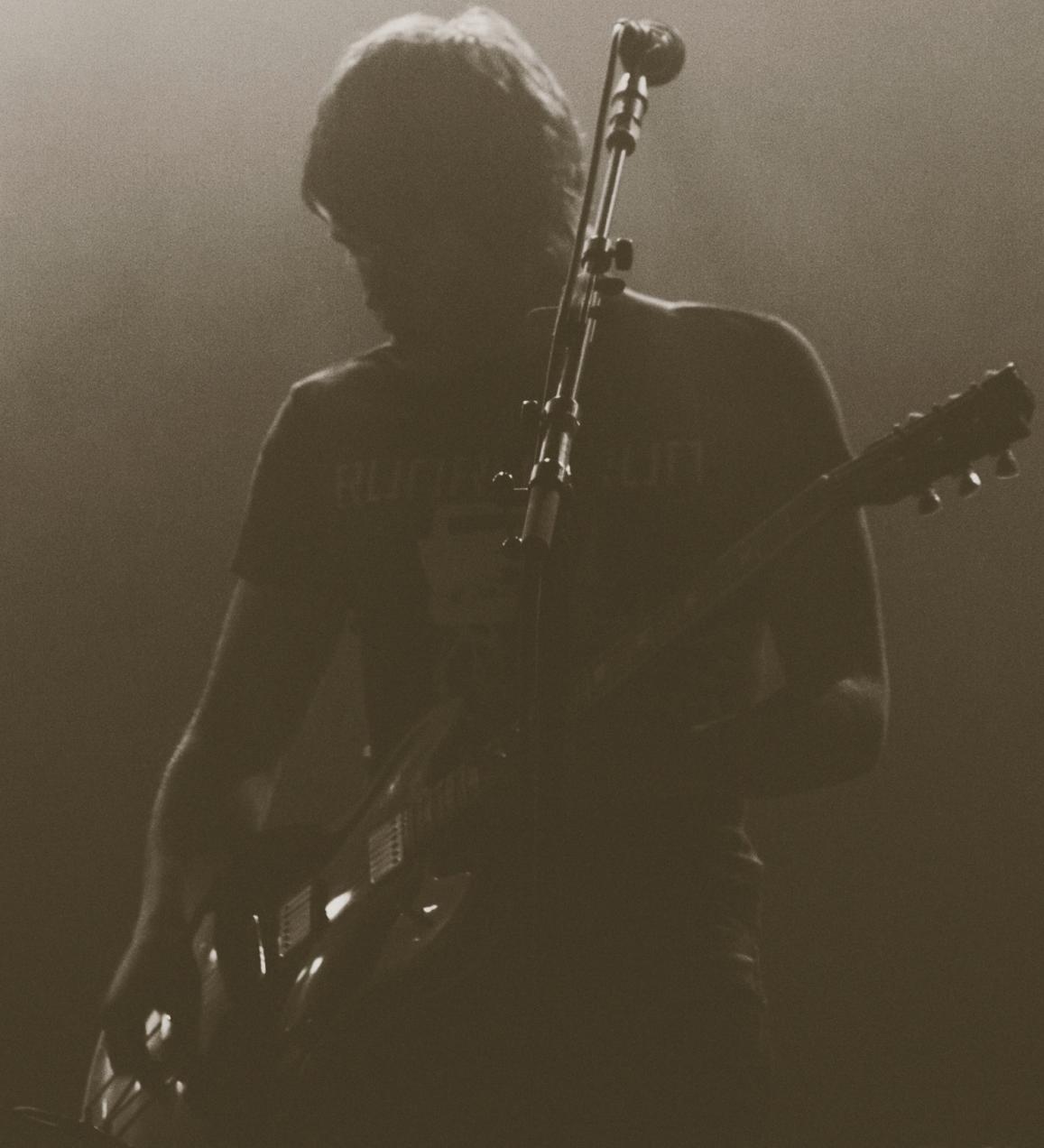


BAAL

audition notice



sedos

P R E S E N T S

BAAL

by Bertolt Brecht

translated by Peter Tegel

producer
REBECCA CHISHOLM

director & designer
ROBERT J. STANEX

associate director
DEBORAH LEAN

BRIDEWELL THEATRE

22 – 26 JANUARY 2019

This amateur production of *Baal* is presented by special arrangement with SAMUEL FRENCH, LTD.

This show contains strong language, nudity and scenes of a violent and sexual nature.

SYNOPSIS

With an insatiable appetite for sex and booze, Baal lives his life for the moment. From stage to sewer he leaves a trail of devastation and recklessly dispensed lyricism in his wake.

Bertolt Brecht's first play, Baal, rages with the fire of youth. Nothing escapes young Brecht's burning wit and self-immolating irony here. An anti-hero and cult artist at odds with the world, Baal indulges in fleshy decadence spewing surreal poetry and bawdy libretto.

Drunken and depraved, he strips romanticism bare and throws it onto the sh*t-heap. The secretions that stain Baal's world glisten to reveal the excesses of youth and blind idolatry of creative genius.

VISION

Baal as a character will sleep with anyone, not out of enlightenment or sexuality, but out of loneliness and a need to regain power and control in his own life. To heighten this we want to strip away gender from the ensemble. Each of the players, except for Baal and Ekart, will play both genders at times during the play. We will focus on the traits of the character themselves rather than having one gender play a stereotype of the other. Costumes will be purposefully androgynous to reflect this.

