



AUDITION NOTICE



**EARTHQUAKES
IN LONDON**

By Mike Bartlett

Director: Chris Davis
Dates: 10-14 July 2018
Venue: Bridewell Theatre

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WHAT'S IT ALL ABOUT

Earthquakes in London was first performed on 4 August 2010 at the National Theatre, in a co-production with Headlong Theatre. The Telegraph called it '*the theatrical equivalent of a thrilling rollercoaster ride*'.

An all-pervasive fear of the future and a guilty pleasure in the excesses of the present drive Mike Bartlett's epic rollercoaster of a play from 1968 to 2525 and back again.

Earthquakes in London includes burlesque strip shows, bad dreams, social breakdown, population explosion, and worldwide paranoia. It is a fast and furious metropolitan crash of people, scenes and decades, as three sisters attempt to navigate their dislocated lives and loves, while their dysfunctional father, a brilliant scientist, predicts global catastrophe.

Mike Bartlett's contemporary and direct dialogue combines a strong sense of humanity with epic ambition, as well as finely aimed shafts of political comment embedded effortlessly into every scene.

THE VISION

The production will feature eight principal characters, but there will be approximately 40 characters in all, with approximately eight additional members of the cast multi-rolling all the other parts. This will be a large ensemble cast with substantial roles for everyone involved.

Moments of the play will feel serious and dramatic, and then immediately the tone may switch to comedy, and you will also see scenes that seem like they've been lifted directly out of a musical or fantasy. This is a production that will attempt to bring all of that into one big amalgamated spectacle.

We will be staging the production in Traverse with lots of props and costume changes, and very little set. This is so the show can remain light on its feet with inventive lighting and sound to help convey the multi-stranded stories. The production will have a real fast and furious energy as the scenes blur into one another and move across different locations and time.

CREATIVE TEAM

Director: Chris Davis

Technical Producer: Oliver Levett

WHO ARE WE LOOKING FOR

PRINCIPALS

We are looking to cast eight principal roles, which will include:

ROBERT: Playing age late 60's – 70.

A bitter, stubborn and ultimately lonely man.

SARAH: Playing age 39 – 40.

His eldest daughter, outwardly cold and efficient government minister with a good heart.

COLIN: Playing age late 30's – 50.

Her out of work, insecure but empathetic husband.

FREYA: Playing age 30.

Middle daughter, pregnant, clever and kind but hopelessly worried about the future for her baby.

STEVE: Playing age 30-35.

Her husband, a writer of trivia-books, caring, straightforward, pro-active.

JASMINE: Playing age 19.

Youngest daughter, a rebel, willful, university student. (There is a burlesque scene, which in the script asks for nudity, but this is not necessarily depicted on stage in our production)

TOM: Playing age 19.

Jasmine's romantic interest, an impassioned British-Eritrean climate change activist. Looking to cast an actor with East African heritage.

PETER / EMILY: Playing age 15. Looking to cast an actress 17 and above.

A fifteen-year-old boy, played by a girl. Streetwise but articulate he/she becomes a commentator on contemporary life and metamorphoses into Freya's daughter.

THE REMAINING CAST

For the remaining cast of actors there will likely be a gender split of 4 females and 4 males. However, none of this is set in stone and may change depending on whom we see in the auditions.

These actors will multi-role an array of characters which include a grumpy supermarket worker, a disgruntled employee, a parliamentary assistant, a ruthless businessman, a young friendly doctor, an angry Polar Bear, a superficial Liberty employee, a singing swimmer, a theatre-hating jogger, a wise narrator, and many more. Actors cast in these roles would benefit from having the ability to multi-role and enjoy character acting.

If you have any of the below skills or experience then it would be great to see you in the auditions: Movement, Voice/Dialect/Accents, Singing, Playing an instrument, Languages, Dance, Circus, Physical Theatre, Mime, Clown, Puppetry.

The production will seek to use all the differing skills of the actors to create a theatrical production tailored around the unique talents of the cast. But please don't feel you need specific experience either, it's all about your willingness to try out something new!

The multi-role characters vary in all ages. And we really encourage performers from Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic backgrounds.

