



## THE RIVALS AUDITION NOTICE

**“Come, come, we must lay aside some of our romance - a little *wealth* and *comfort* may be endured after all”.**

### KEY DATES AND VENUES

**Workshop** | Tue 23 May, BHG from 7.30pm

**Auditions** | Tue 30 May, Thu 1 Jun (6:30pm or 8pm); Sun 4 Jun (11am, 1.30pm and 3.30pm)

**Re-calls** | Sun 11 Jun

**First rehearsal** | Tue 4 July

**Rehearsals** | Tue and Thu, 7pm-10pm, with a few Saturdays and Sundays

**Workshop, audition, recall and rehearsal venue** | 1 Brewers' Hall Garden, London EC2V 5DX

**Performances** | 19 - 23 September 2017

**Performance venue** | Bridewell Theatre, Bride Lane, London EC4Y 8EQ

Workshop reservations and audition slots can be booked via [17rivals@gmail.com](mailto:17rivals@gmail.com)

For more information please contact [17rivals@gmail.com](mailto:17rivals@gmail.com)

## ABOUT THE SHOW

A superb classic comedy in the restoration style.

Wealthy, head-strong beauty, Lydia Languish, wants to marry a poor man to offend her guardian Aunt and hopefully prompt a romantic elopement. Jack Absolute, himself a wealthy man, learns of this, and adopts the fake identity of Beverley, a poorly paid Ensign, in order to win her affections.

From this deception, many complications arise with hilarious consequences, not least because she has two other eager suitors in the shape of Bob Acres and Sir Lucius O'Trigger.

*The Rivals* is set in 1775 in the city of Bath, full period costume will be worn.



## CREATIVE TEAM

**Director** | Sylvia Finnimore

**Producer** | Mark Zeffertt

**Assistant Director** | Frederica Byron

**Design** | Mia King

## WORKSHOP

If you would like to find out more about the show vision and character breakdowns, we will be holding a workshop on **TUESDAY 23 MAY** at **1BHG** from **7.30PM**. This will be an opportunity to meet the team, act through part of the show, experience our rehearsal process and ask any questions you may have. The workshop is free and open to all.

Workshop reservations can also be made at: [17rivals@gmail.com](mailto:17rivals@gmail.com)

## AUDITIONS

Auditions will be held on **TUESDAY 30 MAY, THURSDAY 1 JUNE** and **SUNDAY 4 JUNE**. Re-calls will be held on **SUNDAY 11 JUNE** if required. Initial auditions will be in front of the Director and the Producer. A member of the Sedos committee will also be on the panel to ensure fairness in auditions. An audition piece will be sent to you once your audition slot has been confirmed. You may be acting with another auditionee. You should be very familiar with the audition piece. We will be looking for lively performances and actors who bring energy onto the stage.

Audition slots can be booked via [17rivals@gmail.com](mailto:17rivals@gmail.com). Please state the slot you require.

**Available slots are:**

**Tuesday 30 May and Thursday 1 June | 6.30pm or 8pm**

**Sunday 4 June | 11am, 1.30pm, and 3.30pm**

Within each 90-minute session auditionees will be seen individually on a first-come, first served basis. You will be sent a scene/scenes to prepare when you sign up for an audition slot. If you are interested in more than one part, please concentrate on preparing your preferred part as we may only have time to hear you read for one role, although we will still consider you for others.

**NOTE:** there is an audition charge of £5 for non-members, which can be paid when you audition. Each performer must be a Sedos member and pay a participation fee.

## **CHARACTERS**

### **Lydia Languish | The Prize!**

The rivals in the title, are rivals for her hand in marriage. She is young, rich, beautiful, spoilt and, some would say, silly. One of the principal reasons for her marriage choice is her desire to upset her relatives. She is seeking an impoverished husband and hoping that she will be forced to elope which she considers to be romantic. Lots of scope here for a confident, lively performance.

