

MOTHER AND SON - CHARACTER DESCRIPTIONS

PRINCIPAL ROLES

MAGGIE BEARE: The mother, aged 60+ (12 SCENES, >500 LINES)

Maggie is in the early stages of dementia and her younger son Arthur lives with and takes care of her. However, despite being increasingly forgetful, Maggie is lucid enough to manipulate Arthur when she wants to, usually for something devilish that will seriously inconvenience him. Maggie is a widow, mother of Robert and Arthur, and grandmother to Bronte and Jarrod.

ARTHUR BEARE: The younger son, aged 20-40 (13 SCENES, >500 LINES)

Sensitive but frustrated put-upon youngest son of Maggie, recently divorced Arthur is a newspaper editor and journalist. He has little social life and cannot seem to get ahead, stuck at home attending to the demands of his impish and increasingly confused mother, who is always thwarting him whenever he attempts to socialize or enjoy himself. Arthur is the brother of Robert, uncle to Bronte and Jarrod.

ROBERT BEARE: The older son, aged 30-50 (7 SCENES, >200 LINES)

Arthur's selfish and scheming older brother, Maggie's favourite, Robert is an unfaithful husband to Liz and father of Bronte and Jarrod. He is a successful dentist who in his mother's eyes can do no wrong, although he wants to put her in a home. He is a 'man of leisure' who has many secrets and is adept at providing excuses as to why it is Arthur and not he who must take the primary care of their elderly mother.

LIZ BEARE: Robert's wife, aged 25-45 (4 SCENES, >100 LINES)

Snobby Liz is the wife of Robert, mother to Bronte and Jarrod. She is well aware of her husband's affairs but compensates by spending Robert's money and socialising with her equally rich, bored and unhappy friends. Like her husband, wannabe socialite Liz is just as uncaring to Maggie and eager to put her in a nursing home. She is the type of character audiences love to hate.

ANITA: Arthur's girlfriend, aged 20-40 (5 SCENES, >100 LINES)

Arthur's quirky new girlfriend, she is looking forward to spending time alone with Arthur away from his mother and her brother, both of whom need care. She is likeable, friendly and easy going; the laid-back yang to Arthur's uptight yin. Although his family don't usually bond with Arthur's companions, they quickly become fond of Anita, in spite of themselves.

MINOR ROLES:

Monica: Feisty nursing home or hostel resident, aged 60+ (1 SCENE, >30 LINES)

Steve: Kind aged Care Assessor, any age (1 SCENE, >20 LINES)

*Bronte: Robert and Liz's bratty daughter, aged 10-15 (3 SCENES, >25 LINES)

*Jarrod: Robert and Liz's rude son, aged 10-15 (4 SCENES, >25 LINES)

Male Voice Call Centre Operator, any age, may have accent (5 SCENES, >20 LINES)

*Other voices Various phone messages. (3 SCENES, 3 LINES)

(*These roles may possibly be pre-recorded and/or projected as Skype call video segments)