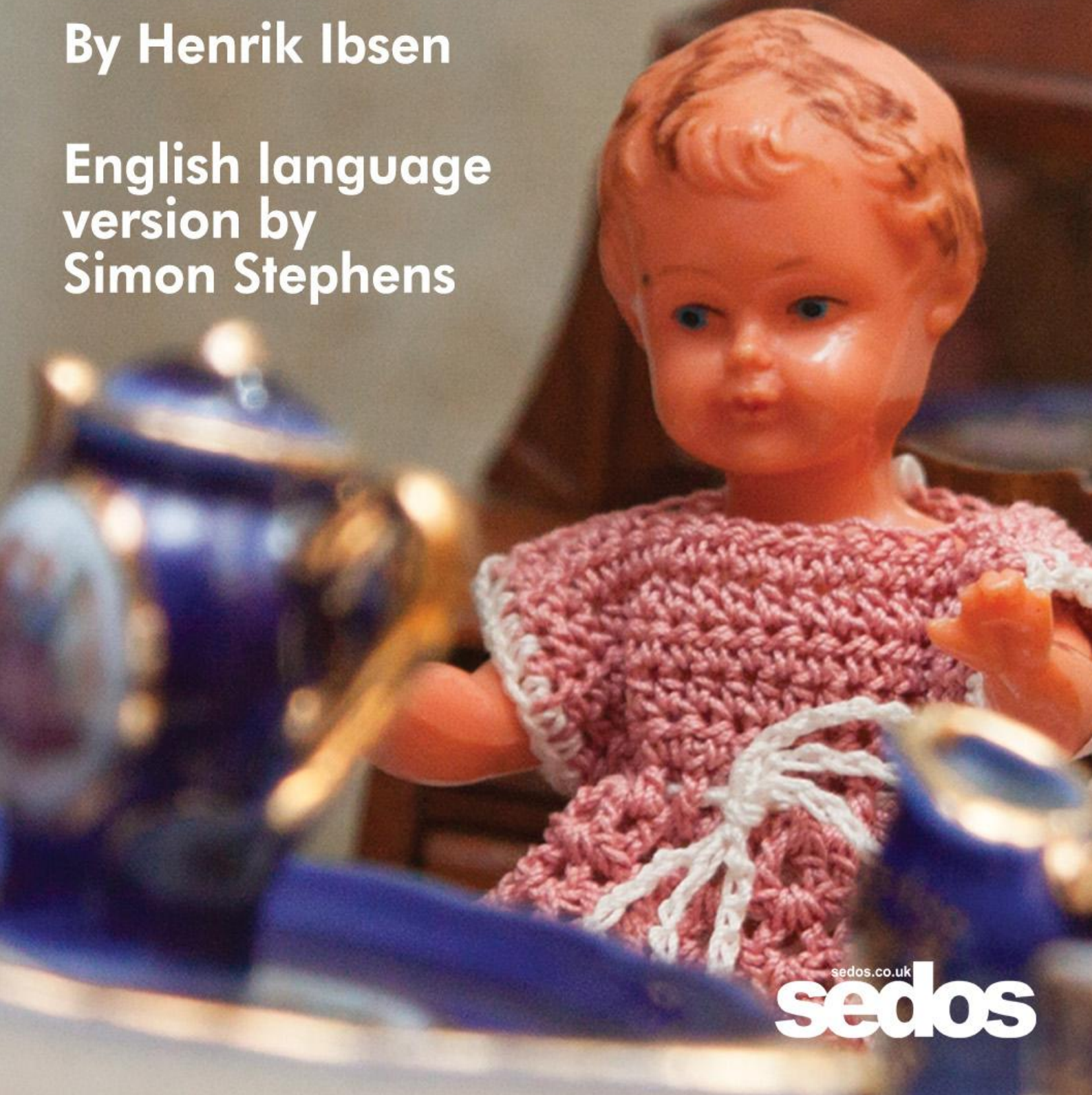


# A DOLL'S HOUSE

By Henrik Ibsen

English language  
version by  
Simon Stephens



sedos.co.uk  
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# AUDITION NOTICE

## Key dates and venues

- **Workshop** | Thursday 2 October 2017 7pm
- **Auditions** | Tuesday 17 October, Thursday 19 October and Saturday 21 October 2017
- **Recalls** | Sunday 22 October 2017
- **First rehearsal** | Tuesday 31 October 2017
- **Performances** | 23-27 January 2018
- **Workshop, audition, recall and rehearsal venue** | 1 Brewers' Hall Garden, London EC2V 5DX
- **Performance venue** | Bridewell Theatre, Bride Lane, London EC4Y 8EQ

To book an audition, please read the full audition notice, then sign up at

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

## ABOUT THE SHOW

*"I think I'm a human being before anything else. I don't care what other people say. I don't care what people write in books. I need to think for myself"*

Henrik Ibsen's *A Doll's House* premiered in 1879 in Copenhagen provoking huge controversy within its apparently feminist message and cemented Ibsen's commitment to realist drama. In Ibsen's play, Nora Helmer has secretly borrowed a large amount of money to pay for her husband, Torvald to recover from illness on a sabbatical in Italy. Torvald's perception of Nora is of a silly, naive spendthrift, so it is only when the truth begins to emerge and Torvald realises who Nora really is that unbendable cracks appear in their marriage.

