

Stiles and Drewe's

SOHO CINDERS

A New Musical

AUDITION NOTICE

**10-13 July 2019
Bridewell Theatre**

sedos.co.uk

sedos

KEY DATES

WORKSHOP	Thursday 21st March
AUDITIONS	Friday 12th, Saturday 13th & Sunday 14th April
RECALLS	Wednesday 17th April
REHEARSALS	from Monday 29th April, every Monday, Wednesday and Saturday (the rehearsals scheduled for 6th & 27th May will be replaced with rehearsals on Tuesday 7th & 28th May)
The workshop, auditions, recalls and rehearsals will take place at 1 Brewers' Hall Garden, EC2V 5DX	
LONDON PRIDE	Saturday 6th & Sunday 7th July (we are hoping to take part in London Pride so would ask these dates are kept free by all cast members)
TECH REHEARSAL	Monday 8th July
DRESS REHEARSAL	Tuesday 9th July
PERFORMANCES	Wednesday 10th July – Saturday 13th July (performances at 4pm & 8pm on Saturday)

The tech rehearsal, dress rehearsal and performances will take place at the Bridewell Theatre, Bride Lane, London EC4Y 8EQ

To book an audition, please read the full audition notice, then sign up here: <https://membership.sedos.co.uk>

Any questions: sohocinders@sedos.co.uk

ABOUT THE SHOW

Robbie has a few problems. His mother has just died, without making a will, and the Old Compton Street laundrette she owned, "Sit & Spin", is under threat from his vulgar stepsisters as they attempt to hike up the rent. If that wasn't enough, he loves one man while being paid to hang out with another!

James Prince also has problems. He's running for mayor, but his campaign manager's a lying schemer and his heart isn't entirely with his devoted fiancée Marilyn.

When your only inheritance is an urn of ashes on the mantelpiece or if your secret romance becomes tabloid front page news, can love really conquer all?

From the laundrette which hears more confidences than it washes G-strings, to a dramatic political fundraiser where a mobile phone is lost as midnight strikes, Soho Cinders is a witty, heart-warming musical twist on the classic fairytale.

To watch a video trailer of the show click this link: <https://youtu.be/5ZTrTxAuzl8>

A NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR

"Several years ago, Ryan Macaulay introduced me to this show, and suggested it would be a great show for me to direct. He knows me very well as I fell in love with it instantly. The catchy tunes, the witty one liners and the modern twist on a well-known fairytale. I've played it so often that I'm already on a third CD recording!"

Everyone knows the story of Cinderella. This show's Cinderella is Robbie (a reluctant escort), while the setting is the recognisable confines of Soho, and in particular the launderette Sit & Spin on Old Compton Street. *Soho Cinders* is a fable, with all the archetypal characters you immediately fall for and relate to. The story is about a love that blossoms in the modern age between two people of different backgrounds and different generations and what they learn from each other - wrapped up with a little bit of politics. At the time it was written Clinton and Lewinsky were headline news – and people were disenchanted with the political landscape. It's still relevant today with Brexit and London Mayoral elections and all the usual shenanigans connected with campaigning. With some larger than life "fairytales" characters, this is a modern musical with a heart. It has some wonderful songs "Wishing For The Normal", "I'm So Over Men", "They Don't Make Glass Slippers".... And I defy anyone not leave the theatre at the end of the show clapping along to "You shall go to the ball"!

I've been excited about this show for a while now, and haven't had something so clearly in my head since my directorial debut of *Hot Mikado* ... now that was a while ago! We look forward to setting the show when Old Compton Street was in its "heyday" and clearly identifiable as the iconic draw for all the larger than life characters, flooded with individual stores, and gay bars and of course rickshaws. I will draw on all these elements, combined with a nod to the original fairytale whilst keeping it bang up to date - join us to create the delights of Old Compton Street!"

Angus Jacobs, March 2019

MUSIC

The score is full of punchy, upbeat numbers which drive the story forward, as well as more modern musical theatre ballads, which give us an insight into the thoughts and feelings of the characters we meet.

There's plenty to do for everyone as many of the numbers contain lots of harmony work. We're looking for all types of voices – high, low and anything in between, although a more modern musical theatre/pop voice might be more suited to the style.

There is a very good live recording available, featuring a host of musical theatre stars. The recording acts as a good reference to the musical structure of the show, but we will not be copying it – we want to create our own version!

