





AUDITION NOTICE

THE NETHER

by Jennifer Haley

KEY INFORMATION

Workshop	Tuesday 6th June @ 7pm - 9pm
Auditions	Thursday 6th & Friday 7th July
Recalls	Saturday 8th July
Rehearsals	Commence 2nd August Wednesdays, Thursdays and Sundays

TO BOOK AN AUDITION:

<https://membership.sedos.co.uk/signup/>

NETHER REALM:

1. Another world for mythical creatures
2. Demon world
3. A dimension of evil or imagination

urbandictionary.com

SYNOPSIS

The internet has evolved into the Nether, a vast network of virtual reality realms. Users may log in, choose an identity, and indulge any desire. When Detective Morris investigates a realm called The Hideaway where people with a sexual interest in children may live out their fantasies, she brings its creator in for interrogation. They discover they have made emotional attachments in his realm that blind them to the greater questions of ethical behavior, both in the imagination and the outside world.

PRODUCTION TEAM

Director	Kimberly Barker
Producer	Aileen Ryan
Technical Producer	Lizzie Drapper
Production Manager	Robert J. Stanex
Assistant Director	Olivier Namet
Stage Manager	Lottie Mills
Marketing Manager	Blake Klein
Graphic Designer	Max Wilson
Lighting Designer	Oliver Levett
Sound Designer	Ben Hussey
Projection Designer	Olivier Namet

PRODUCTION VISION

At the core of this production is a hard hitting look at society's ethical relationship with the internet and a deconstruction of preconceptions of harmful behaviour. To ensure this feels relevant to a UK audience, we feel it is important to set the play in Britain to heighten the audience's unease that these issues are on our front door, thereby placing them closer to the moral dilemmas raised within the story. Of importance are themes regarding the spectrum of reality and fantasy, the power dynamics within relationships, finding belonging in an ever-changing world and engaging the audience in the moral conflict of the play themes.

We are looking for actors who are interested in exploring 'the mess' of these ethical dilemmas. This will not be a binary position of 'right and wrong', we are looking to help engage people in a conflict rather than find answers. In the same way the characters offer exciting opportunities for actors to portray the nuances of this conflict. As three characters have both real life and online identities, the cast will work closely together to develop the characters to reflect these tensions.

DISCLAIMER

Please be aware this play addresses themes of child sexual abuse, violence and exploitation. While we will be sensitive to helping our cast manage this emotionally demanding subject matter, we would also encourage you to think carefully about whether this is a process you feel able to engage with.

CHARACTERS

3 males | 1 female | 1 girl

SIMS/PAPA Male | age 45 +

A successful businessman. Articulate and bold. Needs to both be able to repulse the audience but also invoke moments of empathy and reflection.

MORRIS Female | age 24-35

A young female detective. Professional, quick-thinking and controlled, yet underpinned with vulnerability and internal moral conflict. The character of Woodnut is Morris's identity within the Nether.

DOYLE Male | age 40 +.

A middle-aged science teacher. A man who has found belonging and safety in the Nether. Comes across as intelligent but anxious - with a certain level of innocence. The character of Iris is Doyle's identity in the Hideaway.

IRIS Female | Playing age 13-14*.

A shining little girl. Displays both innocence and knowingness. The character of Doyle is Iris in the real world.

WOODNUT Male | Age 24-35.

A fresh-faced guest. Likeable and conflicted in his feelings about the Hideaway. The character of Morris is Woodnut in the real world.

* It is our preference to work with two young people between the age of 15-18, who can pass for 13 to share the role of Iris. We are open to auditioning people above that age bracket if they can convincingly pass as younger, in which case we will cast one person for the role. Should we cast young people, we have a stringent safeguarding policy to help ensure everyone feels safe in the rehearsal process.

ACCENTS

Although we are basing our version of The Nether in the UK, as a multicultural society we would like people to audition with their own accents. Depending on the final mix of cast members we may ask you at recall to adopt a British accent if it is appropriate to the overall mix of the cast.

LOCATION

The workshop, auditions and rehearsals will be held at:

Brewers' Hall Garden,
London EC2V 5DX

Nearest tube | Moorgate

WORKSHOP

This is an opportunity to audition the production team to see if you would like to be part of our show. This will involve hearing more about the director's concept for the production, a better picture of how we work in our creative process, a fuller breakdown of the characters, an opportunity to work with some of the text and a space to get your questions answered.

If you are intending to attend the workshop, please email our producer, Aileen on thenether@sedos.co.uk to give us a rough idea on attendee numbers.

AUDITIONS

Auditions will be scheduled in hourly slots and you will be seen on a first-come first-served basis within that hour. You will be asked to prepare an allocated section of text for your chosen character. These will be made available to you once you have signed up for an audition. These will be monologues taken from the script.

RECALLS

The recall material will also be made available when you first sign up to audition so you can have sufficient time to familiarise yourself with the excerpts should you be recalled.

Recalls will involve working on scenes with your fellow recall-ees to see how you respond to direction and work on scenes with one another.

BOOKING AN AUDITION SLOT

You are able to book an audition slot from the following link:

<https://membership.sedos.co.uk/signup/>

REHEARSALS

As a one-act play, with a small cast with character crossover, the rehearsal process will often require all cast members to be in attendance. This is to ensure that character development is congruent and the process is team-based and cohesive.

Due to the sensitive nature of the play, a thorough exploration and education of the content matter will underpin the process with an emphasis on emotional safety.

AVAILABILITY

Due to the small cast size, the time of year (prime holidaying) and the rehearsal process mentioned above, we ask that auditionees are honest about their availability in their audition form to help inform our decisions and rehearsal scheduling. Should you have consistently poor availability, please think carefully about auditioning.

FEES

To perform in The Nether you must be a member of Sedos (membership is currently £30 per year if paid by direct debit; £35 if paid as a one-off) and pay a participation fee of £30. There is a £5 non-refundable audition fee for non-Sedos members, which will be payable online at the time of confirming an audition slot.

Read more about Sedos at sedos.co.uk

BACKSTAGE HELP

We are always keen to hear from people who would like to be involved in the production of shows. This may include set realisation, prop management, operating lighting, backstage assistance, costuming, and sponsorship.

ANY QUESTIONS?

If you have any questions that can't be answered by the audition notice or at the workshop please email our producer Aileen, on thenether@sedos.co.uk