

AUDITIONS

for the sedos June 2010 production of the 'rock-tribal musical':



Book and lyrics by James Rado and Gerome Ragni

Music by Galt MacDermot

Director:	Paul Taylor-Mills
Musical Director & Co-Producer	Matthew Gould
Choreographer:	Jodie Lee-Wilde
Co-Producer:	Matthew Prince

Performance details:	The Bridewell Theatre
	Wednesday 16 th June 2010 – Saturday 26 th June 2010
	(Get-in / Tech and dress rehearsals 13 th /14 th /15 th June 2010)



HAIR is about a group of young people in New York City's East Village who band together as a TRIBE. They are a New York contingent of flower children (a freedom phenomenon that had begun a little earlier in San Francisco). Taking on the feel of an American Indian tribe, they question authority and the society they are living in and the Vietnam War. Within the context of the play, they struggle for the light, but are forced to fight and die, only to be reborn, again to suffer more, then to rise from the ashes, to glow, to shine...The authors connected this movement to the heavens, to the coming of the Age of Aquarius.

They seek to find a new way.
They yearn to change the world.
They begin by recreating themselves.
They find a potent organic natural esthetic: the most dramatic visual element, all men grow their
hair long.
They tune into Eastern thought and meditation.
They turn on and drop out.
They hang out in self-made clouds of incense and grass.
They laugh and cavort as they find a new freedom of expression and camaraderie.
They live in crash pads, in the parks and on the streets.
They try to live by the policy of 'peace and love'
They are on a trip of liberation
They commune, join hands in protest and song.

A show for now

With war and political unrest rampant a revival of HAIR couldn't be more apt. HAIR is a reaction to youth wanting answers to hidden secrets in power. Given the revelations over the past year regarding MP's expenses, lies and the lack of answers regarding the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan - it is the time to make an artistic response.

The show was recently revived on Broadway to huge success which swept the Tony Awards. Even 40 years after its first opening critics are still stating that the show still contains the authentic voice of today.

I've heard Cameron Mackintosh is bringing the Broadway revival of HAIR to the West End in 2010?

Yes he is! The entire Broadway cast is coming over to perform HAIR in the West End, starting in April – so our production will be playing simultaneously with the Broadway version a few streets away. We have confirmed with the rights holders that we can still go ahead with our production with no restrictions or limitations. It will be a pretty amazing experience to go head-to-head with a West End show, and we are very excited by this....

I've heard that the show contains nudity?

Yes there is a very short nude scene. Because of the history of the piece, it's pretty nigh impossible to do without. However, we can promise you that the nudity will be short, tasteful, and dimly lit. It is a moment to demonstrate total liberation and freedom, but it is static rather

than choreographed and is not orgy! Cast will be staggered over the stage, so most cast will not actually be particularly visible/discernible to the audience. If you do have concerns, please do audition anyway but make this clear on the audition form. We will be discussing this at the workshop.

When is our version of HAIR set?

We are going to stay faithful to the authors' original intention of the piece and set it basically at the end of the 1960's. Whilst the production values will be updated, we will not be updating the actual action of the piece.

Am I too old?

We are looking for strong, energetic youthful looking performers, but there is no reason why some of the tribe can't in reality be a little older – it's about the enthusiasm, talent and commitment.

Rehearsals?

Rehearsals will start on Thursday 25th March and will generally be on Tuesdays/Thursdays and Sundays. We will firm up rehearsals over bank holiday weekends when we know cast availability. Please be honest on your audition forms. This truly is an ensemble piece, so availability to attend all or virtually all rehearsals when called is an absolute necessity to make this production as fantastic as we know it can be. Rehearsals will be in Central London.

THE AUDITIONS

Workshop – Wednesday 17th February 2010, 7-9.30pm

Audition slots

- Thursday 4th March 7pm,
- Friday 5th March 7pm,
- Sunday 7th March 11am / 1pm / 3pm

Please e-mail hairauditions.sedos@googlemail.com by Sunday 28th February if you would like to audition. Please confirm your preferred audition slot and whether you are auditioning for a particular role or ensemble (see character breakdown below). If you are unable to audition at one of the audition slots, please let us know by e-mailing hairauditions@googlemail.com by 14th February and we may be able to hear you after the workshop.

