



AUDITION & OPEN EVENING INFORMATION

Saturday 23rd & Sunday 24th January 2027 (RECALLS - Saturday 30th January)

Performance Dates – August 2nd – August 15th 2027

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 2027**.

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 local good causes.

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 2027' the production that lures you to join us!

WHEN ARE THE AUDITIONS / OPEN EVENINGS?

On: SATURDAY 23RD & SUNDAY 24TH JANUARY

- 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 2027 Production Manager - martha@brownsea-theatre.co.uk

WHERE ARE THEY?

At: The Centre, Barns Rd, Ferndown BH22 8XH



What3Words: ///thus.cages.took
There is free parking at The Centre.
Please bring your own refreshments.

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?

If you would like to apply to volunteer as a member of one of the Behind-The-Scenes teams, please submit your application form online.

You are very welcome to also come along at any time during the evening of either of the Open Evening dates (Jan 23rd or 24th between 6pm – 10pm) to meet and ask questions of the various Heads of Department and chat with other volunteers.

The Heads of Department will be there to meet you, answer any questions, give you 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.

If you volunteer three or more times throughout the season, you will be entitled to a complimentary ticket to watch the play.

Set Building (and some Props making) will take place on site at Canford School on designated dates, and access will be controlled. Even if you are not part of the official set-build team, when the season begins you will be given a membership card that enables you to attend at Canford at specific dates/times 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.

The forms can be found here:

- If you have access to a Google/Gmail account: <https://forms.gle/HUSR3tcMMzbtpESi7>
- If you DO NOT have a Google/Gmail account: <https://forms.gle/99kYJgsirmX6gTbh7>

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) 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/vC4Sq9CuaAWKD5JZ8>
- If you DO NOT have access to a Google/Gmail account: <https://forms.gle/bypjePhqcaqDyJWHA>

Paper forms will also be made available on the night for those who need them, but please email martha@brownsea-theatre.co.uk 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 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 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 25th April 2027 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 25th April until 2nd July. 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 5th July 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 26th 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 30th 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.

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

Monday 2nd August: Performance

Tuesday 3rd August: Performance

Wednesday 4th August: Performance

Thursday 5th August: Contingency night in case an earlier performance is cancelled

Friday 6th August: Performance

Saturday 7th August: Evening Performance + Matinee RELAXED Performance (TBC)

Sunday 8th August: Contingency night in case an earlier performance is cancelled

Monday 9th August: Performance

Tuesday 10th August: Performance

Wednesday 11th August: Performance

Thursday 12th August: Contingency night in case an earlier performance is cancelled

Friday 13th August: Performance

Saturday 14th August: Performance

Sunday 15th August: Contingency night in case an earlier performance is cancelled

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, Costume Making and/or flyer distribution. 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.