



Dramatis Personae

The Villain and His Alter Ego

MAURICE SHERIDAN	He is the villain. This character is played by the same actor who portrays AMOS LIGHTMAN. Maurice is a computer genius. He has constructed a portal in order to achieve his ends. He is distrusting, suspicious and thoroughly evil.
AMOS LIGHTMAN	Colonial American. An astute businessman with mercantile interests whose entire fortune is wiped out by the Boston Tea Party.
<i>The part of Maurice Sheridan will be played by the same actor who plays his direct ancestor Amos Lightman.</i>	

The Missing Actors (Trapped in the Portal)

GLYN MERETON	Plays GRENVILLE.
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	Top British actor who also guest stars on “The Rivals” comedy TV show with GLYN.
MICK BONNUIT	Plays KING GEORGE III. This is a really interesting rôle. Mick was a very successful pop star in the 70’s and 80’s. His money ran out. Thus he now resorts to acting. He is a lousy actor: lacking expression. He is wooden and cringe worthy. However, during his time in Sheridan’s portal, Mick’s acting becomes inspired. His take on the King is magnificent.
HARGREAVES (THE BUTLER)	A stiff-backed English butler who could not crack a smile ever if paid to do so.
LIEUTENANT (THE DARTMOUTH)	A plummy English Lieutenant who (through the illness of his captain) must read aloud the supposed words of King George III to the colonists.
JON BARRETT	Plays the 2 nd MARQUESS OF ROCKINGHAM.
ROGER DE WITTE	Plays the DUKE OF CUMBERLAND.
ANDREW CARMODY	Plays SAMUEL, servant to PITT.
MARK DINTON	A confident boy (less than 20 years old). Plays CHARLES JAMES FOX.
BISCUIT	MC of the wild party at Maefield Brae.
LORD BUTE	Close friend to King George.

Actors Who Find Themselves Halfway Between Portal and Real World

ALEX MANDERBY	Plays PITT THE ELDER. Is a keen gardener: in fact he is host to the “What Grows Where” gardening show on the TV. Married to CONNIE.
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	Alex is the only actor who (while trapped in Maurice's portal) understands that some sort of trap is in place.
TYE ANGLEWORTH	Tye plays JESSAMY YARDLEY. Without Tye the trapped actors could not escape. He provides a "go-between" for the rescuers.

Those Assisting the 5 RESCUERS

QUEENSLAND TRUCKIE	His appearance in the film is a plot device. He is fully described in ACT III, scene ix. The Truckie has been hired by Maurice Sheridan to rework Will Dalziel's play "Debacle".
THE AUTHOR	Her appearance in the film is both a plot device and a touch of humour. Without The Author, there is no way that we can get across to the 5 RESCUERS that they are dealing with a computer portal.

The 5 RESCUERS (none of whom are actors)

SILVIO AGNOTTI	A very suave chef with his own TV program. He is another guest star on "The Rivals" comedy TV show. Friend to GLYN MERETON, he becomes one of the 5 RESCUERS.
THOMAS A'GRANDE	Manager of MICK BONNUIT. He becomes one of the 5 RESCUERS.
CONNIE MANDERBY	Wife of Alex Manderby and sister of Professor Malcolm Ealemann. Provides occasional voice-over. A very attractive woman in her mid-30s. Talkative but clever with it. She is one of the 5 RESCUERS.

WILL DALZIEL	Author of “Debacle” which is based on Christie’s “Crisis of Empire”. It is his play (related to the Britain’s part in the American War of Independence) which Maurice asks The Truckie to doctor. Will’s sister owns Maefield Brae (which is turned over to the portal through the villain’s machinations).
PROFESSOR EALEMANN (MALCOLM)	Brother of CONNIE. We are not told why the Professor involves himself in the Maurice Sheridan imbroglio. However, he does. It is the Professor who goes above and beyond. The Professor advises on how the world changes during the existence of the portal.

