

Educating Rita – Audition Notice

Performance dates 3 – 7 February 2027

The first round will be approximately a 15/20 minute slot on one of the following dates and times:

Monday 5th October between 7 and 10pm

Thursday 8th October between 7 and 10pm

Sunday 11th October between 3.30pm and 6.30pm

The second round of auditions will be a longer session on one of the following dates:

Monday 19th October between 7 and 10pm

Tuesday 20th October between 7 and 10pm

Friday 23rd October between 7 and 10pm

Please contact Barney if you would like to audition but cannot make the audition dates –

mrjmatley@hotmail.com / 07470 894 458

Rehearsals start early December. Please state if you have any availability issues between 1st December 2026 and 7th February 2027. Availability will be very important. There will be no rehearsals between 22nd December and 3rd January.

If you would like to audition, please complete the audition form below and return it to me. I will then send you the audition pieces.

Two worlds collide in Willy Russell's comedic, intimate and poignant drama that examines social class and education. Rita, a charismatic hairdresser, and Frank, her alcoholic professor, have much to learn from each other.

Rita explodes into Frank's world at the beginning of the play as an Open university student, hungry to learn. Frank is bitter and jaded, but through their growing rapport something is reignited.

It would work perfectly in the intimate setting of the main house lite, and shines a light on the above areas with humour and warmth. First performed in 1980, Willy Russell's characters remain charming and relatable, and I hope that this will provoke much needed discussions amongst audience members. It has much to teach us about what we deem to be education as well as the wider themes of the class system and our personal values.

The set remains the same throughout and consists of a lecturers office. I foresee a book lined chaotic study, with books piled everywhere including at the front of the stage. The show will have some small immersive qualities to it, nothing too excessive, but for example, the audience will be able to explore the books on the front of the stage and within the auditorium.

As the piece is set within one room, there are minimal crewing requirements, however everyone is welcome to contact me if interested in being involved. I would like the lighting to vary and to evoke the mood of the piece, especially towards the climax of the play.

The cast is two in total, and all performers within the playing ages are very welcome to audition. Both characters are on stage throughout, and they are large, challenging and highly rewarding roles. With this in mind, availability will be very important for all rehearsals, although I do not foresee any sessions over the Christmas period.

Characters and playing ages:

Frank – a middle aged man in his 50s. He is a university professor, jaded by many years within his profession, and has resorted to alcohol as a method of coping. Initially bitter, he is subsequently charmed by Rita's passion for learning.

Rita – a young woman, 20-30. She is a charismatic and energetic hairdresser who speaks her mind and loudly challenges Frank's world. Despite this exterior personality, she is initially lost in this new world and faces her own challenges. Rita is required to have a Liverpudlian accent, however if you are not confident with this please do not let it put you off auditioning, support will be provided.

Feel free to contact me with any questions – Barney Matley

07470 894 458

mrbjmatley@hotmail.com



The Norwich Players Theatre Company Audition Submission Form Educating Rita, 3 – 7 February 2027

Please complete this form if you would like to audition for and send it as an attachment to mrbjmatley@hotmail.com

Audition pieces will be sent to you once I have received your audition form

Please contact me if you have any questions, or if you cannot make the audition dates – mrbjmatley@hotmail.com / 07470 894 458

Name						
Email Address						
Phone Number						
Gender Identity and preferred pronouns						
Playing Age This is not your actual age. Please put an X in one of the boxes. You must be 18 to audition.	18-20	20-30	30-40	40-55	55-65	65 +
Production auditioning for						
Part or parts auditioning for See the production's casting notes for options.						
Preferred Audition dates See the production notes for options - Please state 'any' if you have no preference.	The first round will be approximately a 15/20 minute slot on one of the following dates and times: Monday 5th October between 7 and 10pm Thursday 8th October between 7 and 10pm Sunday 11th October between 3.30pm and 6.30pm The second round of auditions will be a longer session in the week commencing 19th October					

	Please state if you have any availability issues between 1 st December 2026 and 7 th February 2027. Availability will be very important. There will be no rehearsals between 22 nd December and 3 rd January.
<i>Please read the statement below before signing and dating this document.</i>	
I understand that my data will be processed as described in the Maddermarket Theatre's Privacy Policy in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). You can read the Maddermarket Theatre's Privacy policy here: http://maddermarket.co.uk/about/privacy-notice	
Charity number 234993 Company reg number 00355871 VAT number 105910010	
Signature <i>This can just be typed</i>	
Date	