

## CIPHERS CHARACTER NOTES

I hope that you will enjoy reading the audition pieces and that it will your interest in getting involved. The pieces were taken from own copy and I apologise for both the written notes on some of the pieces from early on in the script, as you'll see plans are underway for what I hope will be a terrific show.

As for the characters themselves, here are a few quick bits of information about their backgrounds, which I hope will help you when you're reading the pieces.

**Justine** - works for British Intelligence. Starts out in surveillance and moves into working on investigating radical Islamic terror cells in the UK until the disappearance of an informant upsets her into working as a double-agent for Russia. Speaks several languages including Russian and Japanese. Over the course of the play she has a relationship with Kai. We never see her have contact with the other members of her family in the play.

**Kerry** - Justine's sister. Is convinced that Justine was murdered and that British Intelligence had something to do with it. Works in the art world as a gallery assistant. Describes herself as the black sheep of her family.

**Sunita** - Justine's boss at British Intelligence and the target of many of Kerry's attempts to find out more about her sister. Professional and quietly ruthless, but has clear affection for Justine.

**Kai** - an artist who meets Justine at an exhibition of his work and begins a relationship with her. Married to Anoushka who is dedicated to trying to raise his profile. Acknowledged as a philanderer who married her for her money and influence, he nevertheless believes Justine to be "the one". Trapped by both his situation and what he knows.

**Anoushka** - Kai's rich wife. Works in the art world and acknowledged to have influence. Loves her husband but aware of his foibles. Strong-minded in her own right and with secrets of her own.

**Kareem** - a youth worker used by Justine to try and find information about young Muslim men who may be trying to radicalise others. Resents being used in this way and makes discoveries that put his life in danger. His disappearance has a major effect on Justine.

**Koplov** - a Russian diplomat who tries to "turn" Justine when he discovers that his his new PA is not what he thought her to be. Speaks both Russian and English. Both charming and ruthless.

**Peter** - Justine and Kerry's father (a one scene role). Has had health problems like his wife and wants to put Justine's death behind him rather than support Kerry in her calls for an inquest.

If you have any questions about any of the play or would be interested in attending either of the auditions on Thursday 17 January (8pm Merrill Studio) or Saturday 26 January (3pm Merrill Studio), please contact me via [david\\_pascoe82@hotmail.com](mailto:david_pascoe82@hotmail.com)

**David McDonnell-Pascoe (Director)**