



BROWNSEA
OPEN AIR THEATRE

REGISTERED CHARITY №278003

EST. 1964

Brownsea Open Air Theatre
2024 Production.



М И С Б Е Т И

OPEN EVENING & AUDITION INFORMATION

OPEN EVENING & AUDITIONS – Friday January 12th and Saturday January 13th 2024

Performance Dates - July 22nd - August 11th 2024

If you have never been involved with 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, set building or working front of house.

Even if you are an 'old hand' please read this carefully as it includes information specific to 2024.

All this information is important, but particularly take note of the key dates below.

As always - Auditions are open to EVERYONE over the age of 16 (unless stated otherwise. Some roles in Macbeth are for actors under 16). No previous experience is required, just enthusiasm and talent.

ABOUT BOAT

BOAT is one of the biggest theatrical productions 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 over £300,000 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 2024 the year that you join us!

WHEN ARE THE AUDITIONS AND OPEN EVENINGS?

On: FRIDAY 12th JANUARY (Open Evening for Crew and pre-booked auditions) arriving at 6:30 for a 7:00 start, up to 9:30 PM

AND

Saturday 13th JANUARY (see below for session times)

Dance Auditions 1:30 to 3:00 PM.

Younger people Workshop Auditions 3:30 to 5:00PM

“No need to book – Turn up and Wait” Auditions for Acting roles – 6:00PM to 9:30PM

If you are interested in auditioning but can't make these dates, please contact the BOAT 2024 Production Manager - boatproductionmanager@gmail.com

WHERE ARE THEY?

At: The Centre, Barns Road, Ferndown. BH22 8XH



SIGNING UP AS A MEMBER OF THE CREW?

Would you like to join the Backstage, Front of House, Costume, Props, Sound, Lighting or Set Building and Painting teams?

Then Friday 12th January is the night for you!

Come along at any time between 7.00pm and 9.30pm and have a chat with us.

The Heads of Department will be there to meet you, answer any questions, 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, when the season begins you will be given a pass that enables you to come to the island on Sundays to 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.

You can choose to complete your sign-up forms ahead of time or do that on the night instead.

If you have a Google/Gmail account, you can find the form here:

<https://forms.gle/B2cMtujqf4jJQ5vi9>

If you DON'T have a Google or Gmail account, please use the form here:

<https://forms.gle/xZfG2vwXdbZJxmfs8>

Paper forms will also be made available on the night for those who need them.

AUDITIONING FOR AN ACTING ROLE?

If you would like to audition for an acting role (speaking or non-speaking) you have a choice of two dates.

1. **PRE-BOOKED AUDITIONS:** If you don't like the idea of sitting and waiting for an hour or so to be called in to audition, then booking a time slot for Friday 12th of January may be the right choice for you.

Email boatproductionmanager@gmail.com to request a time slot. These are between 7.00pm and 9.30pm and will be allocated in 10-minute intervals. Please note - there are only a limited number of the pre-booked audition slots available so don't delay if you would like one!

Please arrive 10-15 minutes prior to your allotted time to make sure that your audition forms have been completed and submitted correctly.

To save time on the night, we encourage you to complete and submit your audition form now.

If you have a Google/Gmail account, you can find the form here:

<https://forms.gle/idQEMK7J2SjYA3aT8>

If you DON'T have a Google or Gmail account, please use the form here:

<https://forms.gle/vENqvYVrDC5ukjXb7>

Paper forms will also be made available on the night for those who need them.

You are very welcome to turn up early and/or stay for the rest of the evening after your audition, to catch up with friends and meet the other people auditioning or to chat with the Heads of Department who will also be there.

These auditions are for adult speaking and non-speaking roles. For Dancing Witches and younger cast roles, please see below.

2. **TURN-UP-AND-WAIT AUDITIONS:** If you prefer to come along and sit and wait to be seen then our session on the evening of Saturday 13th January is the day for you. We will be holding auditions between 6:00PM and 10:00pm – with the last entry being 9:30PM.

Come along at any time during this session and sit and wait to be called in to audition. There may be a fair amount of time to wait, but there will be people around to chat to and to answer your questions.

