

The Norwich Players 2019 Season

Acting Opportunities

A brief overview of all the plays and parts on offer during the 2019 in-house season at The Maddermarket Theatre. Full casting calls will be released approximately 4 weeks prior to each set of auditions. They can be viewed and signed up for via www.maddermarket.co.uk or in the theatre office.

The Maddermarket Theatre is committed to an accessible and positive auditions process, and to increasing the diversity of its acting community.

All auditions, unless other stated, are held at The Maddermarket Theatre. Auditions are open to all, irrespective of acting experience.

For more information about the productions, to express an interest or to find out about how auditions work please feel free to contact the Director of Productions, Jez Pike at any time – jez.pike@maddermarket.org

The 39 Steps by Patrick Barlow

15-23 February

The celebrated stage adaptation of Buchan's novel and Hitchcock's film, 'The 39 Steps', sees just 4 actors play around 139 roles... bringing this classic thriller to life in an evening of madness, meta-theatre and mayhem!

Director: Chad Porter

Audition dates: First Round: 25th & 26th September (6.30-9.30pm) & 28th September (11am-4pm UEA Campus)

Recalls: 30th September (2.30-5.30pm)

Rehearsal dates: 10 rehearsals between 2nd & 14th December, then re-starting on 2nd January. Average of 4 nights a week thereon.

Casting Breakdown: Casting of 4. 1m/1f + 2 gender-fluid roles

RICHARD HANNAY (Male, Playing Age: 25-45) A bored Englishman thrown into a whirlwind adventure

ANNABELLA SCHMIDT / PAMELA / MARGARET (Female, Playing Age: 20-35) Three strong women who shape Hannay's adventure in very different ways.

CLOWN 1 (Male or Female, Playing Age: 20+) - Multi-roles throughout the play, playing over 50 different people.

CLOWN 2 (Male or Female, Playing Age: 20+) - Multi-roles throughout the play, playing over 50 different people.

Blue Stockings by Jessica Swale

15-23 March

Follows four young women at Girton College in 1896 on a journey of self-determination and education. A witty, heartfelt historical drama from the writer of Nell Gwynn, that places personal stories against the backdrop of political change. Premiered at The Globe in 2013.

Director: Jen Dewsbury

Audition dates: 9th & 11th October (7-10pm) / Recall: 17th October (7-10pm)

Rehearsals start: Early February

Casting breakdown: Mixed gender cast of approximately 14-16 actors, including a number of multi-role parts.

FEMALE STUDENTS (Playing age 18-25) TESS/CELIA /CAROLYN/MAEVE - The four variable protagonists of the story.

MALE STUDENTS (Playing age 18-25) RALPH/LLOYD/HOLMES/EDWARDS/WILL – 2ND year students at other colleges, who either support, come to understand or contest the presence of the new female students.

ACADEMICS & STAFF (These parts are likely to be double-upped with smaller supporting roles)

ELIZABETH WELSH (40's) Mistress of Girton College

MISS BLAKE (20's-30's) Lectuer at Girton & former student

MINNIE (20's) Housemaid at Girton College

MISS BOTT (30's-50's) Chaperone to students at Girton

DR MAUDSLEY (early 50's) A renowned psychiatrist with strong views on the differences between the sexes

MR BANKS (30-40's) A forward-thinking and unconventional lecturer

PROFESSORS COLLINS, ANDERSON & RADLEIGH (40's-60's) Trinity College Professors with mixed opinions on education of women. They are all on the final examination board for the Girton students.

MR PECK: Gardener & maintenance man who the Girton girls have permanently wrapped around their little fingers.

For Services Rendered by W. Somerset Maugham

19-26 April

A 1930's exploration of the lingering effects of the First World War on society. A seemingly well-ordered middle-class family struggle in an England 'unfit for heroes'. A recently rediscovered period piece with both wit and weight that builds to a devastating emotional climax.

Director: Pip Sessions

Audition dates: 12th October (from 7pm) & 14th October (from 11am). Recall date: 16th October (from 7pm).

Rehearsals start: Early March

Casting Breakdown: Cast of 12: 6m/6f

The Ardsleys

LEONARD (60's). Country solicitor. Pompous.

CHARLOTTE (60's) Wife. Suffering with terminal illness

SYDNEY (30's). Their son. Lost sight in war. Bitter

EVA (30s-40s) Daughter. Lost fiancé in the war.

ETHEL (30's). Daughter. Unhappily married.

LOIS (20's) Youngest daughter. Cynical generation.

Other Roles

HOWARD (30's/40's) Brutish husband of Ethel.

COLLIE (40's) Family friend. War hero. Bankrupt.

WILFRED (50's) Family friend. Lothario

GWEN (40's/50's) Wilfred's wife.

