

“CASTING THE RUNES”

Based on the classic ghost story by M.R. James, “Casting The Runes” tells the story of Edward Dunning, an academic researcher who reviews then declines a manuscript on the Truth of Alchemy... and is then threatened by strange forces. Could the enigmatic Mr. Karswell be behind these supernatural goings-on? Did Karswell cause the death of another academic who criticised his work? And can Edward work out how to put an end to this before his three months are up?

Broadcast date: Thursday, 22nd October 2020

Rehearsals: Once weekly from w/c 28/09/2020, to be arranged

CAST LIST

Narrator (M/F) – To open and close the broadcast. Small role.

Mr. Charles Gayton (M) – Secretary of the Burnstow Association who has to deal with Karswell’s letters; friends with Edward Dunning, and puts him in touch with Henrietta. Medium role.

Mrs. Florence Gayton (F) – Charles’ wife, an inquisitive (some may say nosy) woman. Medium role.

Mr. Bennett (M) – Charles’s friend and colleague who lives very close to Karswell and knows something of the mysterious man’s activities. Medium role.

Mrs. Margaret Bennett (F) – Bennett’s wife and not a fan of Mr. Karswell – she tells the story of Karswell’s magic lantern tricks. Medium role.

Manfred Karswell (M) – A mysterious alchemist and practitioner of dark arts, his vendetta against John Harrington (and, later, Edward Dunning) drives the story. Small role, but an important one.

British Museum Assistant (M/F) – Assistant at the British Museum’s Manuscript Room, who has contact with both Karswell and Dunning. Small role.

Edward Dunning (M) – Researcher who declines Karswell’s manuscript on behalf of the Association and becomes a target for supernatural goings-on. Seemingly done at Karswell’s behest. Large role.

George (M) – Tram conductor, friends with the driver (William). He sees the strange advertisement on the tram window. Small role.

William (M) – Train driver, friends with the conductor (George). He also sees the strange advertisement on the tram window. Small role.

Rose (F) – Edward Dunning’s housemaid. Small role.

Dr. Wilson (M/F) – Physician and friend of Edward Dunning, who informs him of his house staff’s indisposition. Small role.

Henrietta Harrington (F) – John’s sister, who is convinced that her brother’s death was the result of Karswell’s machinations. Large role.

John Harrington (M) – Henrietta’s brother, an academic, potentially Karswell’s first victim. Small role.

Train Porter (M/F) – Porter on the Dover train, who gets on at Crewe. Very small role.

Ferry Official (M/F) – Official who checks Karswell in on the Dover ferry. Very small role.

Ferry Official's Subordinate (M/F) – Also at the Dover ferry. Very small role.

*Depending on number of auditionees etc., some of the smaller roles may be played by the same actor
– this is TBC*