**CHARACTERS**

**Cast Overview**

All characters will require a strong Barnsley Yorkshire accent, almost to the point of caricature. Some of the drama and comedy is going to come from the rawness of the characters and accents. Think about the focal points of your character, imagine this happening in the 70’s in a very deprived area, where mining is everything, living standards are low and money is short.

Kes will be represented using lighting and/or Billy’s imagination/presence

**8 x Adult Male (could be combined to 4/5)**

**5 x Adult Female (could be combined to 3)**

**10 x Boys (could be combined to 5 or use girls-except in gym scene)**

**1 x Girl**

**Billy Casper – p53-55 / p63-65 / p76-78**

Boy – Circa 15years, flexible - Ideally smaller and weaker than the other children. A very downtrodden and tormented working-class boy, a typical Knave(thief, liar, cheeky), a dirty child pariah picked on by everyone, family, fellow pupils, teachers. He finds it very hard to fit in or express himself, he can be very sombre, but also defensive when pushed. However, he finds his love for Kes and her training gives him back passion and belief that there is more to life. Must be able to display a very obvious difference between the every day downtrodden almost depressed Billy and the enthused, passionate, joyous Billy when with or talking about Kes.

Billy will be a huge commitment, he is the focal point of the show and is permanently on stage. You will be required to learn how to use a Kestrel training Lure (videos on youtube). But not until you are in the role after auditions.

**Jud Casper – Billy’s Half Brother – p41-44 / p76-78**

Young Adult Male – 20’s+ - A miner, confident, aggressive, bullying elder brother, is very physical towards Billy, varying in degrees of strength. He is a drinker and a gambler who likes a good night out with his mates down the club, believes he’s a big hit with the ladies

**Mr Farthing – Billy’s English Teacher** (could be combined) **p58-59 / p63-66**

Adult Male 30-50 – Very nurturing. The most humane thoughtful teacher at the school, believes in supporting and enthusing the children. Finding their passions and getting them to think about where their opportunities could be outside of the expected route of the mine. His class respect him, his empathising with the cane’d kids suggest he disapproves of physical punishment.

He can have a joke with the class but is firm when required. He is open to different ways of encouraging his pupils to learn, using their own experiences. When Anderson gives his important tadpole speech, he doesn’t care about grammar, he wants to hear passion, content and story. Similarly with Billy getting him to explain his knowledge about Kestrels and he is genuinely interested.

**Mrs Casper – Billy’s Mother** (could be combined) – **p16-18 / p76-78**

Adult Female 40-50 – Flexible depending on characterisation

Shows very little love towards Billy, is more interested in her ‘Gentlemen friends’. Uses Billy as an errand boy rather than loved as her child. Cowardly and won’t stand up to Jud. Spends more time getting herself ready for going out to the pub than focusing on Billy or ensuring he is fed.

**Mr Sugden – Billy’s PE Teacher** (could be combined) – **p54-56**

Adult Male 30-50 – A comical caricature figure again, football obsessed, doesn’t get why people would be interested in books or general education over football. Quite simply a loud mouthed bully, but a figure of ridicule for the kids as he is unfit and a cheat.

**Mr Crossley** – Form Teacher (could be combined) – **p18-20**

Adult Male/Female 30+

No specific characterisation required for the role, but would like to see a strong one brought to it, give a clear difference to the other roles. Think about strong character types from the 70’s. Again, don’t be afraid to go caricature, stereotype

**Mr Gryce** – Headmaster (could be combined) – **p26-28**

Adult Male 40+ – Old fashioned authoritarian headmaster. Can be vindictive and indiscriminate. In his years of having seen and experienced everything he no longer listens, has no time for what pupils have to say, much to the detriment of the innocent messenger boy.

He does not see his role as inspiring or caring for his young pupils, he sees his role as keeping them in line and enforcing the rules, a very authoritarian approach, not kind and nurturing.

**Mr Porter** – Shopkeeper (could be combined-M/F) – **p12-14**

Adult Male 30+ – Puts on a strong front with Billy to keep him in line, but is a kind person underneath with a soft spot for Billy, he looks out for him in his own way. A jovial but stern soul.

**Farmer** (could be combined) – **p37-3**

Adult Male 30+ – Short-tempered but kind. Frustrated with people trespassing on his land, but sees a different side in Billy’s knowledge and passion.

