

CB Goodman

Fundamentals of Acting

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Name: Ashlyn Zunker

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Character Analysis for *One Man Two Guvnors*

Character (name): Stanley

Bibliographic Information:

Author- Richard Bean is an English playwright born in 1956 in the United Kingdom. His career started in 1989 when he was working as a comedian. He later went on to be one of the main writers and performers in the famous BBC Sketch *Control Group six*, which was later nominated for a Writers Guild Award. His very first published play was in 1996, *Of Rats and Men*, which was performed at London's Canal Cafe Theatre. Until eventually making its way all the way into Scotland for the Edinburgh Film Festival! As well as the BBC Radio and being nominated for a Sony Award. In total, he has 27 published plays, the most recent being, *Jack Absolute Flies Again (2020.)* He had published 18 plays before he came out with *One Man Two Guvnors* in 2011. He has won 8 awards in total, those being; Pearson Award 2002: Best New Play: *Honeymoon Suite*. George Devine Award 2002: Best New Play: *Under the Whaleback*. Olivier Awards 2005: Best New Play nomination for *Harvest*. Evening Standard Awards 2005: Best New Play nomination for *Harvest*. Critics' Circle Theatre Awards 2005: Best New Play: *Harvest*. TMA Awards 2006: Best New Play nomination for *Up on Roof*. He was the very first writer to ever win the Evening Standard Awards with two plays at once in 2011 for Best New Play *The Heretic* and *One Man, Two Guvnors*. Critics' Circle Theatre Awards 2011: Best New Play *One Man, Two Guvnors*. He is currently producing his *Jack Absolute Flies Again* which was co-written by Oliver Chris with the National Theatre Company. He is also currently working on his first film, *The Duke*, which is co-written by Clive Coleman with the Pathe Company. He is mostly known for writing comedies.

History of Play- This play has two layers of history. The first is the history of the actual play *One Man, Two Guvnors* by Richard Bean, and the second is the history of *The Servant of Two Masters* by Carlo Goldoni which this play has been based on. Another very important piece of history to look at is the history of commedia dell'arte and the role it played in the creation of these plays. The original play, *The Servant of Two Masters*, was based in an Italian setting. It was requested by Antonio Sacco who was known for being one of the best Harlequins in history. The two plays have almost identical plots and characters, however, when the Richard Bean rendition came into the light it was adapted to fit the slightly more modern time of 1963 and was based in Britton, instead of Italy. It opened in 2011 at the Royal National Theatre, it then toured throughout the UK before coming to America and opening on Broadway in April of 2012. The second tour went all over to the UK, Hong Kong, Australia, and New Zealand. It was directed by Nicholas Hytner and physical comedy associate director Cal McCrystal. The original production also had starring actor James Corden's play, Francis Henshall! This was the role that brought him big fame in America and launched his whole career. The production received four nominations for the Outer Critics Circle Award: Outstanding New Broadway Play, Nicholas Hytner (Outstanding Director of a Play), James Corden (Outstanding Actor in a Play), and Tom

Edden (Outstanding Featured Actor in a Play). Tom Edden went on to win the Outer Critics Circle Award. Later in 2012 many of the actors were nominated and won Tony, Drama Desk, and Drama League Awards. Now everything in this play is based on the old Italian acting style called commedia dell'arte which became very popular from the 16th-18 century, although it is still very relevant today and can be found across all different genres. The commedia dell'arte was a form of popular theatre that emphasized ensemble acting; its improvisations were set in a firm framework of masks and stock situations. It consisted in having a set line of characters, who often came with a mask. But each of the characters came with a very specific level of mannerism that fit their planned characteristics. For example, Stanley from *One Man Two Guvvners* is based directly on the Commedia character El Capitano. He is a self-proclaimed macho man who always carries himself with great braggart and swagger. He goes to great lengths to impress others and make himself seem like the toughest man around when in reality he would do anything to avoid a real confrontation. He is often compared to a hedgehog, with spiked armor but a soft belly who tucks upon himself at the first sign of danger. All of these characters are carefully thought out and clearly represented in *One Man, Two Guvvners*.

Time Period of Play- The original concept came into play during the Italian Renaissance, during its time it spread throughout Europe where it was most loved in France, and eventually made its way to England. Richard Bean had his adaptation based in 1963, despite being produced in 2011. In England 1963 there were many things going on. The most important event obviously was the rise of The Beatles. The political parties at the time had major changes in leadership with the death of Hugh Gaitskell, although the longest-reigning monarch Elizabeth II also still held her place on the throne. Although part of the world had its eyes turned to the Vietnam war the UK was not a part of it. With a crash in the railroad network over 68,000 jobs were lost. Nuclear weapons were being tested. Pauline Reade, a sweet innocent 16-year-old girl becomes the first victim of the Moors Murders. Tension was high with many countries developing their own version of nuclear weapons. People began to panic and lose trust in each other. Mafia families grew as crime increased while the government was turned. This continued until the nuclear test ban treaty was signed between the UK, the United States, and the Soviet Union. A new way of music was on the rise as The Beatles hit number one on the charts.

Synopsis of Play- In this play we follow the young plump lad Francis Henshall as he finds himself accidentally secretly employed by two different governors. One is Rachel who is disguised as her dead twin brother in order to coax money out of his "nearly" father-in-law. And the other the lover of his first employer a man by the name of Stanley Stubbers. Francis tries to maintain order and secrecy but things are not in his favor. The father in law being Charlie The Duck has made arrangements for Rachel's brother to marry his daughter, Pauline, despite the fact that she is overwhelmingly in love with Alan. We follow poor hopeless Francis around while he tries to pursue his two loves; food and women.

Given Circumstances: Francis is a English man from Essex. He is young but not very educated. He was originally hired by Rachel Crabbe who was pretending to be her late brother Roscao. He is very mischievous and always seems to get himself in and back out of troubling situations. He is greeting driven by his two main loves, food and sex. He is a clumsy big boned lad but doesn't let that get in the way of him laying on the charm. He has little money but also cares very little about and doesn't seem to understand how it works. When he enters the play he is wearing a suit that is too short and too tight, therefore we are lead to believe he has had it for a long time and has definitely outgrown it, probably because the only thing he would spend money on is food.

Relationship to other characters-

Stanley Stubbers- Devoted servant,

Rachel Crabbe- Devoted Servant

Charlie Clench- Servant of his daughters fake ex fiance

Pauline Clench- Servant of her fake ex fiance

Alan Dangle- Servant of his loves fake ex fiance

Harry Dangle- Servant to his sons lovers fake ex fiance

Lloyd Boateng- Servant of his old employer

Dolly- Love interest, she flirts with him and finds him charming

Alfie- Coworker, old and hard to work with

Gareth- Coworker

Character's Through-Action (*this if for the entire play; also known as the **spine**; for help refer to pages 33-38 in A Practical Handbook for the Actor*):

Literal: Francis literally just wants to have food and women.

Ultimate Goal/Through-Action: I want to be able to live in peace with a full tummy.

Principal obstacle: Having to work in secret for two different masters.