



AUDITION INFORMATION

Information for those wanting to be a part of BOAT 2020

**The Brownsea Open Air Theatre production of
ROMEO AND JULIET**

**Performances between
July 27th – August 15th 2020**

**If you have never been to an audition for BOAT before, the following Information is essential for you to read. This applies not only to those auditioning for a role in the play but to those wanting to work backstage, making costumes and props or working front-of-house
Even if you are an 'old-hand' please read it carefully as it includes specific information about the 2020 production**

All Information enclosed is important but particularly take note of key dates now.

As always - Auditions are open to EVERYONE over the age of 16.

BOAT is one of THE biggest theatrical projects in the south, annually performing on the National Trust's Brownsea Island in Poole Harbour, Dorset. These beautiful surroundings make for a wonderful show and a fantastic evening of traditional Shakespeare.

The company is professionally run, but **all** of those involved with BOAT, whether on stage, backstage or front-of-house are unpaid volunteers. Since 1964 BOAT has involved around 1,500 volunteers, entertained more than 100,000 people and raised around £250,000 for the National Trust.

Every production takes many months to prepare each year, but it is an experience that the cast, crew and audience remember for a long time, and relish coming back to year after year.

Make 2020 the year that you join us!

THE AUDITIONS

Are on: - TUESDAY 7TH and WEDNESDAY 8TH January from 7pm onwards but you need only turn up to one of these. If you are interested in auditioning but can't make either date PLEASE contact the BOAT 2020 Production Manager on 07749 333 897

Are at: - The Durley Dean Hotel, 28 West Cliff Road, Bournemouth BH2 5HE

Procedure: - On arrival you will be asked to fill out a form (Name/Address/etc and what you are interested in eg Acting/Backstage/Costume/Props/Front-of-House etc;)

You are welcome to stay as long as you like in the area set aside for BOAT and will have the chance to meet heads and members of the different teams as well as other potential new 'BOATers' like yourself. There is a bar available, so enjoy your evening in good company and take the opportunity to start forging new friendships.

BOAT 2020



AUDITIONING FOR A NON-ACTING ROLE?

If you are looking for a **non-acting role** you will be introduced to the Heads of Departments who will give you a clearer idea of what is involved in each department and will find out your special interests and experience. We are very happy to introduce you to new skills and, rest assured, we are delighted to welcome people without any experience of theatre. You might like to be active in more than one department and, even if you are not part of the official set-build team, you will be given a pass that enables you to come to the island on Sundays & help with all the tasks that are involved in mounting and dismantling a huge, open air production. This is a time when everyone is essential and, as well as working hard, we also aim to make it an enjoyable social occasion when cast and crew meet and mingle.

AUDITIONING FOR AN ACTING ROLE?

If you are auditioning for an **acting role** in the play you will have extra details to fill in and will then be advised when the audition panel is ready to see you. There may be a bit of a wait to audition - depending on how many people turn up - so it's an ideal time to meet others involved with the production. The following information is to help you prepare for the auditions and also to make you aware of what it is like to act in a BOAT production.

The Audition itself

Individual auditions will take place in a separate room in front of a panel of 3 people - the director and two other BOAT actors/directors. We are all used to the experience of auditioning so we know how nervous this makes people feel. Be assured, we are not looking for a polished performance - our aim is to create an atmosphere in which you feel you can do yourself justice.

If you make a mistake, it's fine. If you want to start again, that's not a problem either. Just relax and enjoy yourself. **More details about the auditioning process and how we let you know the outcome are included in the separate information that follows.**

YOU MUST BE 16+ BY JULY 27th 2020 to audition for a part.

The experience

Performing on Brownsea Island is a unique and wonderful experience, but it does require a big commitment from all the cast - from the initial read through all the way through to the dismantling of the set once the production is finished. Please read the following before deciding to audition...

Rehearsals

Rehearsals will run 3 evenings a week (the pattern of evenings will vary but rehearsals will all be between Monday and Friday). If cast you will not have to attend every rehearsal in the early weeks as these will be scheduled in accordance with a detailed rehearsal plan involving specific scenes or actors.



ROMEO & JULIET

The rehearsals will be held in three stages: Specific dates will be on the form you will complete beforehand

- 1) Indoor rehearsals: - these will take place at Kinson Community Centre from April until the first week in June.
- 2) Outdoor rehearsals: - these will take place out of doors at the same venue during the rest of June.
- 3) Island rehearsals: - on set rehearsing from the beginning of July. The last week of these rehearsals is a very busy time with technical and dress rehearsals. Actors need to be available **every night from Monday July 20th - Friday July 24^d** - even though it is unlikely you would be called every night. We just need back up plans in case of bad weather.

All those cast in roles will be responsible for getting to rehearsals on time. At Kinson from 7pm onwards, for Island rehearsals you **must** be able to get to the ferry point at Sandbanks by 6pm.

Please note that once we get to the island rehearsals our ferry won't be back on to the mainland until about 10:30pm (about 11:30pm during the week of Technical Rehearsals). Please take this into account if you are thinking of auditioning - particularly if you live some distance away.

Performances

All cast will need to be available for the full THREE weeks run of the play from Monday- Saturday. Although public performances are Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, the evenings in between are designated as contingency nights should a performance be called off for bad weather. Although the Opening Night is advertised as Wednesday July 29th, there is a special Preview Performance, before an invited audience, on Monday July 27th (contingency Tuesday 26th)

Cast Member expectations

As a cast member you would, of course, be expected to:

- Turn up to every rehearsal you are called for – at the scheduled time
- Take direction and write notes
- Learn your lines by an agreed point in the rehearsal schedule.

You will also be expected to:

- Help with set build, props making and painting when you can (this takes place on the Island on Sundays). Everyone finds this an enjoyable experience as they see different aspects of the play coming together and meet other members of the company.
- Help dismantle the set (scheduled for the weekends immediately after the final performance).
- Help publicise the show as much as you can.