MARJORIE TRENT-STAPLE	Will’s sister and owner of Maefield Brae.
FINICKY MAN (TEA)	East India Company
NOBLEMAN (TEA)	East India Company
LIEUTENANT (THE DARTMOUTH)	
REMMY DROMANA	Host of “The Rivals”.
BRENDA	Rivals contestant.
LUCAS	Rivals contestant.
KEL DALTON	Assistant to Maurice. He helps direct “Debacle”. A fine actor himself, he will replace Mick as the actor playing King George III.
CONSTABLE VICKI BRUCE	Assists the Professor with his enquiries into Maurice. Using DNA matching, Vicki establishes that Maurice is NOT related to R. B. Sheridan, the famed Anglo-Irish playwright.
HARRY MULLINS	An expert in historical research, Harry establishes for the Professor that Maurice is definitely a descendant of Amos Lightman.

Other characters: various TV crewmen, various security and Police personnel, waiters.

SYNOPSIS

Brief explanation:

Underlying all else is the fact that Will Dalziel wrote “Debacle”. However, Maurice Sheridan has secretly taken Dalziel’s work and passed it over to the Queensland Truckie for revision with a view to bypassing the Boston Tea Party.

Along the way this will be explained. Maurice’s relative lost his complete fortune (having invested everything on the cargo of tea which wound up being chucked into the Harbour). With no remaining fortune, Maurice Sheridan’s family sunk into penury. All Maurice intended was to avoid the Boston Tea Party such that his forebear became a rich man. Maurice could prove absolutely that he was an heir to the fortune, and calculated that he would thereby be a billionaire.

Maurice might have been a computer genius, but his lack of forethought almost did for the world as we know it. One could muck around with “time” ... But putting everything back again as before can be nigh on impossible!



Synopsis:

ACT I

We kick proceedings off with a juxtaposition: a sophisticated (if not precious) tea drinking ceremony at the offices of the British East India Company opposed to the raw emotions of the Boston Tea Party (1773).

We are introduced to the Amos Lightman character as he sobs (on finding that his entire fortune is lost to the Boston marauders).

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Alex Manderby is the host of a TV gardening show. He takes the role of Pitt the Elder in the movie extravaganza “Debacle” (in production). The Producer/Director (Maurice Sheridan) goes over some historical content with Alex. We have already been apprised that Alex’s wife is Connie.

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Actor Glyn (taking the role of Glenville) speaks to Silvio (TV chef). Glyn is distressed that Maurice requires him (that is Glyn) to actually slaughter a real dog on screen. This fits with Maurice’s demands for realism.

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One-time rock ‘n’ roll star Mick discusses his grievances (all self-inflicted) with his manager Thomas.

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Alex discusses his misgivings about the up-coming movie with his wife Connie. Alex mentions that Silvio has phoned him, also smelling something fishy.

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Glyn (a highly respected actor) and Silvio (TV chef) appear on a madcap TV quiz show. We watch part of this show called “The Rivals”. Incidentally, the playwright Sheridan wrote a play of the same name.

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Silvio and Glyn continue to discuss the dog-killing episode. Silvio cannot understand when or why Glenville would be required to kill a dog. Silvio really does smell a rat.

Now all the “Debacle” actors meet in a huge, busy warehouse. This building is fully fitted-out for costuming, make-up and interior scenes. The actors are introduced to each other. It is clear that Mick is the worse for wear: not very bright.

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A short rehearsal/walk-through reveals that Mick is rubbish as an actor. Thomas is in shreds.

The matter in this scene centres on King George’s sacking of Prime Minister Glenville.

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The Author invades “The Rivals”. She tries to explain to the audience the relevant background points relating to the American War of Independence. However, she is bodily carted off by some studio heavies. The Author intimates that there will be viewers (Australians and New Zealanders) who will not follow the subject matter of “Debacle”.

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*We are now in the portal which Maurice Sheridan has created.*

This version of history is incorrect. The actors are locked in and cannot return to their real selves until freed by Connie/Silvio/Thomas/Will and Professor Ealemann. These 5 characters work through

the medium of Tye as he is directed by Pitt (as played by Alex.)