MOVEMENT/DANCE

You might not instinctively think of *Soho Cinders* as a show for dancers, but we have found many opportunities for dance within the score and we're delighted to be working with the talented Gayle Bryans, Eloise Menezes and Vaughan Curry again as Associate Choreographers on this production, under the overall vision of our director, Angus. This is quite a new concept for Sedos and each of them will be focused on a routine that will showcase their choreographic preferences, but all within a style we have called "Musical Theatre inspired by street voguing (strike a pose)". If you've seen the West End musical *Everyone's Talking About Jamie*, it's similar to that ... check it out! The

audition choreography will suit all levels of dance and give those who can dance the chance to showcase their skills as there are several opportunities within the show where they will be heavily featured. However, if you're a dancer, fear not, we would still love to see you and check out your movement skills.

WHAT ARE WE LOOKING FOR?

We're looking for a dedicated cast with stage presence and energy who are able to bring to life some larger than life characters.

We want people of all ages, physiques, origins and orientations who will represent the community of Soho including "old men wearing pearls, young hipsters, disco bunnies, punks, prostitutes, businesswomen and men," in fact anything and anyone goes. Everyone will have the opportunity to create their individual character that represents the "community" (mentioned above) in addition to specific characters referenced in the script/score (where appropriate) which will help make the show real and bring it to life.

We have the luxury of being flexible with the cast, and are looking for a minimum of 6 and a maximum of 8 ensemble - making a complete cast size of 16-18, but no more than 20.

WORKSHOP

Thursday 21st March | 7-9pm | 1 Brewers' Hall Garden, EC2V 5DX

This will be the perfect opportunity to come along, meet the team and hear all about the exciting plans for the show. If you've got any questions then this will be the ideal time to get them answered. It's your chance to audition US to see if you want to be involved! There'll be an opportunity to sing a number as a group and take part in some character work. We hope to also run through the audition songs at the end of the session.

Then it'll be off to the pub for a well-earned drink and an opportunity to get to know everyone! No preparation is required (other than being open to having some fun) and attendance is strictly optional. Attendance will not affect your chances of being cast.

If you are planning on attending the workshop, please sign up via <https://membership.sedos.co.uk>

AUDITIONS

Friday 12th – Sunday 14th April | 1 Brewers' Hall Garden, EC2V 5DX

Sign up: please sign up at <https://membership.sedos.co.uk>. You will then be sent a link by email to confirm the booking – your slot is not booked until you have confirmed via this link (and paid your £5 audition fee if you are a non-member). Please check your junk mail if the email does not arrive. If you can no longer make your audition, please use the cancellation link in the email so we can free up the spot for someone else. If you have any problems, please email sohocinders@sedos.co.uk

Times:

Each audition slot lasts 1hr15min.

During that time you will be seen individually by the audition panel (to go over your song and script work) as well as taking part in a group dance audition.

On **Friday 12th April** the format will be:

18:00 – 18:45	Group 1 individual auditions
18:45 – 19:15	Group 1 & Group 2 dance audition
19:15 – 20:00	Group 2 individual auditions
20:00 – 20:45	Group 3 individual auditions
20:45 – 21:15	Group 3 dance audition

On **Saturday 13th & Sunday 14th April** the format will be:

12:30 – 13:15	Group 1 individual auditions
13:15 – 13:45	Group 1 & Group 2 dance audition
13:45 – 14:30	Group 2 individual auditions
15:00 – 15:45	Group 3 individual auditions
15:45 – 16:15	Group 3 & Group 4 dance audition
16:15 – 17:00	Group 4 individual auditions

Preparation:

Audition materials will be made available to you once you've signed up to an audition slot.

Please prepare the song assigned to the character you feel you'd most like to audition for. We will provide sheet music. A pianist will accompany you at the audition.

We will also provide a short extract from the script for each part (a member of the audition team will read in if the script is part of a conversation). If you are auditioning for the ensemble, there is no need to prepare a script extract.

We don't expect you to have learned everything off by heart! Just familiarise yourself with the material.

The dance audition will be taught in your audition slot. You do not need to prepare in advance for this.

Once you have signed up for your audition we ask that you complete the online audition form available here: <https://goo.gl/forms/a3PCg9RusEBXB5I23>

We are keen to stress that we are looking for a company of both new and old Sedos members – we want to meet you whether this is your first show or you're a veteran, so if you like the sound of the show, please come and audition.