DR PRENTICE (60's) Charlotte Ardsley's brother

GERTUDE (20s-40's) The Ardsley's parlour maid

Krapp's Last Tape & Rockaby by Samuel Beckett

17-26 May

Two masterpieces of theatre for solo performers presented in the Emerson Studio from the world's most distinctive ever playwright. Both explore ageing, memory and the cruel fragility of the human experience with Beckett's trademark blend of theatricality, perfectly composed text and dark humour. Just about the greatest and most rewarding challenge there is for any actor.

Krapp's Last Tape: It is Krapp's 69th birthday. He begins his annual ritual, to make a recording of his voice. He reviews on older recording made he was 39. He makes a new recording.

Rockaby: A prematurely old woman in an evening gown sits perfectly still in a rocking chair. The chair rocks of its own accord. She hears a recorded version of her own voice recount details from her own life and that of her dead mother.

Director: Jez Pike

Audition Dates: 16th December (2.30-5pm) & 17th December (6.30-8pm)

Rehearsals start: Early April

Casting Breakdown: The solo roles in both pieces are for actors with a playing age between 60-80. Krapp's Last Tape is written for a male actor. Rockaby is written for a female actor. Both will be cast gender specific.

Towards Zero by Agatha Christie 21-28 June

In the 1940's, when a house party gathers at the clifftop home of Lady Tressilian, Neville Strange finds himself caught between his first wife Audrey and his new wife Kay. The play probes the psychology of narcissism in the shadow of a savage and brutal murder with reflections on jealousy, suicide and depression.

Director: Becky Sweet

Audition Dates: 7th & 9th January (From 7pm). Recall: 13th January (From 2pm)

Rehearsals start: Early May

Casting Breakdown: Cast of 13: 8m/5f.

O'DONNELL (Male 60+) Irish butler

MacGREGOR (Female 60+) Scottish Housekeeper

LADY TRESSILIAN (60+)

JANET COLLIER (60+) Lady Tressilian's companion.

The following roles can all be cast flexibly with regard to age, anywhere between 20's & 50's:

KAY & AUDREY STRANGE and their husband NEVILLE

ANGUS McWHIRTER (Scottish), THOMAS ROYDE and PETER DA COSTA

INSPECTOR LEACH, SERGEANT HARVEY and DR. WILSON

A View from the Bridge by Arthur Miller 19-27 July

A Greek Tragedy set in an Italian-American neighbourhood in 50's Brooklyn. Longshoreman Eddie Carbone has an improper and obsession love with his wife's orphaned niece. It will cause him to betray everything he has strived for and in doing so expose the dark heart of the American dream. The production will strip back the setting to focus on the essential power of Miller's text, whilst subtlety bringing into relief the play's political resonance.

Director: Jez Pike

Audition Dates: 15th & 16th January (From 6.30pm). Recall: 18th January (From 6.30pm)

Rehearsals start: Early June

Casting Breakdown: Cast of 11: 6m/5f

Major Roles

EDDIE (Playing age 40-50) Tragic protagonist BEATRICE (Playing age 35-45) Wife of Eddie.

CATHERINE (Playing age 18-25) Beatrice's niece.

RUDOLPHO (Playing age 25-35) Cousin of Beatrice newly off the boat from Sicily

MARCO: (Playing age 25-35) Rudolpho's older cousin, also just off the boat

ALFIERI: Lawyer who acts a Greek Chorus talking directing to the audience

Supporting Roles (Flexible playing ages between 25-50): MIKE & LOUIS (Longshoreman)/ TONY (friend of the family)/

IMMIGRATION OFFICERS, MR & MRS LIPARI (Neighbours of the Carbone's) / TWO ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS who are

being sheltered by the Liparis.

The Secret Garden by Jessica Swale

17 August-1st September

A family show adapted from the celebrated children's novel by Frances Hodgson Burnett. After discovering the mysterious garden two traumatised children, one an orphan the other a motherless invalid, find happiness and companionship through the support of the servants and animals. A charming, dynamic adaptation featuring puppetry.

Director: Clare Howard

Audition Dates: 21st January (7pm) & 27th January (3pm). Recall: 5th February (7pm).

Rehearsals start: Early July

Casting Breakdown: All roles are open to actors of any ethnicity, although for the role of Ayah – an Indian nursemaid - we will specifically be seeking an actor of South Asian heritage. Ages are broadly flexible. Child roles will be played by actors beyond full-time compulsory education.

MARY LENNOX – a young orphan girl, daughter of the Viceroy of India. Sings.

MARTHA – a maid, same age as Mary and befriends her.

DICKON – Martha's older brother, who befriends animals. Plays an instrument and sings.

COLIN CRAVEN – Mary's sickly cousin, ten years old (could be played by a girl).