For the auditions you should prepare the songs set out below relevant to the character(s) you are auditioning for, together with a song of your own choice from the musical theatre rock repertoire. This applies whether you are auditioning for a named role, or for ensemble.

We are aware that the auditions clash with The Libertine. If you are involved with The Libertine and would like to audition for HAIR, please let us know so that we can hear you either at the workshop or at one of the Sunday slots. If Libertiners audition on Sunday 7th (ie after the last night party), we will take that into consideration when shortlisting☺

Recalls: Sunday 14th March 11am – 4.30pm

Recalls will take the form of a workshop so that we can determine the group of people that we think will work best together – and we will also look at dance/movement ability at this point. If you are unable to attend the recalls, it is unlikely that we will be able to cast you in the show.

Notification

We will aim to inform you as quickly as possible after the auditions whether you have been shortlisted/cast. Whilst we would prefer to phone everyone individually we may notify you by e-mail. In any event if you are unsuccessful, we will be very willing to provide feedback when time permits.

CHARACTERS & AUDITION SONGS:

Claude (Rock Baritone/Tenor)

"Hair"

The most beautiful beast in the forest. Smart, attractive male, with a playful side; a lover of life; "boy next door" type. Needs to be a strong actor. Berger's best friend, recently drafted into the US army. A charismatic leader that women adore, boys emulate and men will follow into the breach. A man of conscience who struggles with the conflict of what his heart tells him is right and what the authorities around him lead him to believe.

George Berger (Rock baritone/Tenor)

"Going Down"

A social activist recently banished from high school. An unrestrained character. He knows what is right and sticks to it no matter the consequence. The leader of the tribe. High energy, athletic, wild. Strong presence.

Sheila (Rock Alto/Belter)

"Easy To Be Hard"

A student and passionate protester from NYU who lives with Berger and Claude, aspires to spread love. She loves Berger but is pregnant with Claude's baby. The most intelligent member of the tribe. She wants to change society through peaceful protest. Must have a strong voice and presence.

Jeanie (Alto)

"Air"

A follower, not a leader. Incredibly sweet, understands Claude better than anyone. Wise, passionate and creative woman. Into hallucogenic drugs. She is the mother of the tribe. Needs to be a strong actress who can play both comedy and dramatic scenes.

Crissy (Mezzo)

"Frank Mills"

A flower child mourning a lost love - The baby of the tribe.

Dionne (Alto/Mezzo Belt.)

"Aquarius"

Sassy and lots of fun. Needs to have strong comic timing and the ability to sing ad-lib vocals.

Hud (Soul/Rock Baritone/Tenor)

"Colored Spade"

Speaks his mind and hopes you can keep up with him. High energy, spiritual performer with a strong voice and presence. A true tone setter that is a natural on stage in any situation. Ideally can appear African-American)

Woof (Rock Baritone/Tenor)

"Ain't Got No" v1 & "Sodomy"

Needs to be a high energy, versatile performer. Must be a natural with comedy. Looks up to Berger and Mick Jagger... in many ways.

Margaret Mead (male in drag – sings falsetto)

"My Conviction"

May double as tribe, but if anyone is interested in performing just this scene as a “cameo” then that could work well – or it could be played by a member of the off-stage singing ensemble (see below).

Tribes (About 15 in addition to the named parts above):

One of: “*Let The Sunshine In*” (from *Bar 19*) “*Hair*” or “*Aquarius*”

The entire cast is a true ensemble. The members of the tribe play many different characters. We are looking for energetic, creative performers with heart and passion.

Audition Songs – listed above

Note – if a song contains harmony/more than one part, please turn the song into a solo! We’re interested in what you can do with the material – to demonstrate your versatility/musicianship/affinity with the musical style. In addition to the song listed, please also bring a prepared piece (including bringing sheet music in the correct key) from the musical theatre rock repertoire or similar.