RECALLS

Wednesday 17th April | 7–10pm | 1 Brewers' Hall Garden, EC2V 5DX

If you are asked to attend a recall then further details will be sent to you on the evening of Sunday 14th April, once initial auditions are completed.

FEMALE CHARACTERS

Velcro

Robbie's best friend (and was once in love with him), single mum to 8-year-old daughter and works with Robbie in the launderette. Big frizzy hair hence the nickname Velcro, funny, warm and will often say the wrong thing unintentionally, but street smart. This character needs to be 'real', and she needs to portray her caring/protective side.

Playing age: 20 to 30

Audition Song: It's Hard To Tell

Clodagh & Dana (Robbie's step sisters)

Over the top, trashy and vulgar - completely selfish and emotionally not self-aware. Self-centred and with no dress sense though they think they do. "Heightened" relatable comedy characters but not pantomime dames.

Playing age: 30 to 50

Audition Sing: I'm So Over Men

Marilyn Platt (James' fiancée)

Sophisticated, warm, caring and intelligent business woman. Aware of what she sees as James' bi-sexuality but at 38 (age referenced in the script but can be changed) settling for the love of someone she cares about. Needs to be relatable and real.

Playing age: 25 to 45

Audition Song: Let Him Go

Sidesaddle (Rickshaw Cyclist)

Struggling single mother trying to make ends meet, and good friend of Velcro. A 'real' relatable character and one we would see as a regular feature on Old Compton Street - everyone knows Sidesaddle. This character could be portrayed in many ways and we have no fixed view on how she should be.

Playing age: 25 to 40

Audition Song: You Shall Go To The Ball

Sasha Larkin (William George's 'put upon' assistant)

Might look like a "dumb blonde" but don't judge a book by cover! Smart, well-dressed, ambitious and politically astute. Could be either a 'real' or 'heightened' caricature - though would need to work well with the portrayal of the William George character.

Playing age: 25 to 40

Audition Song: You Shall Go To The Ball

MALE CHARACTERS

Robbie

Young gay guy trying to find his way, keeping the launderette afloat and his step sisters Dana & Clodagh off his back. A dreamer, who just wants to find love and "have a normal life". His character should be 'real' and people should relate to him and his struggles.

Playing age: 20 to 30

Audition Song: They Don't Make Glass Slippers

James Prince (Mayoral Candidate)

Closet gay and having a secret fling with Robbie. Ultimately a good guy who wants to be "honest" with himself and the people of London. Ex famous swimmer - so ideally, should have that type of physique. Another real character who needs to portray the inner turmoil he is going through, trying to run a campaign with honesty as a slogan, whilst not being honest about who he really is.

Playing age: 30 to 45

Audition Song: Gypsies of the Ether

William George (Spin doctor and campaign manager)

Tyrannical, sexist, misogynist, unpleasant character and will do anything to win! The villain of the piece and could be incredibly heightened and vile in the portrayal.

Playing age: 30 to 50

Audition Song: The Tail That Wags The Dog

Lord Bellingham

Gay toff who likes to throw his money about and pay Robbie to "be on his arm". Harmless though a bit pompous but tenacious business man, and main financial backer for James Prince's mayoral campaign. This character could be slightly 'heightened' and caricature with a clipped aristocratic accent.

Playing age: 45+

Audition Song: Old Compton Street (Reprise)

ENSEMBLE

A larger than life bunch who will play Office Workers, Press, Drunk Party Animals, Ball Guests and crazy residents and workers of Old Compton Street. We are looking for a strong mixture of shapes and sizes to create a range of crazy characters for small parts and ensemble numbers. Must be strong singers and strong movers with character.

Audition Song: You Shall Go To The Ball

ABOUT THE CREATIVE TEAM

Director & Choreographer | Angus Jacobs

Having graduated from Guildford School of Acting, Angus was fortunate enough to travel the world performing on the QE2, as well as making various TV, film and commercial video appearances, however, his heart belongs to musical theatre. He enjoys the variety provided by directing, designing costumes, choreography and performing.

On stage you may have seen Angus as the role of Tony Hendon (the stiff) in Sedos's production of *Lucky Stiff* or as Robert in *The Drowsy Chaperone*.