KEY DATES

Workshop: Wednesday 28 February

Auditions: Tuesday 13, Wednesday 14, Thursday 15 March at 7pm (arrive 6.45pm)

Recalls: Saturday 17 March from 10am. If cast as a multi-role character, a further recall may be added on Wednesday 21 March to determine all the roles.

First read-through (depending on cast availability): Saturday 7 April – there will be additional rehearsals prior to this date starting from Monday 26 March. However, there will be no rehearsals over the Easter weekend.

Rehearsals will be on Mondays, Wednesdays and Friday nights, and Sunday daytime, but may change as the rehearsals progress, depending on cast availability. Please note that no one will be expected to attend four rehearsals a week until much closer to the production week.

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 - as long as you're not taking a month break in between this is unlikely to stop you from being cast.

The workshop, auditions and recalls will all be held at
1 Brewer Hall Gardens (off 55 Basinghall St)
London
EC2V 5BX

Tech Rehearsal: Sunday 8 July from 10am

Dress Rehearsal: Monday 9 July from 10am (please expect to keep this date free all day)

Performances: Tuesday 10 July – Saturday 14 July.

Performances will take place at the Bridewell Theatre (Bride Lane, Fleet St, London EC4Y 8EQ). Please try to keep the entire weekend of 7-8 July free, as this will include final rehearsals and get-in.

WORKSHOP

Wednesday 28 February at 6.45pm for 7pm start. Finish 9pm (ish).

- The workshop will be an opportunity to learn more about the production, the staging, the roles and the audition process and for you to ask the creative team questions.
- There will be some fun group exercises and the chance to read extracts of the script, and direct some of the pieces in smaller groups.
- No preparation is required and attendance is optional.
- If you are planning on attending the workshop, please email earthquakes@sedos.co.uk just so that we have an idea of numbers.

AUDITIONS

Tuesday 13, Wednesday 14 and Thursday 15 March at 6.45pm for a 7pm start

- Each audition will begin with a mix of warm up group exercises, to see how you can play different ages and switch from multiple characters.
- You will then be given a script extract, either a monologue or two-hander to practice before reading to the creative team.
- No preparation is required.
- Please be prepared to respond to varying direction, as the piece will be used as a springboard to see how you can adapt to the style of different characters within the play.
- Please note that we may only have time to hear you read the one extract at the initial audition.

We will aim to inform you by Friday 16 March at 5pm whether you have been recalled. While we will try to take your preferred method of communication into account, we may have to notify you by another method due to time constraint. In the event that you are unsuccessful, we will be very willing to provide feedback when time permits.

BOOKING AN AUDITION

Please book an audition via the following link: <https://membership.sedos.co.uk/signup/>

RECALLS

Saturday 17 March from 10am – 2pm

- More details about the recalls will be given if you are recalled.
- We are not intending to do “workshop” recalls.
- Recalls will involve working on scenes more closely with the other actors.
- No preparation is required.
- You will have time to prepare the scenes prior to performing.
- We will want to use this time to see the chemistry between actors so some people may be asked to stay longer than others.
- If cast as a multi-role character, a further recall may be added on **Wednesday 21 March at 7pm** to determine all the roles.

We will aim to inform you by Sunday 18 March whether you have been cast or not.

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 including expenses.

To perform you must be a member of Sedos:

- Membership is currently £30 per year paid by direct debit / £35 paid as a one-off
- You must also pay a participation fee of £30 to be in the production.
- 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.

BACKSTAGE

We are looking for a **PRODUCTION MANAGER** and **STAGE MANAGER** to come on board early into the rehearsal process. Please email **earthquakes@sedos.co.uk** if you are interested or have any questions.

Sedos is always looking for volunteers to help with props/costumes, working Front of House or backstage. If you are interested in getting involved in any capacity please get in contact.

QUESTIONS

If you have any questions that can't be answered by the audition notice or at the workshop please email Chris at **earthquakes@sedos.co.uk**

We are looking forward to seeing you at the workshop & auditions!

For more information about Sedos, please visit our website sedos.co.uk.