Ibsen's masterpiece examines the way society shapes us and our conception of others. It considers marriage, family, money and the roles of both men and women in a play famous for its flawed and realistic characters.

Simon Stephens vibrant, compelling translation of *A Doll's House* premiered at the Young Vic Theatre London on 29th June 2012 and was reviewed on 28th March 2013.

## VISION OF THE SHOW

*A Doll's House* by Ibsen is a classic play, recognisable for its timeless themes and the humanity of characters. Set in one room over a period of three days, Ibsen uses the micro-drama of seemingly everyday life to explore a multitude of larger themes. The concepts of gender, identity, perception, morality, financial hardship and the question of how the relationships we hold can define us continue to shape our lives and remain ever-present.

The themes of *A Doll's House* continue to resonate and are of great contemporary relevance. The dynamic language of Stephen's translation allows us to present the text in an updated setting, making use of warm lighting and modern costume and soundtrack. We aim to use a clean, stripped-back set which is indicative of contemporary suburban England without cluttering the stage, allowing us to focus on Stephens language and Ibsen's complex, layered characters.

## THE CAST

We are looking for a main cast of 6 in addition to 2 child actors. The play is famed for its flawed, complex characters. In addition to the roles of Nora and Torvald, there is a fantastic range of parts. These include Kristine, Nora's childhood friend, Krogstad a money-lender and former rival of Torvalds who exerts pressure on Nora and Dr Rank, the Helmer's kindly and trusted friend. We are also looking for a two child actors between the ages of 8 and 14 to play Nora and Torvald's children - we are open to switching the gender of the child roles.

With all the adult roles, we do not have specific ages in mind and have set wide age ranges - we are interested in finding the right actor for each character and are happy to age the part up/down accordingly. The detailed cast breakdown is set out at the end of the audition notice.

## ABOUT THE TEAM

**Director | Jon Foster**

Jon currently works in the Student Engagement team at Kingston University and a member of the Barbican's first Youth Panel. Whilst a student at LSE, he previously directed *Pygmalion*, *Pornography* and *Julius Caesar*. He has also acted and produced numerous other productions including *Black Comedy*, *Blasted* and *We Ruined Each Other (Original Writing)*. This is his first production for Sedos.



## Producer | Mariana Baguenier

During her time as a student at both LSE and UCL, Mariana has acted, directed and produced extensively. Her previous acting credits include *An Unnecessary Farce*, *Fools Call it Fate*, *Julius Caesar* and *The Tempest*. In 2017 she directed Ann Washburn's *Mr Burns*. She has also acted in and produced two original productions at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival: *This Earth* in 2016 and *Meat* in 2017 and most recently acted as co-producer on the short film *FaMe* (Original Writing). This is her first production for Sedos.

## AUDITION FORMAT

### Workshop

**Date** | 2 October, 7pm

**Where** | 1 Brewers' Hall Garden, London EC2V 5DX

**Sign up** | email the Production Team on [adollshouse@sedos.co.uk](mailto:adollshouse@sedos.co.uk) to give us an idea of numbers

The workshop is a chance to get to know the team and the show, as well as to ask questions. It is entirely optional, no preparation is needed and attendance will not affect your chances of being cast.

### Auditions

#### Dates and times:

**Tuesday 17 October** | sessions at 7-8:30pm and 8:30-10pm

**Thursday 19 October** | sessions at 7-8:30pm and 8:30-10pm

**Saturday 21 October** | sessions at 11-12:30pm, 1:30-3pm and 3pm-4:30pm

**Where** | 1 Brewers' Hall Garden, London EC2V 5DX

**Sign up** | <https://membership.sedos.co.uk/signup/>

Within each 90-minute session auditionees will be paired up and given a short scene to perform. You will be sent a scene in advance of your audition to allow you to familiarise yourself with the material. Once paired up at the audition, you will be given some time to rehearse the scene. We do not expect you to be off script for the audition and encourage you to focus on getting a feel for the character. Please note that whilst you will be asked to indicate if there is a particular part you are interested in we will be considering all auditionees for all roles.

### Recalls

**Date** | Sunday 22 October

**Where** | 1 Brewers' Hall Garden, London EC2V 5DX

More information on the recalls and what to prepare, if anything, will be provided to those who are recalled. It is likely that recalls will take the form of a workshop where you will be asked to rehearse and then perform multiple scenes in a pair or as part of a group with other auditionees.

## REHEARSALS

The first rehearsal will be a read-through on Tuesday 31 October.

Thereafter, rehearsals will generally take place on Tuesday and Thursday evenings and Sundays during the day. All rehearsal dates are listed below and days other than Tuesday, Thursday and Sunday are highlighted in bold. Please note, cast members will be required to attend every rehearsal and the final rehearsal schedule will be created with input from the cast.