Outside the residence of Lord Rockingham (Maefield Brae with Rockingham being played by Jon). Alex (playing Pitt) and Andrew (playing his servant Samuel) meet Tye (who plays Jessamy).

Pitt had been invited to the rowdy soiree but chose instead to peep through a window. This he does with Jessamy. Jessamy laments to Pitt that he has lofty matrimonial ambitions. Pitt gives the young man timely advice.

Rockingham's party is a drunken brawl. Biscuit introduces Charles James Fox (a 16 year old played by Mark). The boy proceeds to deliver pro-American sentiments with gusto.

Thomas and Mick play darts in a cosy village pub. Thomas describes to Mick the ebb and flow of King George's Prime Ministers. This is done as a visual "tableau" which is both informative and humorous.

Outside Maefield Brae, some of the actors skylark about. Alex decides to place his trust in Tye. It appears that Maurice believes that Alex may be a loose cannon; Alex is closely watched. On the spur of the moment, Alex whispers to Tye that in the event that he (Alex as Pitt) falls, then he (Tye) should go down to assist him. That way, Alex may whisper vital information to Tye without (hopefully!) Maurice getting wind of it.



This is the last scene in ACT I. In a fine London restaurant, Thomas and Silvio bemoan the dreadful acting of Mick. But they have also met to discuss a strange occurrence. Glyn is a top-flight actor. So why has Maurice cast this well-credentialed performer in the "nothing" role of Glenville? They are interrupted by Connie. She is a motor-mouth. However, her pertinent point is that her husband Alex is missing. She also imparts to the two gentlemen that before his disappearance, Alex had acted strangely. He was disturbed by the scenes in "Debacle".

It is decided that the three conspirators will journey to Maefield Brae in order to discuss “Debacle” with its original author – Will Dalziel.

## ACT II

*We are now in the portal which Maurice Sheridan has created.*

ACT II begins with Prime Minister Grenville invading a dinner party held by the Duke of Cumberland. So put out is the Duke by the Prime Minister’s appearance (all uninvited) that he sets his dog on Grenville. The latter produces a handy knife which he plunges into the dog, thereby killing it. Now the Duke is aware that Grenville means business. The two men retire for further discussions.

Working with a helpful policewoman, Professor Malcolm Ealemann is able to ascertain that Maurice Sheridan is **not** related to the famous Irish playwright Richard Brinsley Sheridan (“School for Scandal”, and so forth). A DNA sample did **not** match with DNA samples of known R. B. Sheridan descendants.



The Author invades “What Grows Where” (since Alex is absent). She tries to explain to the audience the relevant background points relating to the American War of Independence. However, she is bodily carted off under Connie’s direction.

*We are now in the portal which Maurice Sheridan has created.*

What follows then is a first-class dramatic representation of George III and his courtiers. Mick

especially acts up to the hilt. This is riveting stuff. Costumes, speeches and scenery are delicious. The King rails long about the various traitors in his midst. Glenville puts forward his manifesto to the King (who almost passes out). Glenville suggests that Hanover should be sacrificed and America fostered. Pitt advises prayer: the King must consider Glenville's suggestions, but will need to mull them over before acting.

Professor Ealemann is satisfied that Maurice is not related to the famous playwright Sheridan. The Professor turns his attention to establishing the blood relationship between Maurice and American colonial merchant Amos Lightman. Once this is proved, the Professor tries to ascertain if the Lightman descendants would have been incredibly wealthy as a result of Lightman's business acumen.



The Author invades "Delectable Agnotti" (which is Silvio's TV cooking show). She continues to explain to the audience the relevant background points relating to the American War of Independence. This time she gets through her spiel as the Security men approach to escort her off the premises.

The Author intimates to Silvio that the Queensland Truckie himself has had a hand in this. The Queensland Truckie took Will Dalziel's play (at Maurice's request) and changed it a bit such that the Boston Tea Party never happened.

Now Silvio can understand what has happened to the missing actors. The Author advises (via the Queensland Truckie) that there is a portal. Maurice has trapped the missing actors within the portal. They must be rescued without Maurice knowing anything about it.



