



AUDITION INFORMATION

AUDITIONS – Thursday February 5th and Friday February 6th 2026 (RECALLS - Thursday 12th February)

Performance Dates – August 3rd – August 16th 2026

If you have never been involved with BOAT before, the following information is essential for you to read.

Even if you are an 'old hand' please read this carefully as it includes **information specific to 2026**.

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. No previous experience is required, just enthusiasm and talent.

ABOUT BOAT

BOAT is one of the biggest theatrical productions in the south, until 2024 performing annually on the National Trust's Brownsea Island in Poole Harbour, Dorset. In 2025 we moved to the beautiful grounds of Canford School to continue providing wonderful entertainment and a fantastic evening of traditional Shakespeare in the open air.

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 more than 1,700 volunteers, entertained more than 100,000 people and raised over £300,000 for the National Trust and other charities.

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 'Brownsea Open Air Theatre at Canford 2026' the production that lures you to join us!

WHEN ARE THE AUDITIONS?

On: THURSDAY 5TH FEBRUARY AND FRIDAY 6TH FEBRUARY

- Pre-booked auditions between 6pm and 10pm
- Anyone turning up without pre-booking will be seen **if** a slot becomes available before 9pm.
(There may be some late availability at the end of the night.)

If you are interested in auditioning but can't make these dates, please contact the BOAT 2026 Production Manager - boatproductionmanager@gmail.com

WHERE ARE THEY?

At: Kinson Library, Wimborne Road, Bournemouth, BH11 9AW

Enter via the back of the building, through the car park.



AUDITIONING FOR AN ACTING ROLE?

If you would like to audition for an acting role (speaking or non-speaking) please read the following.

PRE-BOOKED AUDITIONS: To save auditionees from waiting around a long time for their audition BOAT uses audition slots.

For both audition evenings you can book a time slot as follows:

- 6pm – 7pm
- 7pm - 8pm
- 8pm - 9pm
- 9pm - 10pm

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 at least 10 minutes prior to your allotted time so that we have time to check you in and make sure that your audition forms have been completed and submitted correctly.

The forms can be found here:

- If you have access to a Google/Gmail account: <https://forms.gle/NNXPzxbNSpJM3nHbA>
- If you DO NOT have access to a Google/Gmail account: <https://forms.gle/U7gSt7EQTRcbEgfS6>

Paper forms will also be made available on the night for those who need them, but please email **boatproductionmanager@gmail.com** as soon as possible to make sure you have an audition slot booked.

About The Audition

Before coming to audition, please download the "Audition Pieces" from our website. Select which role(s) you want to audition for and prepare the relevant audition pieces. Please also download the "Synopsis" for an overview of what the play is about.

Individual auditions will take place in a separate room in front of a panel of 4 people - the director and three 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 may be asked to perform just one or you may be asked to perform them all. Where there are other characters speaking in your audition pieces those words will be delivered by someone on the panel to assist you.

You are very welcome to stay for the rest of the session after your audition, to catch up with friends, meet the other people auditioning and talk to the various Trustees of BOAT who will also be there.

YOU MUST BE 16+ by 26th April 2026 to audition for a part unless otherwise stated.

The BOAT Experience

Performing for BOAT 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 up to 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. **Most** actors **will** be required for **all** rehearsals from July.

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

1) Indoor rehearsals: - from 26th April until 25th June. In these rehearsals we will explore the play, learn the lines and basic blocking, and experiment with ideas.

2) Outdoor rehearsals Stage One: - ALL outdoor rehearsals will be onsite at Canford. For Stage One from 29th June until 23rd July there will be 3 scheduled rehearsals per week with possible contingency for bad weather. Rehearsals will be in the vicinity of where the set is being built – and on the set once safe to do so.

3) Outdoor rehearsals Stage Two: - Stage Two will take place from 27th July after the erection of the auditorium and (soon after) the lighting rig. Everyone should expect to be called for all rehearsals and available, if needed, for EVERY evening up until the final dress rehearsal date of 31st July.

All cast will be responsible for getting to rehearsals on time. Indoor rehearsals will be from 7.15pm - 10pm. Outdoor rehearsals will start earlier and in the initial stages, due to the light, will finish earlier.

Performances

All cast will, of course, need to be available every evening for the full run of the play from 3rd to 16th August.

NEW FOR 2026: We are planning 11 public performances, plus a Dress Rehearsal in front of an invited audience. The proposed performance schedule is as follows:

Monday 3rd August: Performance

Tuesday 4th August: Performance

Wednesday 5th August: Performance

Thursday 6th August: Contingency night in case an earlier performance is cancelled

Friday 7th August: Performance

Saturday 8th August: Performance

Sunday 9th August: Matinee RELAXED Performance

Sunday 9th August: Contingency night in case an earlier performance is cancelled

Monday 10th August: Performance

Tuesday 11th August: Performance

Wednesday 12th August: Performance

Thursday 13th August: Contingency night in case an earlier performance is cancelled

Friday 14th August: Performance

Saturday 15th August: Performance

Sunday 16th August: Contingency night in case an earlier performance is cancelled

THE TEMPEST

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.

If you are successfully cast in the play, in addition to your role we also expect you to volunteer **three or more times** throughout the season as part of one of the following teams: Set Building/Painting, Props Making and/or Costume Making. No special expertise is required. Everyone finds this an enjoyable experience as they see different aspects of the play coming together and meet other members of the company.

You will also be expected to:

- Help dismantle the set (scheduled for the weekends immediately after the final performance).
- Help publicise the show as much as you can.