



ENRON

10TH-14TH JULY

AUDITION NOTICE

ENRON
By Lucy Prebble

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Auditions – 19/20/21 and 23 March 2013

Show - 10-14th July 2013

at The Bridewell Theatre

Director - Matt Hudson - mattkhudson@gmail.com

Producers - Mia Bennett and Clare Harding

Music Director - Sarah Peachey

Assistant Director - Tracie Laurinaitis

Projection Designer - Victor Craven

Contact – enronsedos@gmail.com

"The nineties... It feels - genuinely like the most exciting time to be doing business in the history of the world. There's a feeling that the people who are gonna change things aren't in parliaments or palaces, but in corporate boardrooms all over the United States of America."

The show

The show traces a decade from 1992. We join the Enron party at an event to celebrate the introduction of mark-to-market accounting, brought in by new Enron employee Jeff Skilling. As the President of the company steps down Claudia Roe and Jeff Skilling are pitched against each other to replace him. Skilling becomes CEO and Enron changes, a Trading Floor is created, trading Energy and quickly gets a reputation for being the strong force in the market. The stock price rises, analysts give "strong buy" advice. Company appraisals are introduced, the bottom 10% are fired each time. The stock price keeps rising. Years pass, Andy Fastow the non-people person who works in the finance department rises to CFO and begins experimenting with accounting strategies that back fire. At the creation of LJM (a shadow company propping up Enron) all that is holding Enron together is the stock price and hope. There is no cash, employees are paid in stock but the bubble is still JUST intact. However, Jeff Skilling is losing his grip and ability to cope. At the election of 2000 Skilling, Lay and Fastow think they have the answer. The new Bush administration deregulates the electricity market in California. Enron Traders swoop in and "rape the mothaf**ka" (an Enron trader's words). A series of rolling black-outs, deaths in road accidents and all manner of horrors occur in California, whilst in Texas the Enron traders treat it like a game. This leads to failure to get deregulation passed elsewhere, lawsuits against Skilling and does not create enough income to solve the cash flow issue. People are getting suspicious. Jeff Skilling leaves Enron to the hands of Ken Lay the old Texan owner. Enron is just scraping through. 11th September 2001, as the World Trade Centre crumbles the stock markets fall, everything that was holding the fragile frame of Enron together collapses. 1000's are told to leave the Enron buildings with little more than the possessions on their desks. No salary, no pensions, lives ruined.

In the courts the corporate crime that stunned America and defined the opening of the century is tried. Jeff Skilling, Andy Fastow and Ken Lay are all tried (however Ken Lay dies before). As Skilling is sent to jail for multiple corporate crimes he reminds us that in the Dow Jones index is "All humanity. There's Greed, there's Fear, Joy, Faith, Hope... And the greatest of all these... Is Money."

For more info watch the documentary "Smartest Guy in the Room" it's on Netflix and I think most of it's on YouTube. It's obvious it's a great influence on Prebbles take on the issue.

Show Style

The play uses a mix of styles to tell the story, there are projections, movement, music, mask work, puppetry, physical theatre. Scenes go from short physical moments to long duologue scenes. The blend gives a rollercoaster of a production that will move fluidly, aggressively, beautifully and fiercely to tell the story. What we like to call "serious play". Within all of this there will be a devising processes for movement sections, and we will want the cast to be part of that development, it won't just be taught. Importantly the acting style is quite brash, this was a company filled with talent, with ego and the opinion they were the best company in the world. We need to see that confidence, as that's what makes the show so tragic when all of that is pulled from underneath everyone.

What are we looking for?

An ensemble, one hell of an ensemble. We need 15 actors (6F/9M) to create the crazy world of Enron. From Jeff Skilling to the 3 blind mice and the 50 characters in between, every member of the cast is incredibly important, and there is a lot to be done. Here's, a brief breakdown, take a deep breath...

Jeff Skilling, Ken Lay, Claudia Roe, Andy Fastow, 3 Blind Mice, A Lawyer, various employees, Bill Clinton, 11 Traders, Alan Greenspan, Sheryl Sloman, J P Morgan, Deutsche Bank, Skilling's Daughter, Business Anchor, Business TV Analyst, Arthur Anderson, Little Arthur, Ramsey, Hewitt, 6 members of the Board, A Photographer, A Reporter, Congresswoman, 3 Raptors (Yes dinosaurs), The Lehman Brothers, Election Correspondent, Security Officer, More Analysts, some more journalists, a judge, a senator, some more lawyers, a court officer, a prostitute and Irene Grant. Phew!

Piece of cake! So we need people who are ready to embrace a challenge and are ready to take on something special and something tough, but rewarding and fun. Fancy it... go on... keep reading!!

Casting Breakdown

Jeff Skilling - Playing age of mid 40's

Grew up in Pittsburgh so an accent reflecting that area.