### **Captain Jack Absolute (alias Ensign Beverley) | Our Hero!**

Jack is dashing, handsome, rich, and charming. Realizing that Lydia will only marry a poor man, he adopts an invented character in the shape of Ensign Beverley, a poorly paid serviceman. Initially this strategy is successful and he wins Lydia's affections but, unsurprisingly, complications arise which lead to the hilarious situations which make the play so funny. Scope here for a young actor to give a bold physical performance.

### **Sir Anthony Absolute | Jack's Father**

A fabulous, larger than life character, Sir Anthony is domineering, explosive and a little lecherous! A vigorous older actor is required, at least old enough to be Jack's father so a playing age of 40+.

### **Mrs Malaprop | The famous one!**

Think Hyacinth Bucket or Mrs Slocombe. Mrs Malaprop is Lydia's pretentious, vain and silly Aunt. She tries to impress by using long words which she does not understand and she frequently gets them wrong (hence Malapropism). Her tendency to be taken in by the slightest flattery, adds to the comedy.

### **Sir Lucius O'Trigger | Irish firebrand**

Sir Lucius is Jack's rival and hopes to secure Lydia's affections. His main interest in life is finding opportunities to get into duels. Irish accent required.

### **Bob Acres | Country bumpkin**

Bob's home is "Clod Hall" and I would like this character to have a West Country accent. Bob is possibly the funniest character in the play. He also is seeking Lydia's hand in marriage and to this end he is determined to get a "makeover" by learning to dance, having his hair done and getting his wardrobe overhauled! Unfortunately he gets involved with Sir Lucius and gets committed to a duel of which he is terrified. His efforts to become brave are hilarious.

### **Faulkland**

Faulkland is Jack's friend and he is in a relationship with Julia. He is a flamboyant, petulant, possibly "camp" character, who agonises endlessly over his relationship and finds various excuses for not actually getting married!

**Julia**

Unlike the other characters, Julia is a virtuous unselfish character who refuses to see fault in anybody, especially Faulkland.

**Fag**

Fag is Jack's gentleman's gentleman. A highly intelligent servant who plays the master "for a sucker" whenever he can. London accent preferred.

**Lucy**

Another servant "on the take", Lucy turns situations to her own benefit whenever possible by pretending to be simple. She causes a lot of the misunderstandings in the play by her dishonesty. A fun, lively character. London accent preferred.

**David**

David is Bob Acres' servant and should have a West Country accent. He has more sense than his master but in spite of his efforts he is unable to save his master from the influence of Sir Lucius. This actor will probably "double" for the Coachman who only appears in the opening scene. The Coachman should have a different accent, probably London.

**CASTING RESTRICTIONS**

Because of overlapping rehearsal periods, it will not be possible to be in *The Rivals* and any of these Sedos shows: *The Nether*, *Ordinary Days* and *Frankenstein*.

We are aware that *Frankenstein* are auditioning at the same time as *The Rivals* and you are welcome to audition for both shows, although you can only be cast in one — the production teams will discuss casting if they both want to cast someone and take auditionee preferences into account.

For more information please contact [17rivals@gmail.com](mailto:17rivals@gmail.com)

**SEDOS: MEMBERSHIP, AUDITION AND PARTICIPATION FEES**

Sedos is one of London's pre-eminent amateur theatre societies, with the aim of producing quality amateur shows to the best artistic standards possible. Please note that performers are not paid — not even expenses. To perform in *The Rivals* 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 [www.sedos.co.uk](http://www.sedos.co.uk)

**BACKSTAGE HELP**

If you are not interested in auditioning, but would like to help out backstage, in any capacity (from operating lights, to building scenery to sewing costumes to providing front of house assistance) then please let us know by e-mailing [17rivals@gmail.com](mailto:17rivals@gmail.com). We would be delighted to hear from you!

## ANY QUESTIONS?

Please email Sylvia on [17rivals@gmail.com](mailto:17rivals@gmail.com) if you have any questions. We look forward to seeing you at the workshop and auditions.

*Sylvia and Mark*