The Nottingham New Theatre

Edinburgh Festival Fringe Company 2014

COMPREHENSIVE INFORMATION FOR PROSPECTIVE AUDITIONEES

**THE FESTIVAL**

The Edinburgh Festival is a collection of themed festivals celebrating everything from films to books, music to theatre. It is the world’s largest such festival; beginning with the Science Festival in April and then continuing until Hogmanay in December. The bulk of the Festival occurs during August when the International, Book, Jazz, Art and Fringe Festivals take place; as well as the Military Tattoo. The Fringe Festival is in itself is the largest gathering of theatre makers and performers and the biggest arts festival in the world, increasing in size and participation with each year since it was established in 1947. This is where we shall be taking our two productions, to perform for the duration of the festival: 1st-25th August. See edfringe.com for further information about the Edinburgh Festival Fringe.

**THE PLAYS**

The two plays we’ll be taking up are both pieces of new writing by NNT members.

**Queen B** by Ben Williamson. Directed by Ben Williamson. Producer TBC. 1M 1F.

*Dan is a man lost in the sea of his own existence, his life hasn’t turned out how he would have liked and he craves excitement. When he meets Amy, a 19 year old girl with a completely unfiltered and free-spirited view of the world, he finds a way to live again. But how does a 40 year old man go about meeting a 19 year old girl? And can the repercussions from their first meeting ever really go away?*

**18b** by Jake Leonard. Directed by Tess Monro-Somerville. Produced by Ellie Cawthorne. 2M 2F.

*1942. Three women await disciplinary hearings. They have been held without trial in prison for five weeks. This isn’t Germany. This isn’t Russia. This is England. Two officials await the arrival of the three women to interview them as part of a disciplinary hearing to decide their fate.*

**THE AUDITIONS**

Auditions for the 7 parts on offer are open to everyone, as long as you’re a member of NNT. You may audition for both but can only be cast in 1 max. You do not need to prepare anything in advance but simply arrive and the production teams will give you a piece or two to look at. Be aware that they may want to call you back at a later date and time to read with others/try out different parts etc. Below are the audition rooms, dates and times for each show. If you are unable to make any of the times stated, for either show, but definitely wish to audition then please contact James at [edinburgh@newtheatre.org.uk](mailto:edinburgh@newtheatre.org.uk) and we’ll endeavour to find a time for the teams to see you. Casting will be done via phone calls around midday on Sunday 2nd March, so if you audition at any point please make sure you have your phone on and close by so you don’t miss out! To give yourself the best chance of being cast, be sure to audition for BOTH plays!

**QUEEN B**. NNT Studio A.  
Thu 27th Feb: 2-7pm Fri 28th Feb: 10am-3pm Sat 1st Mar: 10am-7pm  
**18b**. NNT Studio B.  
Thu 27th Feb: 11am-2pm Fri 28th Feb: 10am-1pm Sat 1st Mar: 10am-7pm

**THE TIME COMMITMENT**

It is important to understand that being part of the NNT Edinburgh Festival Company is a very different experience from being in an NNT In-House or Fringe Season show. Instead of rehearsing a few nights a week over the course of various weeks you’ll be rehearsing all day every day, throughout late-June and all of July. And instead of performing 2-5 times over 2-4 days, you’ll be performing every day for 25 days straight (aside from 1 day off half-way through the month). The performance time could be anywhere between midday and midnight. All of this can be very exhausting if it’s not something you commit whole heartedly to. Ultimately, to be blunt, rehearsing and taking a show to the Edinburgh Festival Fringe is something to which you must commit your entire Summer. Dispensations for holidays/trips home/unavoidable previous commitments may of course be made for you as long as it is pre-arranged with the Director, Producer and Company Manager well in advance and does not take too much time out of rehearsals (it is not possible to take off from the Festival itself). A weekend/handful of days away from Nottingham is perfectly acceptable as long as timing is convenient, however a fortnight’s holiday away slap bag in the middle of July would not be. Please inform the production teams of any such known commitments DURING AUDITIONS. Don’t wait till after casting to spring it on them!

**THE FINANCIAL COMMITMENT**

Edinburgh is not cheap. But if you can afford it then it’s COMPLETELY WORTH IT! A (very) rough breakdown of costs in Edinburgh itself is as follows: accommodation for the full month = £400approx; living costs (food, essentials etc) = £100-250 depending on how you budget; miscellaneous costs (Fringe show tickets, nights out etc) = £250approx. As mentioned before this is a very rough approximation and the Festival can certainly be enjoyed for far less money than stated as well as much more. But hopefully it should give you an idea of what to expect when up there with the NNT Company. It’s also very important to remember that if you are a Fresher who is kicked out of halls come the end of the academic year then you’ll need alternative accommodation. What usually happens is that you would stay with a Company member that lived in Lenton whilst rehearsing in Nottingham. The same applies if you’re someone whose house contract expires before the end of July. While you likely won’t be asked to pay rent as such you should be prepared to contribute what you can towards food and essentials etc. You will also need to pay for travel to and from the Festival but, booked far enough in advance, you can get very cheap trains or even planes to and from. It is nearly completely pointless to take a car!

**THE EXPERIENCE**

Whilst it’s very important to consider the time and financial commitments when auditioning for an Edinburgh show, hopefully this hasn’t put you off getting involved! NNT has been taking new plays up to Edinburgh for decades and we have a proud reputation to uphold. Many who’ve been with NNT before have said that it was the single greatest experience not only of their time at NNT but at Uni in general. To eat, sleep, live and breathe a play for nearly 3 months straight is an experience like no other, especially when you get to perform it in the world’s most vibrant and exciting arts forum. You’ll also almost certainly make friends for life, rehearsing a play 9 to 5 every day for a month before living together and performing the play up in Edinburgh. When not performing you’ll be out flyering and generally bigging up the plays and NNT at large, as well as getting to see a huge variety of theatre, comedy and most importantly, street performers! It is a truly unique and life-affirming experience that you’d be silly to miss out on!

For further information contact Fringe Coordinator, James McAndrew, at edinburgh@newtheatre.org.uk