The planned expedition to Maefield Brae occurs. Will Dalziel cannot understand how the events of the days before the American War of Independence have taken on a life of their own.

Will, Thomas and Silvio all now understand that Maurice has set up a portal (why is still unknown). Thomas has secretly viewed the rushes which bear little resemblance to Will's original script. Then Will confirms that the wild party (supposedly filmed at Maefield Brae) never, ever happened.

Silvio and Connie discuss the ugly truth: without the Boston Tea Party, the world in 2020 is in a disastrous state.



Alex Manderby is one of the actors trapped in the portal. Even so, he has always felt (even before he was trapped) that something was not right. He warned Connie of his feelings early on. Now, pinning all his hopes on Tye, Alex comes up with a plan to pass information to Tye without Maurice being aware of this. Alex warns Tye that some outsiders may wish to enter the film set. The watchword will be "Debacle".



Silvio, Will and Thomas find Tye in his dressing room. Tye imparts much vital information to the guys. The upshot is that the 3 guys will get into the portal but hide in a priest's hole (in the cellar at Maefield Brae). The suggestion is that they get themselves to America to foil the plan to bypass the Tea Party.

## ACT III

Now the outside world bursts into the portal at Maefield Brae.

Connie looks utterly stunning as an 18<sup>th</sup> century lady. She manages (through Tye's good offices) to enter the Maefield Brae orangery along with Silvio (dressed as a fop), Thomas (a country gentleman) and Will (a vicar).

Connie utters the watchword "Debacle". Tye shepherds them without detection to the cellar where Will opens the secret door to the priest's hole. The four conspirators disappear therein, closing the door.



Tye cleverly deals with Maurice's suspicions that someone has breached the hermetically-sealed portal. Maurice sniffs about (smelling Connie's distinctive perfume). He almost discovers the catch to the priest's hole.

Relieved that Maurice has left the cellar, the conspirators come up with a plan for Thomas (least likely of the four to be recognized by Maurice) to approach Pitt for an interview. Simply ask him what the British intend to do to scotch the threatened American uprising.

However, this meeting with Pitt is fruitless. Giving way to despair, the four colleagues are rescued by Tye. He will take Connie out of Maefield Brae such that she may meet Pitt in the garden for an ardent reunion. Further, the three men will become rough English tars (in company with Connie's brother).

With them on board The Dartmouth will be a letter from the King reneging on all the exactions and taxes which have vexed the colonists, along with promises of seats in Parliament.



Aboard The Dartmouth, the three saucy tars join forces with Professor Ealemann (in his guise as Pirate Jock Absolute). The four men raid the captain's cabin. The captain has been disabled due to the Professor drugging his wine. The raiding party are successful. Whilst Silvio, Thomas and Will turn

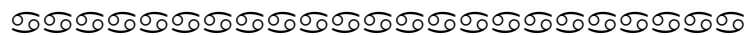
the original “forgiving” letter into spit balls, the Professor pens a memorable letter which is guaranteed to stir the colonists into hot ant-British fervour.

What the Professor reveals is telling. Maurice’s actions (in attempting to avoid the Boston Tea Party) have caused the world to be a very different place. What is more important, there is no way that Maurice can put the world back to normal when his dirty work is finished.

Maurice decides that he is being double-crossed. Venting his ire on Tye, Maurice darkly threatens to execute Alex. With much urgency, Tye employs the ham radio he has found. He needs to locate the Queensland Truckie who is somewhere near Cloncurry.



The captain of The Dartmouth has been taken out by Pirate Jock Absolute. Thus, it is the Lieutenant who delivers the fateful letter (as rewritten by the Professor) to the fuming colonists in Boston Harbour. Their mood becomes violent.



Contact is made with the Queensland Truckie.

In this harrowing scene, Maurice unsuccessfully goads Pitt to be himself (that is Alex) and beg for his life. Pitt stays in character, quoting Pitt’s bon mots. Maurice shoots Pitt in the chest at point-blank range. While Pitt dies, Maurice explains that he himself has suffered a near-death experience. As a computer genius, his ploy was to make the portal from a minute time-slice.

