

AUDITION & FESTIVAL INFORMATION

Pendley Shakespeare Festival 2019

www.pendleyshakespearefestival.co.uk

ABOUT THE PENDLEY SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL

The Pendley Shakespeare Festival is a theatre company that produces two high-quality, open-air Shakespeare plays in the grounds of the Pendley Manor Hotel. www.pendley-manor.co.uk. We perform to over five hundred people per night over two weeks. The two plays are fully rehearsed in Rep, and performed within three weeks. This year, in the 70th year of the Festival, we are performing:

MACBETH
and
THE MERRY WIVES OF WINDSOR.

As we are an amateur organisation, we are unfortunately unable to pay our company members, but we do provide an intense, challenging, enjoyable, educational 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 Luke Newberry, 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.

“As an actor, my experiences of Pendley have been invaluable. I reminisce on them during every single process and always find something I learnt at the Manor that I can bring to the present. The rapid nature of the process forces you to trust your instincts. Make a choice, make it strong and run like hell. I owe my courage to Pendley. It was my beginning, and still is very much my present. To any actor, whatever age or experience, it is theatre making I can’t recommend enough.”
(Emilio Iannucci)

“Pendley is a unique learning experience where you get to work with a number of professional directors, you’re totally immersed in Shakespeare and you get to work in a tight ensemble of incredibly talented actors.”
(Francesca Tomlinson, Royal Conservatoire of Scotland)

“Pendley is the most amazing experience. It helped me grow in confidence, improve my skills and make friends for life! It helped me hugely through Drama School and after.”
(Tayla Kenyon, Manchester School of Acting)

“Being at Pendley was an education. A baptism, It taught me a love of gin and tonic- but most importantly- for the Bard. 10 days, 2 plays, no nonsense. Great stuff. Everyone there is a delight and there’s nothing like staging open-air theatre to get your vocal technique on point, and your ego firmly at the door. It taught me to do the job and get on with it.” (Andy Apollo, Bristol Old Vic)

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

- **Festival Dates:** Sunday 21 July 2019 10.00am to get-out Sunday 11 August post-matinee)
- **MACBETH performances:** Wednesday 31 July to Sunday 4 August: nightly at 8pm with Sunday matinee at 3pm
- **THE MERRY WIVES OF WINDSOR performances:** Wednesday 7 August to Sunday 11 August: nightly at 8pm with Sunday matinee at 3pm
- Rehearsals for both shows in Rep, commence on **Sunday 21st July at 10.00am**
- All rehearsals and performances take place outside at the Pendley Manor Hotel.
- **MACBETH** will be directed by Courtney Larkin
- **THE MERRY WIVES OF WINDSOR** will be directed by Douglas Baker
- Accommodation: 2/3 person rooms may be provided at the 4* Hotel for those unable to commute during the rehearsals and performances. Please note that this year accommodation will be very limited. There is a gym, swimming pool, jacuzzi and sauna for the use of all performers and crew.
- Festival Personnel:
 - Artistic Director: Sarah Branston (sarah@pendleyshakespearefestival.co.uk 07903 584252)
 - Festival Director: Kai Everington (kai@pendleyshakespearefestival.co.uk & 07795 250 232)

COMPANY REQUIREMENTS

- We require 17 company members, all of whom will appear in both productions.
- We need actors to be available to rehearse in Rep for both plays 9.30am-1pm: 2-5.30pm and 7-9pm rehearsal slots from Sunday 21 July until the opening of the second play.
- 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 welcome.
- 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 or attached to this email).
- Please save your completed form as a PDF and email it (specifying your name and 'PSF Casting 2019' in the subject field) to: casting@pendleyshakespearefestival.co.uk
- Or, post the completed form to: Sarah Branston, PSF 2019, 6 Osborne Road, Redhill, Surrey RH1 2HX
- The closing date for audition submissions is **Saturday 23 March**. Submissions received after this date will not be considered.
- All submissions should include:
 - A completed Application Form
 - An up-to-date acting/technical CV or link to Spotlight page, CV etc
 - A current headshot/ photo
- When all applications have been received, Sarah Branston will get in touch with successful applicants with further details about the auditions.
- Sarah will provide specific speeches and/or scenes from both plays 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 can be from any genre. 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 slots will be held for actors at the **Pendley Manor Hotel** on:
Saturday 6 April 2019 or Sunday 7 April 2019
- The group auditions /workshops are scheduled in **THREE** main slots: **Saturday Morning 10-1pm, Saturday Afternoon 2-5pm and Sunday Morning 10-1pm**. Your specific time slot will be emailed to you.
- We will endeavour to have casting offers sent out by early May.
- Your audition session will involve both a group movement 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.
 - 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 Hotel is five minutes from the Tring exit on the A41. 20 minutes from Junction 20 of the M25.

Parking: There is plenty of space to park at the Hotel.

On Arrival:

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 Kai Everington on 07795 250 232.

If you would like to know more, please feel free to contact Kai Everington:

kai@pendleyshakespearefestival.co.uk

Visit www.pendleyshakespearefestival.co.uk for more help and to download forms.

Past production photos are also on the website.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Do please pass on this information to anyone you think might benefit from this opportunity.

Kai Everington
Festival Director 2019