

A CHORUS OF DISAPPROVAL – Content Warning

This sheet is for anyone who would like to have a greater understanding of any sensitive content prior to seeing the show, therefore **please be aware that if you read on, there will be significant spoilers.**

A Chorus of Disapproval has an age guidance of 14+, and contains mentions of death, strong language, sexual references, scenes involving smoking, and violence.

PLOT SUMMARY

Act One:

A Chorus Of Disapproval is set in the 1980s, opens with a seemingly triumphant performance of *The Beggar's Opera* with Guy Jones as the lead, Macheath. After the show, we flashback to when newcomer Guy first auditioned, and we see his first encounter with Dafydd ap Llewellyn, the Welsh director of Pendon Amateur Light Operatic Society (PALOS). Having successfully auditioned, Guy is introduced to the rest of PALOS.

Guy meets Dafydd's wife Hannah at their house, and reveals he works for a multinational company in Pendon and is a recent widower. Hannah unexpectedly starts to open up to Guy, revealing that her husband Dafydd is largely absent. Within Guy's time at their home, Dafydd gives Guy the small of Crook Finger'd Jack. He also mentions that the company Guy works for is interested in expanding onto land owned by one of Dafydd's clients. Guy is unaware of the plan, but says he'll listen out for any news.

At the next rehearsal, Linda (a member of PALOS) finds out that her boyfriend Crispin is sleeping with Stage Manager Bridget, and this is where the sexual politics of PALOS starts to come into focus. Ian, another member, invites Guy to visit him and his partner Fay one evening. Asked to bring a friend, Guy is oblivious to the subtext of Ian's questioning, that in fact this couple have an open relationship into which Guy is being invited. The social politics extends into the rehearsal room, too: Ted storms out, leaving Guy to be promoted to the role of Matt Of The Mint. It is now that it becomes increasingly obvious he and Hannah share an attraction.

We move to Ian and Fay's flat, with an utterly unaware Guy mistaking Fay's sexual overtures for eating preferences. Ian returns, and is more than a little surprised to find that his companion for the evening is, in fact, a 70 year old woman from a nursing home. Guy, misreading the situation yet again, assumes that Ian is Dafydd's client for the land when Ian asks after the situation, with Guy insisting that he has no further information than that which he gave to Dafydd in their first conversation. Ian insinuates that he will make it worth Guy's while for any information about the sale of the land, choosing to drop out of the play to make a better role available to Guy, whilst also letting Guy and Fay's activities continue.

Act Two:

We begin in a café, with Hannah confronting Guy about his relationship with Fay: he is having two very different affairs with two very different women. During this interaction – and unhelpfully for Guy – Fay appears, ready to give Guy his underpants back. The women fight over the underwear – which actually

belongs to Dafydd. It also emerges that it is Jarvis who owns the land that everyone is interested in.

Back at rehearsals, tensions between Linda and Bridget reach a head, spilling over into a fight about Crispin. Dafydd confronts Crispin in an attempt to reach the conclusion of the situation and is kicked in the groin as payment. Jarvis approaches Guy about the land, and Guy, not appreciating the nuance of the previous conversations about the land, repeats the rumours he's heard from Dafydd and Ian. Jarvis misunderstands what Guy is telling him, and says that Guy will be 'looked after' for the information.

With the future of the show in jeopardy and with no leading man, Dafydd pours his heart out to Guy about his relationship with Hannah. Unfortunately, the tannoy is on and everyone in PALOS hears it too. One problem is resolved, however, when Rebecca suggests Guy plays the role of Macheath.

After receiving £500 in the post, seemingly from Jarvis, Guy goes to their house and encounters Rebecca. Suggesting that the original rumour about the business interest in the land may not have been true, and was instead a way of inflating its worth, she advises Guy to keep the money, which he does.

In technical rehearsals, Hannah confronts Guy about their affair, confessing that she is in love with him and is therefore choosing to leave Dafydd. Guy, ever the gentleman, tries not to hurt anyone's feelings and therefore gives a very non-committal response – leading Hannah to believe that he is trying to use the situation to dump her rather than be with her. Guy tries to tell the truth to Dafydd, just as Ian announces that Guy's company is closing its plant in the town. Guy admits he knew this, and has been made redundant. Ian and Fay doubt his motives and believe he has been twisting the situation, manipulating them for his own ends instead. Ian, in a fit of anger, tells Dafydd about Hannah's affair with Guy. Dafydd confronts Guy, calling him a 'total and utter bastard', before seemingly becoming the bigger man and offering up best wishes for the show to Guy, who still has the leading role to play. As the final scene is played, Macheath is saved from the hanging, mimicking Guy's social reprieve, too.

ACT BY ACT BREAKDOWN

Act One:

- Bullying/ coercive control
- Death / Dying
- Sexism
- Sexual Content / Nudity / Masturbation
- Strong language
- Violence
- Xenophobia

Act Two:

- Sexual Content / Nudity / Masturbation
- Smoking
- Strong language
- Violence