

## **ABOUT THE PENDLEY SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL**

The Pendley Shakespeare Festival is an amateur theatre company that produces two high-quality open-air Shakespeare plays in the grounds of the Pendley Manor Hotel. The two plays are fully rehearsed and performed within three weeks. This year we are performing *MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING* and *RICHARD III*.

As we are an amateur organisation we are unfortunately unable to pay our company members, but we do provide an intense, challenging, enjoyable and unique rehearsal and production process with free meals and free accommodation (depending on where you live) in this four-star hotel. We endeavour to work to professional standards in a professional environment and offer our company members the opportunity to play parts and tackle roles that will hone their skills and boost their CV. Pendley veterans include Stephen Campbell Moore and Hermione Norris, whilst recent RSC actors Mark Quartley and Andy Apollo are also Pendley alumni. The Festival is a perfect training ground for undergraduates, performers young or old, and ambitious amateurs alike.

We are looking for versatile actors to be cast in both productions and form an ensemble company, and for committed and talented technicians to help create a truly beautiful festival.

## **FESTIVAL SCHEDULE & INFORMATION**

- All rehearsals and performances take place outside at the Pendley Manor Hotel.
- Festival Dates: Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2017 to Monday 13<sup>th</sup> August 2017
- Rehearsals for both shows commence on Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> July at 10.00am
- *MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING* performances: Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> August to Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> August
- *RICHARD III* performances: Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> August to Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> August
- *MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING* will be directed by Fiona Munro
- *RICHARD III* will be directed by Douglas Baker
- Accommodation: 2/3 person rooms may be provided at the Hotel for those unable to commute during the rehearsals and performances. Please note that this year accommodation will be very limited.
- Festival Personnel:
  - Artistic Director: Sarah Branston ([sarah@pendleyshakespearefestival.co.uk](mailto:sarah@pendleyshakespearefestival.co.uk))
  - Festival Director: Jack Blackburn ([jack@pendleyshakespearefestival.co.uk](mailto:jack@pendleyshakespearefestival.co.uk) & 07530 152646)

## **COMPANY REQUIREMENTS**

- We require 17 company members, all of whom will appear in both productions.
- Considering the short, intensive rehearsal period, we require flexibility, versatility, adaptability and a broad skill set from our cast members.
- A good grasp of dialects/accents is preferable, including RP, heightened RP and regional accents.
- A willingness to engage with challenges in movement, singing and dancing is required
- Actor/musicians welcomed, as both shows will be using live music.
- A keen interest in working quickly, independently, instinctively and creatively is always important. The rehearsal time is short and actors are often required to work on scenes without the director and/or develop the work covered in rehearsal.
- An interest in improvisation and devising is beneficial and greatly welcomed.
- Experience working with classical text is helpful, though there are plenty of experienced verse speakers on hand to help with text.

## **SUBMISSIONS**

- Please fill in the Application Form (found at [www.pendleyshakespearefestival.co.uk/auditions](http://www.pendleyshakespearefestival.co.uk/auditions) or attached to this email).
- Please save your completed form as a PDF and email it (specifying your name and 'PSF Casting 2018' in the subject field) to: [casting@pendleyshakespearefestival.co.uk](mailto:casting@pendleyshakespearefestival.co.uk)
- Or, post the completed form to: Sarah Branston, PSF 2018, 6 Osborne Road, Redhill, Surrey RH1 2HX
- The closing date for audition submissions is Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> March. Submissions received after this date will not be considered.
- All submissions should include:
  - A completed Application Form
  - An up-to-date acting/technical CVAudition submissions must also include:
  - A current headshot
- When all applications have been received, Sarah Branston will get in touch with successful applicants with further details about the auditions.
- Sarah will also provide specific speeches and/or scenes for you to prepare that are suitable for your casting.
- We would also like you to learn and prepare a verse and a chorus from a song of your choice. The song could be contemporary or a musical theatre choice. Music always plays a role at the festival and as such we would like to see you deliver a character-based song which focuses on your acting skill as much as your musical ability.
- If you don't hear anything from us by the time the auditions commence it means we have unfortunately been unable to offer you an audition on this occasion.
- Despite the once-yearly nature of our casting cycle we do try to keep CVs and photos on file. If we are unable to cast you this year, we will keep you in mind for future Festivals.

## **AUDITIONS**

- Auditions will be held at the Pendley Manor Hotel on:  
Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> April 2018 & Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> April 2018
- The auditions are scheduled in four main slots: Saturday Morning, Saturday Afternoon, Sunday Morning and Sunday Afternoon. Your specific time slot will be emailed to you.
- We will endeavour to have offers sent out by early May.
- Your audition session will involve both a group workshop facilitated by the Directors and an individual audition where the Directors will hear your speeches and/or scenes and your song.
- Please note that audition sessions may take up to two to three hours as you may be asked to work on a different speech, or work on a section of text with another actor.
- You will need to:
  - Prepare the speeches and/or scenes that have been sent to you by Sarah.
  - Prepare and learn a verse and a chorus from a song (unaccompanied) which is character driven. There is a keenness to see folk songs, but this is not mandatory.
  - Be prepared to re-work your speech(es), read a different speech/section of the play or work on a section of dialogue with another actor.

## **DIRECTIONS**

### Address:

The Pendley Manor Hotel, Cow Lane, Tring, Hertfordshire HP23 5QY

### By Rail:

Tring station is a 10 minute walk from the Hotel, and is served by regular trains from London Euston and some trains from Clapham Junction. The journey takes one hour. If you are walking from the station you are best to enter the Hotel from Station Road rather than following the formal address (above).

### By Road:

The Pendley Manor Hotel is located five minutes from the Tring exit on the A41. This is approximately 20 minutes from Junction 20 of the M25.

### Parking:

There is plenty of space to park at the Hotel.

### On Arrival:

Simply ask anyone at reception to direct you to the Shakespeare Auditions and then follow the signs through the Hotel leading you to the audition rooms. If you have any problems please don't hesitate to call Amy Johnson on 07914 638343.

If you would like to know more about the Festival or the audition process, please feel free to contact Jack Blackburn: [jack@pendleyshakespearefestival.co.uk](mailto:jack@pendleyshakespearefestival.co.uk) or visit [www.pendleyshakespearefestival.co.uk](http://www.pendleyshakespearefestival.co.uk) for directions to the Hotel, past production photos and a digital copy of this document and the Audition Application Form.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Jack Blackburn