



Artistic Notes

As you will see from the audition notices, there is a lot happening this autumn! I hope members will support us and turn up to audition for these wonderful shows. Now that the autumn season has been finalised, my attention turns to next year and 2019 is already filling up. We are in discussion with Bristol Old Vic Theatre School for their next visit in June and John Challis, alias Boycie, will return in October. The only vacant slot is May/June, so if anyone has something they'd like to direct, please do get in touch. If you have never directed before, don't let that get in your way - you will receive lots of support. Get in touch with me at lewis@thecowens.force9.co.uk or call 07523 050961

Artistic Director • Lewis Cowen

Audition notice

Kidnap in Pantoland

Directed by John Winterton

Playing dates : Friday 7 - Saturday 15 December

Audition : 7.30pm Monday 3 September in the theatre bar.

IT'S A PANTO! Seeking a selection of good guys and some bad guys. Panto characters are being kidnapped, but by who? Help us in finding the baddest of bad guys and make sure everyone lives happily ever after.

CHARACTER LIST

Sleeping Beauty • Princess

Snow White • Princess

Cinderella • Princess

Prince Charming • Goodie

Buttons • Goodie

Dwarf • Goodie

Dick Whittington • Goodie

Puss in Boots • Goodie

Widow Twanky • Goodie

Wicked Queen • Baddie

Captain Hook • Baddie

Wicked Step Mother • Baddie

The Giant • Baddie

Wicked Fairy • Baddie

Maverick • Detective

Chirpy • Detective

Some singing and dancing required, must be willing to have fun! Scripts will be available at the audition and in advance from me : johnwint541@aol.com / 07969 174002

AGM

At our AGM a few issues were raised which the trustees have been acting on as follows:

FOH seating New tables and chairs were purchased as part of the refurbishment, however, it was thought that we could do with more seating. A table and two chairs have been purchased and these are now in situ.

The lease Most members are aware that we are on a rolling six month lease with Wiltshire Council. Whilst we do feel secure with this arrangement, this does preclude us from accessing a lot of funding. Oliver Phipps has again been in touch with Wiltshire Council to raise this issue and, whilst we have no more news in this area, I thought it worth notifying you that we are still keeping this live.

Paving As members have commented, the paving at the front of the theatre is very cracked. Again, Oliver has been in touch with Wiltshire Council about this and the finance team are currently seeking a budget pot to fund new paving.

As ever, we are keeping busy and very much looking forward to the fabulous new season!

Chairman • Sarah Williams

Audition notice

Chapter Two

Directed by Lewis Cowen

Playing dates : Mon 28 January - Sat 2 February 2019

Audition : 7.30pm Tuesday 11 September at the Wharf.

Novelist George Schneider is still grieving over the death of his wife Barbara when his brother Leo sets him up on a date with newly divorced actress Jennie Malone.

Neither of them consider themselves ready for a new relationship and the efforts of Leo and Jennie's best friend Faye to bring them together only lead to chaos.

This is Neil Simon at his hilarious best, his sparkling dialogue softening the edge of what is, at heart, a serious examination of what it means to lose one's partner, either through death or marriage break-up.

The play is set in 1977. The action takes place in Jennifer Malone's upper East Side apartment and George Schneider's apartment in lower Central Park West. The two apartments are side by side onstage throughout.

All ages are playing ages and I will not be bound by them. We can always alter things to our needs. Scripts are available from me at lewis@thecowens.force9.co.uk / 07523 050961

CHARACTER LIST

George Schneider M 42

Leo Schneider M 40

Jenny Malone F 32

Faye Medwick F 35



Audition notice

As You Like It

Directed by Liz Sharman

Playing dates : Monday 11 - Saturday 16 March 2019

Workshop : 7pm Wednesday 7 November - Wharf foyer.

Auditions : 7pm Wednesday 14 November - Wharf foyer.

Set in the fictional Forest of Arden with its population of lovers, clowns, country folk and city runaways, *As You Like It* is one of Shakespeare's most accessible plays. It features several songs, incidental music, a wrestling match and the famous 'All the World's a Stage' speech. It ends with a joyful quadruple wedding (and no funeral!). This production of *As You Like It* will be in modern dress (nothing weird!) and needs a cast of at least 16 actors, singers and musicians.

November will be spent casting and doing read-throughs, then we'll have a few rehearsals in December before starting in earnest after Christmas.

The script is easily found online, as are 'translations' of it into modern language. If you would like to register your interest, or if you have any questions, please email Liz Sharman at esharman@longwaterbooks.co.uk. I'd be especially keen to hear from any potential Rosalinds, as this is such a key role in the play. I will also need help with two fight scenes from someone who knows about stage combat, please contact me if you can help with this aspect of the production, even if you don't necessarily wish to perform in the play.

CHARACTER LIST

Rosalind F 20s/30s • The key role in the play and Shakespeare's largest female role. Brave, witty, loving and wise. NB Rosalind is disguised as a young man for most of the play.

Celia F 20s/30s • Rosalind's beloved cousin. Spirited and witty.

Duke Senior M 50+ • Rosalind's father, banished by his usurping brother and living in exile in the forest. Philosophical and charitable.

Orlando M 20s/30s • Young nobleman who falls in love with Rosalind, then flees to the forest to escape his older brother's grudge against him. The heart of the play is the teasing relationship between Rosalind and Orlando.

Touchstone M Any age • The court jester – typical Shakespearian clown who plays the fool but is actually a clever satirist. Worldly, witty and ill-at-ease in the forest.

Jaques (pronounced 'Jay-kweez') M Any age • A cynical, melancholic nobleman living in exile with Duke Frederick. Delivers the famous 'All the world's a stage' speech.

Corin M 50+ • A simple shepherd who embodies the virtues of country life. Can double as a courtier in the court scenes.

Silvius M Late teens-30s • A foolish lovesick young shepherd. Can double as a courtier in the court scenes.

Phoebe F Late teens-30s • A silly vain country girl, loved by Silvius but in love with Rosalind in her male disguise. Can double as a courtier in the court scenes.

Duke Frederick M 50+ • Rosalind's uncle, Frederick's brother and Celia's father. Cruel and tyrannical. The two Dukes are often played by the same actor, but we won't necessarily pursue this. Can double as a minor character in the forest scenes.

Oliver M 20s-40s • Orlando's jealous older brother. Pursues Orlando to the forest, undergoes a character transformation and falls in love with Celia.

Amiens M/F Any age • A follower of the exiled Duke. A singer (and possibly guitarist).

Audrey F 20s/30s/40s • Earthy country wench and Touchstone's love interest. Can double as a courtier in the court scenes.

Ensemble • In addition to the main characters above, we will also need an ensemble of at least three more people to play the smaller parts below. Some of these roles could be played by women or teenagers. Ensemble members are guaranteed spoken lines, songs, and a lot of stage time:

Adam (Orlando's servant) / Charles the wrestler / Monsieur Le Beau / Martext (a clergyman) / Forest Lord / William (young country boy) / Hymen (God/dess of Marriage, but in this version to be a kind of forest deity) / Jacques the brother of Oliver and Orlando / courtiers / pages / servants / singers.

Please note that in order to take part in any Wharf Theatre production, you must be a current member.

Copy deadline

If you have any articles or notices you wish to feature in the next newsletter, please contact us by email : publicity@wharftheatre.co.uk by Monday 15 October