**Employment Officer** (could be combined-M/F) – **p72-74**

Adult Female 30+ – Uninterested, frustrated, no real time or interest in the kids, hears the same thing from all of them and is just going through the motions

**Mrs Rose** – Betting Shop cashier & cleaner (could be combined-M/F) - **p75**

Adult Female 30+ – A caring but strict motherly type, takes no sh\*t from anyone

**BETTING SHOP MAN** / could be combined - **p62-63**

Adult Male 40+ – Another that can be a comical caricature figure, a stereotypical older man who spends his whole day in the bookies

**Librarian** / could be combined - **p38-41**

Adult Female 30+ – A nice enough lady, but just does her job, loves books, stickler for the rules

**Mrs Macdowall (MacDowalls mum)** / could be combined - **p36**

Adult Female 40+ – Another stereotypical, authoritarian 70’s mum, very short with Billy

**PUPILS**

**Delamore – p24-26**

Boy – Circa 15years, flexible. The closest thing Billy has to a friend, a more gentle soul, cheeky chappy

**MacDowall – p56-58**

Boy – Circa 15years, flexible. Billy’s main Nemesis, a Bully that always picks on Billy

**Anderson – p30-31**

Boy – Circa 15years, flexible. Also a friend of Billy’s, the cool one

**Tibbut – p51-52**

Boy – Circa 15years, flexible. Also a friend of Billy’s, the funny one

**Gibbs** / could be combined **– p51-52 (Tibbut)**

Boy/Girl – Circa 15years, flexible.

**Whitbread** / could be combined **– p51-52 (Tibbut)**

Boy/Girl – Circa 15years, flexible.

**Allen** / could be combined **– p51-52 (Tibbut)**

Boy/Girl – Circa 15years, flexible.

**Martin** / could be combined **– p51-52 (Tibbut)**

Boy/Girl – Circa 15years, flexible.

**Messenger Boy** / could be combined **– p25 (p51-52 -Tibbut)**

Boy/Girl – Circa 15years, flexible.

**Girl –** Prefect **– p21-22**

Girl – Circa 15years, flexible. Shy and geeky, studious, intelligent.

**ACT 1**

**Scene 1 – Casper House**

BILLY, JUD, MRS CASPER

**Scene 1a - Journey to school / The Street**

BILLY, MINERS, MILKMEN, BUTCHER, CLEANER ETC..(don’t double except Milkman)

**Scene 1b - Paper Shop**

BILLY, MR POTTER, MAN IN SHOP

**Scene 1c – The Street/Milkman**

BILLY, MINERS, MILKMEN, BUTCHER, CLEANER ETC.. (don’t double except Milkman)

**Scene 1d - Casper House**

BILLY, MRS CASPER

**Scene 2 – School Assembly**

BILLY, MR CROSSLEY, MR SUGDEN, MR GRYCE, ALL PUPILS

**Scene 3 – Outside Mr Gryce’s Office**

BILLY, MACDOWELL, DELAMORE, TIBBUT, ANDERSON, MESSENGER, MR GRYCE

**Scene 4 – English Class**

BILLY, MACDOWELL, DELAMORE, TIBBUT, ANDERSON, OTHER PUPILS, MR FARTHING

**Scene 5 – Yr Earlier Flashback– MacDowalls House**

BILLY, MRS MACDOWELL

**Scene 5a – Monastery Wall**

BILLY

**Scene 6 – Flashback – Library**

BILLY, LIBRARIAN

**Scene 7 – Flashback Billys House Evening (Book)**

BILLY, JUD, MRS CASPER

**Scene 8 – Flashback Billys House Night (Drunk Jud)**

BILLY, JUD

**Scene 8a – Flashback Monastery Wall**

BILLY, JUD

**ACT 2**

**Scene 9 – Gym Showers after Football Match**

BILLY, MR SUGDEN, ALL PUPILS

**Scene 10 – Playground**

BILLY, ALL PUPILS, MR FARTHING

**Scene 11 – Betting Shop**

BILLY, MRS ROSE(cleaner), BETTING SHOP MAN

**Scene 12 – Field (Kes & Mr Farthing)**

BILLY / MR FARTHING

**Scene 13 – School Corridor (Jud) and Butcher(Kes) - Dual Scene**

BILLY / MR BEAL - JUD / ALL PUPILS

**Scene 14 – School Corridor**

BILLY, MACDOWELL, DELAMORE, TIBBUT, ANDERSON, MR GRYCE, YOUTH EMPLOMENT OFFICER

**Scene 15 – Field (calling kes)**

BILLY

**Scene 16 – Betting Shop**

BILLY, MRS ROSE

**Scene 17 – Field (calling kes)**

BILLY

**Scene 18 – Casper House (Bird from bin)**

BILLY, JUD, MRS CASPER

**Scene 19 – Cinema**

BILLY