## Medley of Scenes Related To The Boston Tea Party.

- A small boat is rowed up to The Dartmouth. There are several men aboard who are dressed as Mohawk Indians.
- It is our group of Englishmen (Professor Ealemann, Silvio, Thomas and Will) who assist these disguised colonists up the rope ladders and then aboard The Dartmouth.
- Our Englishmen quickly lead the Sons of Liberty down to the hold where Professor Ealemann unlocks a steel gate.
- The Englishmen assist the Sons of Liberty to haul the tea chests up on deck.
- We can see and hear a riot of joy coming from those on shore.
- Knives and hand-axes are used to rip open the chests. The tea therein is poured into the harbour.
- Laughing and triumphant, the Sons of Liberty push the empty chests overboard. They are assisted at all times by our Englishmen along with several like-minded sailors.

As Amos Lightman weeps on the shore, Maurice (beside him) goes into violent denial. He shouts at the Sons of Liberty to stop.

Professor Ealemann (still costumed as Pirate Jock Absolute) pushes through the roaring crowd. He goes directly to Amos and strikes a match as he reefs the bill of lading from the latter.

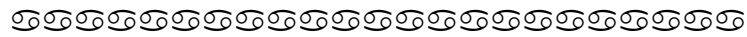
~~~~~ **Break** ~~~~~

The various actors miraculously return to the film studio. However, there is concern for Alex Manderby.

An online encyclopedia reveals that the USA has returned to its proper state with no “British” innovations. And the royal family is safe in the UK as always.

Alex suddenly appears to everyone’s relief. Although Maurice had shot and “killed” Pitt, Alex himself was not harmed due to his adherence to the maxim that he must not leave the character of Pitt. It

was the Queensland Truckie himself who put Tye onto this, and Tye relayed that instruction to Alex. Will moralizes on the extreme dangers of any kind of time distortion.



A celebratory feast is held in the gardens of Maefield Brae. Mick has chucked it in as an actor. His part (King George III) will be taken over by Kel.

And Will Dalziel's script will be adhered to above all else.

The concept of a portal:

The "villain" explains in the last ACT how he managed to create a portal. It was basically a time-slice into which people disappeared and from which there was little hope of escape. Within the portal these folk did the villain's bidding. He wanted to retrieve the money which was lost to his ancestor through the folly of the Boston Tea Party.

To achieve this aim he needed to change the course of history. By steering the Americans away from their revolutionary fervour, he could avoid the Tea Party. His mercantile forebear could become rich and thus (eons down the track) he and his kinfolk would be multi-billionaires (by his calculation).

But the villain had not thought it through. By leaving the Americans hanging (with their British King treating them well instead of badly) the course of history would change beyond anyone's imagining.

Thus, it became critical for those **not** swallowed up in the portal to stop the villain's dastardly plan while at the same time rescuing those poor souls trapped within the portal.

There was only one way for the rescuers to understand the nature of the portal. That was for them to be told by the author (the mate of the Queensland Truckie).

She wrote out the stories for the Truckie and knew that Maurice had hired him to snaffle Will Dalziel's opus. Maurice demanded a different outcome to the Boston Tea Party – that it not happen!

Now, the Truckie was driving a road train in Northern Queensland. Most of the time he was unable to be contacted. The heroes managed it by using the “bouncing” nature of digital phone calls as they circle the globe from communication hub to communication hub. All that the Truckie told them was to get into the portal (undetected) and to scotch the villain’s scheme. Simple!

And there was one other essential element:-- the villain demanded absolute authenticity.

Spoiler!

The shooting of Pitt was the key to success. Pitt the Elder died in bed. He was not shot. The Truckie advised (in his own unique way) that Alex was required to “be” Pitt and not just act as his character. That is why Alex/Pitt spews forth all the glorious well-known sayings of Pitt the Elder. He did not once speak as Alex. That meant that by shooting Alex, the villain sealed his own fate: Pitt did not die from gunshot wound. The premise that authenticity must be everything was destroyed at a stroke.