

CASTING CALL

Auditions for *Lear/Cordelia* pilot production

Key information

Project	<i>Lear/Cordelia</i>
Type	Studio theatre pilot production
Roles	Lear (male playing 60+) Cordelia (female playing 20-30) Goneril (female playing 30-40) Regan (female playing 30-40)
Audition dates for Lear and Cordelia	Friday 15 July 2016
Audition dates for Goneril and Regan	Saturday 16 July 2016
Work schedule for Lear and Cordelia	19 September to 15 October 2016 and 17 to 19 November 2016
Work schedule for Goneril and Regan	Late August / early September 2016
Locations	Derby (auditions and rehearsals), Leicester and Derby (performances)
Fee	Above Equity minimum
Directors	Louie Ingham (<i>Cordelia</i>) and Ben Spiller (<i>Lear</i>)
Producer	Christopher Lydon, 1623 theatre company
Closing date for applications	Monday 27 June 2016, 5pm

Project summary

Lear/Cordelia is an experimental double-bill: a radical reworking of Shakespeare's *King Lear* followed by *Cordelia*, a new play from the perspective of Lear's youngest daughter.

"I should know you"
: King Lear

Lear has dementia. His daughters Goneril, Regan and Cordelia never visit him. He forbids it, ever since he disowned them many years ago. So what happens when Cordelia - his youngest, whose betrayal was the greatest - knocks on his door? Why has she come back? What's her story? And is there any chance of reconciliation?

Digital projection-mapping combines with Shakespeare and new writing to open up the emotional landscapes of a man with dementia and the woman who tries to reconnect with him.

Lear/Cordelia pilot production is based on 1623 theatre company's research-and-development project that explored *King Lear* in the context of dementia through participatory research.

Supported by Arts Council England, Attenborough Arts Centre, Derby City Council, Derby Theatre and QUAD.

A national tour of the production is planned for Autumn 2017.

Roles

1623 believes that the people with whom we work, our audiences and our participants should be diverse. We embrace people of all abilities, ages, beliefs, genders, states of health, races, religions and sexualities.

We are looking for actors to play:

- Lear (playing age 60+): living with dementia; father to 3 estranged daughters; former Conservative cabinet member; widower; lonely; comfortable when in control; angry when challenged
- Cordelia (playing age 20-30): trying to cope with a father living with dementia; youngest of 3 sisters and formerly her father's favourite; young doctor; Labour supporter; comfortable when in control; confident in her beliefs
- Goneril (playing age 30-40): struggling to cope with a father living with dementia; oldest of 3 sisters; leader of a Conservative-led local authority; engaging public speaker; determined to have her own way
- Regan (playing age 30-40): not coping well with a father living with dementia; second of 3 sisters; wife to a Conservative politician; low self-esteem; frustrated; violent

Lear and Cordelia appear live on stage in both parts of the double-bill.

Goneril and Regan appear in pre-recorded video footage projected onto the set.

What to expect in the audition

If you are selected to audition, we will send you short extracts from the *Lear/Cordelia* scripts. We would like you to be familiar with the extracts before the audition, when we will ask you to perform them and explore them through a range of short activities.

We would also like to get to know you and your work through a brief chat about your recent career highlights and what attracted you to this project.

The panel in the audition room will be:

- Louie Ingham, director of *Cordelia*
- Christopher Lydon, producer of *Lear/Cordelia*
- Ben Spiller, director of *Lear*

You will be needed for a maximum of 90 minutes, in which time you will take part in two auditions that run for 20 minutes each.

There will be another actor in the room with you for each of your two auditions.

If you audition for the role of Lear, you will work with an actor auditioning for the role of Cordelia in your first audition, before you work with another actor auditioning for Cordelia in your second audition.

If you audition for the role of Cordelia, you will work with an actor auditioning for the role of Lear in your first audition, before you work with another actor auditioning for Lear in your second audition.

If you audition for the role of Goneril, you will work with an actor auditioning for the role of Regan in your first audition, before you work with another actor auditioning for Regan in your second audition.

If you audition for the role of Regan, you will work with an actor auditioning for the role of Goneril in your first audition, before you work with another actor auditioning for Goneril in your second audition.

In each of your two auditions, we will be looking for:

- A believable dynamic between you and the other actor
- Exceptional vocal and physical delivery of Shakespeare and new writing
- Open-mindedness and willingness to explore new ideas
- Some experience of dementia and its impact on family life

Audition dates

Friday 15 July 2016: auditions for Lear and Cordelia

Saturday 16 July 2016: auditions for Goneril and Regan

Audition venue

The audition venue will be in Derby city centre. If you are selected to audition, the details of the audition venue will be sent to you.

When you arrive at the audition venue, a member of 1623 staff will greet you and show you where you need to go.

Work schedule for actors playing Lear and Cordelia

- Monday 19 to Friday 23 September 2016: rehearsals in Derby
- Monday 26 to Friday 30 September 2016: rehearsals in Derby
- Monday 3 to Friday 7 October 2016: rehearsals in Derby
- Monday 10 to Thursday 13 October 2016: rehearsals in Derby
- Friday 14 October 2016: dress and technical rehearsals at Attenborough Arts Centre; evening performance with BSL interpretation, followed by Q&A with cast and creative team
- Saturday 15 October 2016: dementia-friendly matinee performance at Attenborough Arts Centre, where cast meets audience before performance and post-show Q&A takes place with cast and creative team; evening performance streamed live online by Pilot Theatre
- Thursday 17 November 2016: rehearsals in Derby
- Friday 18 November 2016: dress and technical rehearsals at Derby Theatre Studio; evening performance with BSL interpretation, followed by Q&A with cast and creative team
- Saturday 19 November 2016: dementia-friendly matinee performance at Derby Theatre Studio, where cast meets audience before performance and post-show Q&A takes place with cast and creative team; evening performance

There will be six performances in total.

In late November 2016, we will ask for your feedback via a short digital form to share your experience of working on the production.

Fee for actors playing Lear and Cordelia

- Three 5-day weeks of rehearsal at £525 per week
- One 6-day week of rehearsals and performances in Leicester at £630 per week
- Three days of rehearsals and performances in Derby at £105 per day

Total fee: £2,520

Work schedule for actors playing Goneril and Regan

Two days in late August or early September 2016 (to be confirmed in consultation with actors):
rehearsals and filming in Derby

Fee for actors playing Goneril and Regan

- Two days of rehearsals and filming in Derby at £105 per day

Total fee: £210

Fees

These fees are above minimum rates recommended by Equity and the Independent Theatre Council. We will cover accommodation and travel costs in consultation with the actors.

Actors will need to confirm that they are registered as self-employed and will take responsibility for their own income tax and national insurance contributions.

How to apply

Email the following to casting@1623theatre.co.uk:

- CV
- Headshot
- Role/s for which you are applying
- Short paragraph on your suitability for the role/s
- The location from where you will be travelling if you are invited to audition (this is so we can allocate an appropriate start time for you)

Make sure that the subject of your email is "Lear/Cordelia auditions".

Closing date for applications is Monday 27 June 2016 at 5pm.

More about 1623 theatre company

Find out more about 1623 on our website: www.1623theatre.co.uk