

## PRODUCTION NOTES

### CASTING

Nearly all of the roles are gender-specific: the female characters cannot be changed to male characters, and vice versa. The only possible exception is Mr. Alexander Lockwood, who could theoretically be portrayed instead as Mrs. Alexandra Lockwood. Although female lawyers were not common in the early twentieth century, at that time there were indeed practicing attorneys who were women. Of course, Lockwood was designed as a male role, but it could be acted by a female cast member if necessary.

Because of the nature of the plot and characters, doubling is not possible.

### COSTUMING

All characters are dressed in early twentieth-century fashion, the styles of the late Victorian era. Lockwood and the Paternosters — cultured, educated businessmen — are sharply dressed in suits. Costumes can include waistcoats, bowler hats or top hats, high collars, neckties, pocket watches, and so on; or, fairly simple suits will suffice. The outfits of the three Paternoster brothers should be identical or coordinating in some clear way. Morris is dressed in the same basic style, though he would have cheaper clothes than the Paternosters and Lockwood. Unlike the others, Nicodemus and Bob are working-class, meaning they would wear simple button-up shirts without waistcoats or suit jackets, flat caps instead of fine hats, suspenders, neckerchiefs, etc.

Charlotte and her students wear long, elegant outfits proper to the time period. Pinafores (for the younger girls), shirtwaists, and trumpet-skirts are appropriate, as are high collars, long or elbow-length sleeves, ruffles, lace, and embroidery. The younger girls can wear knee-length dresses or skirts, but for the older girls and Charlotte hems are ankle- or floor-length.

Hair should be arranged in late-Victorian style. Men's hair should be short, neatly combed, and perhaps parted in the middle. Many men of the time period also had mustaches. The Paternosters' hairstyles should be identical if possible. Nicodemus and Bob have short but ungroomed hair.

For Charlotte and the older girls, hair is full and wavy, gathered up on the top or back of the head. The younger girls wear their hair curled and tied with ribbons.

### ONSTAGE PROPS

Scene One: Table, three chairs

Scene Two: Sofa, two armchairs, side table, desk (with papers, writing implements, clock), chair

Scene Three: Same as Scene Two

Scene Four: Bench, three suitcases

Scene Five: Wicker chairs and table, ivy-covered trellis

Scene Six: Same as Scene Five, plus clothes drying on a clothesline

Scene Seven: Same as Scene Five, plus a tray of tea things

Scene Eight: Same as Scene Two

Scene Nine: Same as in Scene Two, plus a pile of clothes on the sofa

Scene Ten: Same as Scene Two

#### PROPS BROUGHT ONSTAGE

Scene One: Papers (Morris)

Scene Two: Book (Ada)

Scene Three: Books or needlework (Eleanor, Ada, Lois)

Scene Four: Three newspapers (Jay, Chester, Felix), letter and appointment book (Lockwood)

Scene Five: Books (Lois, Harriet, Flora), note (Charlotte)

Scene Six: Hat and book (Charlotte)

Scene Seven: Letter (Charlotte)

Scene Eight: Book (Felix), afghans (Penny, Jemima), letter (Morris), tea tray (Penny), cookies (Felix)

Scene Nine: Dirty clothes (Jay, Chester, Felix), letter (Morris)

Scene Ten: Letter (Lockwood), letter (Jay)

#### SOUND EFFECTS

Scene Four: Train whistle

Scene Nine: Footsteps