Andy Fastow - Playing age mid 30's

From New Jersey so needs that twang in his voice

Kenneth Lay - Playing age of 60's

Born and bred Texan

Claudia Roe - Playing age 40

Born and bred Texan

Ensemble of 11 - to play everyone else. Enron was a company of diverse talent, and we want to reflect that, so we are looking for 20 year olds to 50's year olds. We will need a mix if possible. Ensemble will all need to be good movers with a grasp of rhythm and movement.

Is Enron a musical?

We have been asked this question a lot and no it is not a musical. We have a music director because there is a lot of music in the show that we are creating from scratch, and to teach the small amount of singing. If we get a full cast of amazing singers then we will use your talent, but we need a minimum of 5 people who can hold a tune to do what we need. In auditions you will be asked to sing as part of a group, no solos, so don't worry about it.

Do I need to be a dancer?

No, if you are that is great stuff, but what we need is people who can move fluidly, have a sense of rhythm etc. This isn't about form or training, as the movement quality is going to be very "dirty", aggressive and about acting just as much as moving. In prep for auditions we are holding a workshop to introduce the movement element and some script work that you may need over the audition process. Everyone will have to do this element, all performers including central parts (potentially excluding Ken Lay, but we would like him too). For central parts it is less of a focus, however we still need to see some aptitude for rhythm and movement.

Do I need an American Accent?

YES! Actually you need two if possible. We would like you to demonstrate Texan and another, west or east coast. Perhaps a New York and we need Californians. We will obviously be working on this from the off in rehearsals, and a resident American and voice coach will be working on this through rehearsals.

Work Ethic

As a team we have been working hard on this show since November, planning and getting ready. We are here for some serious play. Our process will be fun, but dedicated. We want people to work the same way and be committed to each other and to the show. For us the most important thing is people to be willing to bring all themselves to rehearsals and we will see that at the auditions. This show is gutsy, busy, complex and it will be very rewarding, so if you are auditioning be ready!!

Our Style

We believe that a good team makes a good show, and that a real understanding of the subject matter is important. This is all built into our rehearsal process so that we make a strong team that can deliver this epic show!

Audition and Workshop

Workshop Tuesday 12th March 7pm

First Round Auditions - Tues 19th/ Wed 20th/ Thurs 21st March 7-9:30pm

Recalls - Saturday 23rd March

We will be holding a workshop on **Tuesday 12th March** (please note the date change from previously announced Thursday 14th March) where we will introduce the show, give people a chance to try the scripts we will be using in auditions, and a chance to learn the movement sequence that you will perform as part of the auditions.

In the audition you will be asked to:

Perform a short monologue from the play that you should prepare from the selected choice given 2 weeks prior to audition once you sign up. We advise learning it as well as you can, if not off by heart.

Perform a taught piece of movement this will be taught both on the day, and at the pre-audition workshop which we advise you to come to if you can.

Perform a taught song in a group this will be sang in groups, and we may ask you to sing in a round. We are looking for tune holding not an aria. This will be taught at the audition.

Registering for Audition/Workshop

To register for audition or workshop please email enronsedos@gmail.com to confirm a place. Make the subject "Enron Audition" or "Enron Workshop". If auditioning, please include the date you wish to attend first round (19/20/21 March), your name, and any parts (if any) you may be interested in.

Rehearsals

Rehearsals will begin on 23rd April and will be Tues/Thurs Evening and Saturday Day time. Due to the way the play is structured you won't be needed for all rehearsals, however as an ensemble show the later part of the rehearsal process (from June at latest) will require you to be there at all rehearsals, unless super good reason not to be.

Unavailability - We are aware that people have lives beyond shows, so do we. However we need to know of any time you are not available when you audition, and will need a level of commitment, especially from the ensemble in the first few weekends. Please be honest it's important not just for scheduling but for the trust within the team.

Show Fees

Sedos is one of London's premier amateur theatre societies, producing quality shows to the highest standards. To perform in Enron you must be a member of Sedos (membership is currently £30 per year) and pay a participation fee of £30. There is a £5 audition fee for non-Sedos members. If you are cast in the show, your audition fee will be deducted from your

participation fee.

Excited but not an onstage person?

We need stage managers, costume designers, and props people and various other assistance to get this show off the ground, so please get in contact with Clare Harding (clharding98@hotmail.co.uk).

Summer Festival

The Summer Festival is a 3 weeklong festival in which Enron is the first show. This will be followed by Autobhan and A Man of No Importance (see website for details). As part of this please note that the show is running Wednesday to Sunday (10th-14th July). Also, there will be various special nights and fun activities along the way. So an Exciting show in an exciting 3 weeks. This means it is only possible to appear in one Festival show, and Enron will be cast before auditions of A Man of No Importance and Autobhan, so you will not be able to audition for other shows if cast in Enron.

It's a time of little conflict internationally, the fastest growing economy there has ever been. And the fashions are pretty good too. There's a new administration; a president who plays the saxophone. He's a Democrat, but he understands the south.