# Character Breakdown — The Mousetrap

## MOLLIE RALSTON

**Female | Late 20s–30s |**

Mollie is the warm, capable, and determined young co-owner of Monkswell Manor. Recently married to Giles, she has thrown herself into running the newly opened guesthouse. Friendly and attentive to her guests, Mollie wants everything about the manor to be welcoming and respectable.

As the story develops, however, her confidence is tested by the increasingly disturbing events taking place around her.

**Seeking:** An actor with warmth, emotional range, strong listening skills, and the ability to move naturally from comedy and hospitality into suspense and vulnerability.

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## GILES RALSTON

**Male | Late 20s–30s |**

Giles is Mollie's husband and co-owner of Monkswell Manor. He is confident, practical, and protective of Mollie. Compared with his wife, Giles can be more suspicious and quick to judge the unusual people staying at the manor.

His relationship with Mollie is central to the story, and the actor must establish a believable marriage with her.

**Seeking:** A strong, grounded performer with good chemistry with Mollie, emotional range, and the ability to portray suspicion, protectiveness, frustration, and vulnerability.

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## CHRISTOPHER WREN

**Male | 20s–30s |**

Christopher is an eccentric young architect who arrives at Monkswell Manor as one of the first guests. Energetic, imaginative, unconventional, and sometimes socially inappropriate, Christopher is fascinated by the people and surroundings around him.

He has a playful and theatrical quality but should not simply be played as a caricature. Beneath his eccentric behavior is a more complicated and vulnerable character.

**Seeking:** A performer with excellent comic timing, strong physicality, spontaneity, and the ability to shift convincingly between comedy and serious dramatic moments.

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## MRS. BOYLE

**Female | 50s–70s |**

Mrs. Boyle is a formidable, outspoken, and highly critical woman who has recently arrived at Monkswell Manor. She is accustomed to expressing her opinions and has very little patience for anything she considers inadequate or poorly managed.

She can be intimidating, judgmental, and difficult to please, but she should also be entertaining rather than simply unpleasant.

**Seeking:** A confident actor with strong stage presence, excellent diction, sharp comic timing, and the ability to command a room. The role benefits from an actor who is comfortable playing an unapologetically difficult character.

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## MAJOR METCALF

**Male | 40s–60s |**

Major Metcalf is a retired military officer and one of the guests at Monkswell Manor. Polite, reserved, practical, and gentlemanly, he brings a sense of stability to an increasingly uncomfortable household.

His military background gives him an air of discipline and authority, but he is not a caricature of a military man.

**Seeking:** A mature performer with quiet authority, strong stage presence, excellent listening skills, and the ability to convey intelligence and restraint.

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## MISS CASEWELL

**Female | 20s–40s |**

Miss Casewell is a reserved, independent, and somewhat mysterious young woman staying at Monkswell Manor. She is direct and self-possessed and appears to have little interest in revealing personal information about herself.

Much of the character's appeal comes from what she **doesn't** say.

**Seeking:** A subtle performer who can communicate character through facial expressions, reactions, physical presence, and controlled delivery. The actor should be comfortable playing someone guarded and difficult to read.

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## MR./MS. PARAVICINI

**Any Gender | Adult | Major Supporting Role**

Paravicini is an unexpected and highly unusual guest who arrives at Monkswell Manor during a snowstorm. Charming, theatrical, mysterious, and occasionally unsettling, Paravicini immediately makes an impression on the other guests.

The character has an air of sophistication and enjoys keeping people guessing. Paravicini should be intriguing rather than simply sinister.

### This role is open to actors of any gender.

A male actor may portray Paravicini as an elegant and somewhat flamboyant European gentleman.

A female actor may portray Paravicini as an elegant, mysterious European woman while retaining the character's charm, theatricality, unpredictability, and unusual personality.

**Seeking:** A charismatic performer with excellent comic timing, strong physical presence, confidence, and the ability to make the audience wonder exactly what lies beneath the character's outward charm.

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## DETECTIVE SERGEANT TROTTER

**Male | 20s–40s |**

Detective Sergeant Trotter is a young police detective who arrives at Monkswell Manor to investigate a serious situation. Intelligent, energetic, observant, and persistent, Trotter quickly takes control of the household and begins questioning the guests.

He must be believable as an experienced investigator while also maintaining the uncertainty and tension that drive the second half of the play.

**Seeking:** A confident performer with strong vocal projection, authority, excellent listening skills, and the ability to carry intense interrogation scenes. The actor should be comfortable controlling an ensemble and sustaining dramatic tension.