Recent directorial and choreography credits include: *Grease* for BATS at The Haymarket Basingstoke and *Priscilla Queen of the Desert the Musical* for Sedos at the Bridewell Theatre.

Musical Director & Producer | Ryan Macaulay

Ryan has been musical director for ten Sedos shows. They include: *Urinetown* (which he co-produced), *Priscilla Queen of the Desert the Musical*, *Little Women*, *tick, tick... BOOM!*, *Legally Blonde the Musical*, *I Love You Because*, *Into the Woods*, *Not Just Another Love Story*, *Spring Awakening*, *Assassins*.

Outside of Sedos Ryan has been musical director for productions of: *Gypsy* (Minack Theatre), *Dreamgirls*, *Hairspray*, *Disney's Beauty and the Beast* (Windsor Theatre Royal), *Smokey Joe's Café*, *Rent*, *The Last Five Years* and others.

As a producer Ryan produces the MTI Junior Theatre Festival, at the ICC in Birmingham. He's looking forward to fully producing his first Sedos show.

Associate Choreographer | Gayle Bryans

Gayle is a long-time member of Sedos and more recently of Geoids and SAMTC (St Albans). For Sedos she choreographed *Grand Hotel*, *The Wild Party*, *My Favorite Year*, *Into the Woods*, *London Road*, co-choreographed *Victor/Victoria* and was also assistant director on the latter two. As well as working on book musicals, she co-choreographed the review show *Too Darn Hot* and recreated original choreography for Sedos' first two Eurovision tribute shows. She is due to choreograph for SAMTC for the first time later this year, taking on the classic *My Fair Lady*. As a performer she has spent many happy years dancing in the ensemble and playing the odd principal role (*Gladys - The Pajama Game*, *Adelaide - Guys and Dolls*, *April - Company* and *Avril/Mallory - City of Angels*).

Associate Choreographer | Eloise Menezes

Eloise trained at Bird College and went on to perform in the UK and internationally on world cruises and in various shows and sporting events. She has taught and choreographed both in the UK and Cape Town for over 10 years, with student from 2 to 82. She is thrilled to be back choreographing for Sedos, after making her choreographic debut with *Priscilla Queen of the Desert the Musical*. Eloise is delighted to be part of the choreographic team for *Soho Cinders*.

Associate Choreographer | Vaughan Watts

Angus and Gayle introduced Vaughan to the joys of Sedos in 2010 with *Too Darn Hot*, and she hasn't looked back since! She has performed in a fair few Sedos shows, including *West Side Story*, *Guys and Dolls*, *Legally Blonde*, *The Drowsy Chaperone* and *Pippin*, and choreographed *Hot Mikado*. Vaughan has been dancing since she could walk and trained in contemporary dance at Trinity Laban conservatoire. She is very excited to be working with this amazingly talented and super fun team!

FEES

In the nature of amateur theatre performers are not paid – not even expenses. To perform in *Soho Cinders* you must be a member of Sedos (membership is currently £35 per year, £30 if paid by Direct Debit) and pay a participation fee of £40. There is a non-refundable £5 audition fee for non-Sedos members.

BACKSTAGE

Sedos is always looking for volunteers to help with set building, sewing costumes, working Front of House or backstage. If you are interested in getting involved in any capacity please contact the Producer on sohocinders@sedos.co.uk.

REHEARSALS

Rehearsals will be held at 1 Brewers' Hall Garden, EC2V 5DX on Mondays and Wednesdays (7–9:30pm) and on Saturdays (11am–6pm). The rehearsals scheduled for the Bank Holiday Mondays on 6th & 27th May will be replaced with rehearsals on Tuesday 7th & 28th May. There may also be one or two additional Sunday rehearsals, depending upon availability at the time.

We will try to schedule rehearsals based around cast availability as much as possible but please indicate on your audition form any dates you are unavailable. Please be honest - this will not necessarily stop you from being cast.

CASTING

Because of overlapping rehearsal periods, it will not be possible to be in *Soho Cinders* and *How To Succeed In Business Without Really Trying*. It is possible to be in *Soho Cinders* and *A Swell Party*.

We are looking forward to seeing as many of you as possible at the workshop and/or auditions. If you have any further questions, please don't hesitate to contact us at sohocinders@sedos.co.uk.

The Soho Cinders Team x