ARCHIBALD CRAVEN – Colin's father, consumed by grief for his dead wife (Mary's aunt)

MRS MEDLOCK – a strict housekeeper

BEN WEATHERSTAFF – an old gardener, who helps the children.

PUPPETEERS – approximately six, no experience necessary but must enjoy movement

There are many other lovely adult roles, which will be doubled or performed by the puppeteers.

Much Ado About Nothing by William Shakespeare 20-28 September

Conflict ended, with peace comes the opportunity for romance : young love a villain disrupts by deception and older love that must be rediscovered, also through trickery. Famous for the 'merry war' of Beatrice and Benedick, there is 'much ado' for all before love triumphs. The production will be fast-paced, funny and sexy, fully embracing the play's teasing balance between light and dark.

Director: Tony Fullwood

Audition dates: 4th, 7th, 8th (From 6pm) & 10th March (From 2.30pm). Recalls: 13th (From 6pm) & 17th March (From 2.30pm)

Rehearsal dates: Early August

Casting Breakdown: Cast size of up to 20. The production will take a gender-fluid approach to casting aiming to equalise male and female roles, renaming characters as required. Ages are potentially flexible.

CLAUDIO & HERO (20'S)

BEATRICE, BENEDICK, DON JOHN, CONRADE, BORACHIO, MARGARET (30-40's)

DON PEDRO, DOGBERRY, URSULA (30-50's)

LEONATO, ANTONIO, FRIAR FRANCIS, VERGES (50+)

Small roles - messengers, musicians, watch(wo)men, sexton etc. - any age/gender and may be doubled.

Steel Magnolias by Robert Harling 18-26 October

A comedy drama set in Truvy's beauty salon in the fictional Louisiana parish of Chinquapin. Period 1980's. The salon is the gathering place for the characters and somewhere they bond and connect with each other. The story spans three years as it follows the women on their personal journeys.

Director: Jo Davies

Audition dates: 17th & 24th March (2.30pm). Recall: 27th March (7pm)

Rehearsal dates: Early September

Casting Breakdown: 6 female roles

SHELBY (Mid 20's) M'Lynn's daughter. Wants to break free from her mother

M'LYNN (50's) Shelby's mother. Socially prominent career woman.

OUSIER (60's) Wealthy curmudgeon

CLAIREE (60's) Widow of former Mayor

TRUVY (40's) Owner of the beauty

ANNELLE (19) Beauty salon assistant

Boudica by Tristan Bernays 15-23 November

Premiered at The Globe in 2017, this is an ancient-history play with a modern attitude. It tells the story of a fresh of one Britain's most iconic women; a queen, a warrior, a rebel...perhaps even a fanatic. This will be a visceral and physical production on an epic scale. They'll be drums, battles, weird face-paints and scene of gore.

Director: Jez Pike

Audition dates: 28th May (From 6.30pm), 1st & 2nd June (From 2.30pm). Recalls: 8th & 9th June (From 2.30)

Rehearsals start: Early October

Casting Breakdown: The production will cast between 14 and 18 actors, some of whom may double-up. The majority of casting will be gender specific, with approximately 7 female roles and up to 11 male roles.

Major Female Roles

BOUDICA – The Icen Queen (Playing age 30-45)

BLODWYN – Boudica's daughter (16-25)

ALONNA – Boudica's daughter (16-25)

Major Male Roles

CUNOBELINE – King of the Trinovantes (40-60)

CATUS – Roman Procurator of Britannia (40- 60)

GAIUS SUETONIUS – Roman General (35-55)

BADVOC – King of the Belgics (40-55)

Medium roles & ensemble parts: Roman Soliders, Tribal Kings, Icenian warriors, Belgic warriors, Roman officials, Tribal Lords, a Roman women, a Druid and a Goddess.

Beauty and the Beast by Lucy Kirkwood

14-31 December

The theft of a single rose has monstrous consequences for Beauty and her father. This is no ordinary rose... and this is no ordinary fairytale. Narrated by a pair of mischievous fairies, a very helpful Rabbit, and a Thoughtsnatcher machine, this timeless story is sure to surprise, delight and enchant. A quirky, interactive, adaptation.

Director: Lois Entwistle

Audition dates: 11th & 13th June (7pm). Recall: 21st June: 5.30pm

Rehearsals Start: Early November

Casting Breakdown: Cast of 9. Ages largely flexible

THE MAN IN PINK: The narrator or MC. Integral to the play.

BEAUTY: Intelligent, kind, outspoken

GEORGE: The prince the beast was and become again

FATHER: Beauty's father. Loving and gentle.

LETTICE: Beauty's sister. Young and impressionable.

CECILE: Pink's partner in crime. Sings

BEAST: Both fearsome, sad and sincere

MOTHER: Beauty's dead mother – appears as ghost

RABBIT: A silent and hilarious part