To save time on the day, we encourage you to complete and submit your audition form now.

If you have a Google/Gmail account, you can find the form here:

<https://forms.gle/idQEMK7J2SjYA3aT8>

If you DON'T have a Google or Gmail account, please use the form here:

<https://forms.gle/vENqvYVrDC5ukjXb7>

Paper forms will also be made available on the day for those who need them.

You are very welcome to stay for the rest of the session after your audition, to catch up with friends and meet the other people auditioning.

These auditions are for adult speaking and non-speaking roles. For Dancing Witches and younger cast roles, please see below.

AUDITIONING FOR A DANCING WITCH ROLE?

If you would like to audition for one of the Dancing Witches, the Dance audition is on Saturday 13th January at 1:00 for a 1:30 PM start. Please wear comfortable clothes and footwear and make sure you bring plenty of water to drink.

This will be a group audition.

To save time on the day, we encourage you to complete and submit your audition form now.

If you have a Google/Gmail account, you can find the form here:

<https://forms.gle/idQEMK7J2SjYA3aT8>

If you DON'T have a Google or Gmail account, please use the form here:

<https://forms.gle/vENqvYVrDC5ukjXb7>

Paper forms will also be made available on the day for those who need them.

You are very welcome to stay for the rest of the session after your audition, to catch up with friends and meet the other people auditioning.

AUDITIONING FOR A YOUNG CHARACTER?

If you would like to audition for one of the Young Character roles, this will take place on Saturday 13th January at 3:15 for a 3:30 PM start. Children under 16 should be accompanied by an adult.

Young Characters are Donalbain, Young Siward,

Fleance and the Macduff child/children.

This will be a group audition.

To save time on the day, we encourage you to complete and submit your audition form now.

If you have a Google/Gmail account, you can find the form here:

<https://forms.gle/idQEMK7J2SjYA3aT8>

If you DON'T have a Google or Gmail account, please use the form here:

<https://forms.gle/vENqvYVrDC5ukjXb7>

Paper forms will also be made available on the day for those who need them.

About The Audition

Before coming to audition, please download the "Audition Pieces". Select which role(s) you want to audition for and prepare the relevant audition pieces.

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.

The panel may ask you to do the piece again and may suggest you try something different. This doesn't mean you did it wrong, they just want to see you try different aspects of the role.

Some characters have more than one audition piece to look at. You will most likely be asked to perform just one and the director may invite you to choose your favourite one to do.

You are very welcome to stay for the rest of the session after your audition, to catch up with friends and meet the other people auditioning.

YOU MUST BE 16+ by 22nd July 2024 to audition for a part unless otherwise stated.

The BOAT 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 be 3 evenings a week (the pattern of evenings will vary but will all be between Monday and Friday). If cast, you will not have to attend every rehearsal in the early stages as these will be scheduled in accordance with a detailed rehearsal plan involving specific scenes or actors. You **will** be required for **all** rehearsals from the end of June.

The rehearsals will be held in three stages. Specific dates will be confirmed asap after the auditions. All rehearsals will be in the Bournemouth / Poole area.

- 1) Indoor rehearsals: - from the end of April until the first week in June. In these rehearsals we will explore the play, learn the lines and basic blocking, and experiment with ideas.
- 2) Outdoor rehearsals: - these will take place out of doors during the rest of June. These rehearsals will be used to further develop ideas, and make sure the show works in the open air.
- 3) Island rehearsals: - on set rehearsing from the beginning of July. This allows us to polish and hone the show, and get used to the set. 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 15th to Friday 19th July - even though it is unlikely you would be called every night. We just need back up plans in case of bad weather.

All cast will be responsible for getting to rehearsals on time. Indoor and Outdoor rehearsals are from 7pm - 10pm. For Island rehearsals you must be able to get to the ferry point at Sandbanks before 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 (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 every evening for the full **THREE** weeks run of the play (including weekends)

Although public performances are Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, the other evenings are designated as contingency nights should a performance be called off for bad weather. Although the Opening Night is advertised as Wednesday 24th July, there is also a special preview performance, before an invited audience, on Monday 22nd July (contingency Tuesday 23rd).

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.