### Rehearsal Dates:

Thursday 2 November, Sunday 5 November, Tuesday 7 November, Thursday 9 November, **Saturday 18 November**, Sunday 19 November (note, Saturday AND Sunday rehearsals this weekend), Tuesday 21 November, Thursday 23 November, Tuesday 28 November, **Wednesday 29 November**, Sunday 3 December, Tuesday 5 December, Thursday 7 December, Sunday 10 December, Tuesday 12 December, Thursday 14 December, Sunday 17 December.

There will be a break for Christmas and New Year, rehearsal will resume on Thursday 4 January. Rehearsals will then continue: Sunday 7 January, Tuesday 9 January, Thursday 11 January, Sunday 14 January, Tuesday 16 January, Thursday 18 January, **and Saturday 20 January**.

All rehearsals will be at 1 Brewers' Hall Garden or if they move, they will be at another central London venue.

The show gets into the Bridewell Theatre (Bride Lane, EC4Y 8EQ) on Sunday 21 January and the technical rehearsal is that evening. The dress rehearsal is on the evening of Monday 22 January. Performances are every evening 23-27 January, plus there will be a Saturday matinee.

## CASTING RESTRICTIONS

Because of overlapping rehearsal periods, it will not be possible to be in *A Doll's House* and any of these Sedos shows: *Priscilla Queen of the Desert*; *Dogfight*.

## A NOTE ON THE CASTING OF JON AND IVAR

For the roles of Jon and Ivar we are looking to cast two children. Whilst the script suggests the children are aged 8 and 9 respectively, we are happy to consider children between the ages 8 and 14. We are also happy to switch the genders of the children in response to casting.

To comply with licensing requirements, children must be accompanied by a parent at all times at auditions, rehearsals and performances, so parents must only allow children to audition if they are willing to take this on if their child is cast. The parts of Jon and Ivar will be played by the same actors at every performance.

We will be auditioning for the child roles later in the rehearsal process. If you are interested in signing a child up to audition, please register your interest with the production team by emailing [adollshouse@sedos.co.uk](mailto:adollshouse@sedos.co.uk). All audition, participation and membership fees will be waived for children.

## 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 *A Doll's House* 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](http://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 [adollshouse@sedos.co.uk](mailto:adollshouse@sedos.co.uk). We would be delighted to hear from you!

## ANY QUESTIONS?

Please email the Production team on [adollshouse@sedos.co.uk](mailto:adollshouse@sedos.co.uk) if you have any questions. We look forward to seeing you at the workshop and auditions.

*Jon and Mariana*

## CASTING BREAKDOWN

### Nora Helmer

Nora is an intelligent, dedicated and caring mother and wife. She is prone to be both playful, naive and on occasion shows great vulnerability. This being said she is also capable of great strength, is fully aware of how others perceive her and demonstrates an ability to manipulate these situations to her advantage. Throughout the play she comes to see her position within her marriage with increasing clarity, engaging in small acts of rebellion and ultimately seeks to escape the oppressive way she is seen and the crushing tedium of her situation.

Playing age 25-40

### Torvald Helmer

Much like Nora, Torvald is a complex character shaped by his external environment and defined by seemingly conflicting characteristics. He is a proud, motivated, controlling figure with a clear conception of how people should act and the roles should play. Like Nora he can be affectionate, playful, selfish and caring; he too is capable of vulnerability. Ultimately he fails to see Nora as she truly is and struggles to understand her frustration at their marriage and her role within it.

Playing age 30-45

### Kristine Linde

Kristine is a childhood friend of Nora's who re-enters her life and initially fails to see how she has grown. She is a practical, down-to-earth woman, and her sensible worldview highlights Nora's somewhat childlike outlook on life. Her life as an impoverished widow who cared for her dying mother stands as a direct comparison to the privileged nature of the life Nora leads. As the play progresses she acts as Nora's confidante, conscience and the catalyst for her transformation. She was previously engaged to Nils Krogstad and was forced to abandon the love she felt for him out of practicality.

Playing age 30-50

### Nils Krogstad

Krogstad is traditionally seen as the antagonist of the play. He uses his knowledge of Nora's indiscretion to exert pressure on her and her family in order to further his self-interest. He is manipulative, selfish and cruel. Whilst he is flawed, he is not a villain - he acts out of desperation rather than desire and although he torments Nora we have great sympathy for her and her situation. The rekindling of his romance with Kristine Linde, prompts him to reevaluate the way he has acted.

Playing age 30-50

### Dr Jens Rank

Nora and Torvald's closest friend, he is dying and has long held an unrequited love for Nora. Rank is a genuinely caring man, and is capable of seeing Nora's inner strength. However, he too is blinkered by the conceptions society creates, failing to understand the motives of Krogstad's previous behaviour and feeling Nora must conform to the roles traditionally associated with her gender. He can be both stubborn and incredulous.

Playing age 30-55

### Anna/Helene

Nora and Torvald's Au Pair - A witness to the intricacies and intimacies of their marriage.

Playing age 18-25

**Jon Helmer**

Nora and Torvald's older child.

Playing age 8-14

**Ivar Helmer**

Nora and Torvald's younger child.

Playing age 8-14