Music is crucial in both the play itself and within the principles of epic theatre. We will aim to cast a team of actor-musicians who can create an onstage rock band. While we are not looking for accomplished singers, all actors will need to be able to hold a tune and have a certain level of musicality. The characters of Baal, Ekart and Sophie need to be confident singers. We want performers who can embody the music and captivate an audience. This needs to feel like a live gig rather than a polished piece of theatre, so please don't be put off if you do not consider yourself to be a traditional musical theatre actor.

If you have any experience as a musician, even if you have not picked up an instrument since school, please let us know. We will be arranging the songs simply and to fit the cast. We want to have as full a sound as possible and in particular we are looking for actors with brass and string experience as well as guitarists, pianists and percussionists. The character of Baal is required to play the guitar so must be willing to learn basic guitar if they are not already proficient.

We are seeking actors who are willing to take risks and experiment, but who also bring a high level of focus and discipline to the rehearsal room.

CHARACTERS

BAAL

MALE | PLAYING AGE: 30 - 45

A wild animal. A wasted life. As charming as he is dangerous. Everyone fantasises and fears him.

EKART

MALE | PLAYING AGE: 20 - 30

Baal's muse and lover. His salvation and his downfall. Youthful, passionate and optimistic.

SOPHIE and other roles

FEMALE | PLAYING AGE: 20 - 30

A constant presence in Baal's life. Fanatic and captive. An omen that always lurks in the shadows.

All other characters will be played as an androgynous extension of the actor's self. We are seeking actors who can interpret a text rather than rely on creating a multitude of characters. While we have doubled roles and assigned genders and ages, we are open to adapting this, both during the audition process and early rehearsals. The following is a guideline, but please be open to this changing throughout the process.

JOHANNES and other roles

FEMALE | PLAYING AGE: 20 - 30

JOHANNA, SAVETTKA, MAJA and other roles

MALE | PLAYING AGE: 18 - 25

PILLER and other roles

FEMALE | PLAYING AGE: any

EMILIE, MJURK, BOLLEBOLL and other roles

MALE | PLAYING AGE: any

MECH, LUISE, LUPU and other roles

MALE | PLAYING AGE: any

PSCHIERER, GOUGOU, WATZMANN and other roles

FEMALE | PLAYING AGE: any

BAND & TECH TEAM

Alongside our cast, we may cast additional musicians and an onstage tech team. If you are interested in being considered for an on-stage support role please email baal@sedos.co.uk outlining any relevant skills.

AUDITIONS

Auditions will be held on Sunday 30th September (10:00^{AM} - 6:00^{PM}) and Tuesday 2nd October (7:00 - 10:00^{PM}). Recalls may be held on Sunday 7th October if required.

Initial auditions will be in front of the Director, Associate Director and Producer. A member or representative of the Sedos Management Committee will also be on the panel to ensure fairness in auditions. A reader may also be present to assist with the auditions.

Each person will be allocated a 10 minute slot upon application. You will be asked to read a piece of prose and perform a short scene. These will be sent to you once your audition slot has been confirmed. Please use your own accent when reading.

All actors will also be required to sing a verse and chorus of a popular song of your choosing. Please do not sing a Musical Theatre or Disney song. Songs should be well known and from the last 50 years. Your go-to karaoke song is perfect. We are looking for actors who can hold a tune and an audience - not necessarily accomplished singers. Think David Bowie, Joni Mitchell, Carole King or Shane McGowan.

For pianists and guitarists please accompany yourself.

For all other instrumentalists, please prepare 16 bars of additional music on your first instrument only.

For percussionists, you do not need to prepare a rhythm piece - we will do a simple call and response test in your audition.

For singers only, you will be required to sing unaccompanied. We will not have the facilities to play backing tracks. You will also be required to do a simple call and response rhythm test.

You do not need to have learnt the pieces but you should be confident and familiar enough with them to perform with conviction and character.

DISCLAIMER

Due to the nature of the play we will only be considering actors aged 18+.

The play features scenes of sexual and domestic violence and rape. While we will do our utmost to ensure everyone feels safe within these scenes, actors should be mindful of the themes before auditioning.

The play also requires the majority of the cast to be, at times, in various states of undress, in particular the characters of Baal and Ekart. Again, we will be as sensitive and accommodating as possible, however please be aware of this expectation before auditioning.

WORKSHOP

If you would like to find out more about the show vision and character breakdowns we will be holding a workshop on Monday 24th September at 1BHG from 7:30PM. This will be an opportunity to meet the team, act and sing through part of the show, experience our rehearsal process and ask any questions you may have. The workshop is free and open to all. Please sign up at **membership.sedos.co.uk** or just turn up on the day.

REHEARSALS

The first rehearsal will be Sunday 14th October. Rehearsals will be called from 7:00 – 10:00PM on Tuesdays and Fridays and 11:00AM - 5:00PM on Sundays. We will also be holding additional rehearsals on Saturdays 12th and 19th January. Our final rehearsal before Christmas will be Sunday 16th December and we will re-commence on Sunday 6th January. Cast must be available for both the Technical and Dress Rehearsals and all performances.

Due to the significance of Baal in the majority of scenes and the amount of stage time he occupies, the actor cast as Baal must have exceptional availability during the rehearsal period.

PLEASE NOTE: there is an audition charge of £5 for non-members which is payable when booking your audition slot. Each performer must be a Sedos member (from £30 per annum) and pay a participation fee of £30.

To book an audition slot please visit **membership.sedos.co.uk** or for more information please visit **www.sedos.co.uk** or contact **baal@sedos.co.uk**