

CHARACTERS *STREETS APART*

MALE

Tom. 18/early 20's. He has had a difficult childhood with a violent father and a critical and cruel Mother. His girlfriend is Susan. He is fragile lad but feels very protective towards her. He tries to be a man and to look after her but is incapable. He is sensitive and insecure fearing that he and Susan will be separated. They live in a tent and are constantly hungry and cold. They beg on the streets. He had substance addiction as a young teenager. He is a troubled lad with considerable issues and is poorly educated.

Mick. Can play 39- 45. He is an ex Plumber who broke his back and became addicted to Opiates during his illness. He is now addicted to Class A drugs but is in denial that he is an addict. He lost his home and his wife through depression and drug use. He is a loner and lives on an old boat with no engine or running water. He has anger issues and is prone to outbursts.

Neil. Can play late 40's. He is ex Army. He suffers from PTSD and has violent flashbacks. He lost his home and his wife due to his issues and alcohol dependency. He has children that he never sees due to the family breakdown. He lives in a Hostel which is unsuitable. He is well read and highly literate. He is world weary but a wise and observing man and identifies the problems of others. He helped Diane in the past and supported her in her own addiction recovery.

Barry. Can play 50/60's. He is a Guitar teacher and musician. He has also experienced homelessness when his marriage broke down. He needs to be able to play guitar.

Eddie. Can play 20/30. He is a song writer and musician. He also writes poetry. (no skills req) He and Barry are close friends as Barry was friends with his Mother and she put him up for a short while in their home. He is a quiet man, sensitive and caring.

Greg. Can play 40 - 45. He is a Volunteer at the Day Centre and is a recovering addict. He has also been homeless in the past and is caring and protective of the homeless people he helps. Has an allotment. He is an ex Website Developer. He fell by the wayside when he lost his home and family due to his depression and addiction and his business folding. He has two children that he never sees.

FEMALE

Anna. Can play any age over 40. She is the Manager of the Drop In Centre. She is kind, warm, supportive and motherly. She has had a difficult past and has alcohol dependency. By helping others it also helps her with her own issues.

Diane. Can play late 40's. She is an ex Teacher. She was sacked due to a pupil accusation which lead to depression and drug dependency. She lost her home and ended up on the streets. She went through recovery with the help of Neil. As she is new at the Day Centre she is initially guarded about her past as she is ashamed. But her reason for volunteering is that she understands only too clearly what life is like on the streets. She is reserved as she needs to learn and be accepted but she will quickly develop confidence and find her role.

Carol 20's. She is a close friend and protector of Susan. She has experienced child abuse and spent her childhood and teenage years in the care system. It has left her with anger issues. She is feisty but inwardly vulnerable. Poorly educated and sees no hope for her future. She is also using drugs to help alleviate the anxiety. (Not Class A). She lost a baby alone 14 years due to rape. It is suspected that it was an employee in the care home.

Susan 18-20. She is Tom's girlfriend. She has experienced incest and abuse issues. She is fragile, scared, vulnerable and leans on Tom for her survival. She is innocent and sweet. She suffers from anxiety.

Sandra Can play 45 +. She is a member of the public. She sees that the rough sleepers and homeless need help but wants to understand why they are homeless and how she can best help. She befriends Mick. She starts to go out on the streets at night to offer her support. We don't know her reasons for befriending Mick initially until it is revealed that her own son is an addict and she has lost touch with him. Helping Mick is her cathartic way of her coping.

Edna. Can play 70/80. A slightly eccentric, dodderly old lady who is the comic element.

Ensemble. Any number of actors, any age, female and male. These characters can be our cast masked or additional company. They play the negating public and street sleepers.