. Actors of colour and actors from marginalised ethnic groups are strongly encouraged to audition

Payment

£50 for one minisode, approx. 10 mins long

Approx. £300 for 9 regular episodes in a mix of simultaneous and asynchronous recording

[Click here for audition sides](#)

Clara Fitzpatrick

Pronouns: she/her

Age: 70s

Irish

Clara is Bash's aunt, and took Bash in when she moved from Ireland to London at the age of 16. Clara is a relatively wealthy, independent older woman with an excellent education. She isn't particularly demonstrative, but she loves Bash deeply and wants the best for her, even if they sometimes disagree on what "the best" is.

What we're looking for

Clara is an upper class Irish woman who has been living in London for several decades. She is precise and proper and leans heavily on social norms and etiquette to guide her through life. We want her to feel silvery, neat and upright, even as she indulges her favourite niece.

Notes

- Irish actors strongly preferred
- This character is white, but we welcome auditions from actors of all races and ethnicities
- This character is cis, but we welcome auditions from trans and non-binary actors
- This role is likely to be combined with at least one other, depending on the performer's versatility. **Please include either a demo reel or some line reads from our [Utility Roles](#) section with your audition.** If cast, you will be paid for all roles

Payment

£50 for one minisode, approx. 10 mins long

Approx. £34 for 9 pages of simultaneous recording

[Click here for audition sides](#)