Vocal ensemble

Depending on the vocal strength of the ensemble, and the demanding nature of the choreography, we may introduce an off-stage singing chorus of 6 – 8 people. If you do not wish to appear on stage in *HAIR* (or are unsuccessful in getting into the on-stage cast), but might be interested in joining an off-stage singing ensemble, please let Matthew know.

PRODUCTION TEAM

Paul Taylor-Mills – Director

Paul trained as a director at Bath Spa University and The National Youth Theatre. His previous credits include: *Hello Dolly!* (Theatre Royal Bath), *Little Shop of Horrors*, ‘*Britt on Britt*’ with *Britt Ekland*, *The Sound of Music* (Civic Centre, Stourport), *Oliver!*, *West Side Story* (Bath Forum), *Carousel* (Rose Theatre, Kidderminster), *Fame*, *Half a Sixpence*, *Fiddler on the Roof*, *Godspell* (Bath Forum), America/Canada tour of *The Comedy of Errors*, *Honk!* (4000th Anniversary Production). In 2010 Paul looks forward to directing the UK premiere of *Bare*, the rock musical *Rent* at Putney Arts Centre. Paul’s production of *Honk!* is set to embark on national tour in Winter 2010.

Matthew Gould – Musical Director & Co-Producer

Matthew has just finished musical directing and co-producing *Parade* for sedos at the Bridewell Theatre. Other sedos credits as musical director: *Grand Hotel*, *My Favorite Year* & *Rent*. He musical directed the workshop performance of *The Hired Man* and conducted the 2007 sedos Christmas choir. He has musical directed and co-produced: *Cabaret*, *Jesus Christ Superstar* (Mad G Theatre Company); *Merrily We Roll Along* (Mermaid Theatre), *Into The Woods* (Steiner Theatre) (Demon Theatre Company). Other musical direction credits include *Anything Goes*, *The Who’s Tommy*, *The Full Monty*, *Assassins*, *Company* & *Sweeney Todd*. Drumming credits include *Grease*, *West Side Story*, *Joseph*, *The Rink* & *Little Shop of Horrors*. Later in the year Matthew will be directing Tom Stoppard’s *Arcadia*.

Jodie Lee-Wilde – Choreographer

Jodie has recently graduated from Mountview Academy of Theatre Arts. Before going to Mountview she obtained her I.S.T.D Modern Associates Teachers qualification. No stranger to the stage she began her career at the age of 5 as a named orphan in the musical ‘*Annie*’. She

later went on to play the lead role. She then went on to play Cynthia in 'The Goodbye Girl' at the Albery Theatre London starring Gary Wilmot and Ann Crumb. She has done many educational voice over recordings and has just finished filming for Samsung. She is interested in all aspects of theatre arts and in the past her choreography has won her critical acclaim. She recently choreographed the London Gay Mens Chorus' annual Christmas show at Cadogan Hall, London.

Matthew Prince – Co-Producer

Matthew is currently directing a workshop production of *The Laramie Project* for sedos in January 2010; he also recently stage managed *Parade* and *One Flew Over The Cuckoo's Nest* for sedos at the Bridewell in 2009. He has directed many plays for groups in East London, these have included *Kiss of the Spiderwoman – the musical*, *The Mystery of Irma Vep*, *Silly Cow*, *Bouncers* and *Not a game for Boys*. Matthew also Artistically Directed the London Gay Mens Chorus for 2 years including their sell out tour of Great Britain and Ireland. His performance credits include *Audacity*, *Dracula*, *Under Milk Wood*, *Chess*, *Little Shop of Horrors*, *Anything Goes* and *Iolanthe*.

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Audition, participation and membership fees

Sedos is one of London's pre-eminent amateur theatre societies, with the aim of producing quality amateur shows to the best artistic quality possible. Please note that performers are not paid - not even expenses. To perform in HAIR you must be a member of sedos (membership is currently £30 per year) and pay a participation fee of £40. 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 membership/participation fees.

If you have any questions, please contact Paul or Matthew:

Paul Taylor-Mills: paultaylormills@hotmail.com

Matthew Gould: matt@mjgould.co.uk

To book an audition slot, please contact: hairauditions.sedos@googlemail.com

We look forward to seeing you at the auditions!

Paul, Matthew, Jodie & Matthew