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**sedos**

P R E S E N T S

# WORKING

## THE MUSICAL

Adapted by Nina Faso & Stephen Schwartz  
With additional contributions by Gordon Greenberg

Songs by  
Craig Carnelia, James Taylor, Mary Rodgers, Micki Grant,  
Stephen Schwartz, Susan Birkenhead and Lin-Manuel Miranda

From the book by Studs Turkel

12th May - 16th May 2020  
The Bridewell Theatre

PRODUCER

**MICHELLE  
CALVERT**

DIRECTOR

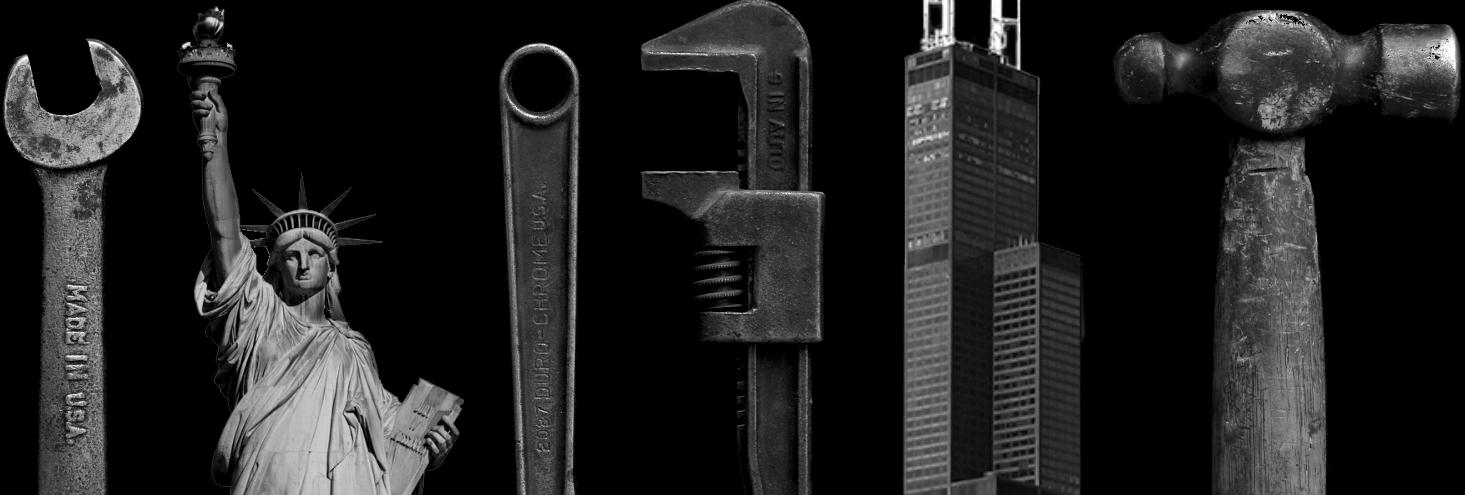
**PETER  
SHIMMIN**

MUSICAL DIRECTOR

**WILL  
GAINES**

MOVEMENT DIRECTOR

**TESS  
ROBINSON**



## KEY DATES AND VENUES

**Workshop:** Thursday 5th December 2019

**Auditions:** 5th - 8th January 2020

**Recalls:** 12th January 2020

**First Rehearsal:** Saturday 1st February 2020

**Location:** Brewers' Hall Garden, London EC2V 5DX

**Performances:** Tuesday 12th May - Saturday 16th May 2020

**Location:** Bridewell Theatre, Bride Lane, London EC4Y 8EQ

Sign up to the workshop / Request an audition:

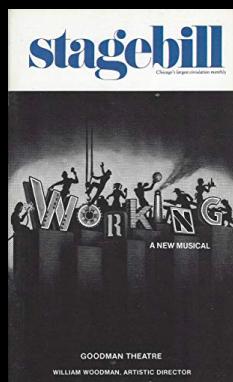
**<https://membership.sedos.co.uk/signup>**



# ABOUT THE SHOW

In 1974 Chicago radio broadcaster Studs Terkel published a best selling compilation of interviews with a cross section of Americans talking about their jobs. In 2007-2008 additional interviews were conducted. Terkel described it as 'the extraordinary dreams of ordinary people'. *Working* is the musical adaptation of Terkel's book, and the words of the people he interviewed. It was first conceived by Stephen Schwartz (*Godspell*, *Pippin*, *Wicked*) and staged on Broadway in 1978.

*Working* is a delightfully funny and thoroughly touching musical which explores what goes through the minds of everyday people - from construction workers and waitresses to firemen, secretaries and cleaning women. It showcases the individuals' occupations and also laments their lost hopes and dreams - taking the average worker's viewpoint and showing that he or she is anything but average.



## MUSIC

The varied characters portrayed in *Working* brings a unique feel to the music of the show. The varied characters portrayed in *Working* brings a unique feel to the music of the show. With many composers contributing to the score over the years (including *Wicked*'s Stephen Schwartz, and *Hamilton*'s Lin-Manuel Miranda), *Working* is an eclectic mix of musical styles. From the latin-samba feel of 'Delivery', to the country-ballad style in 'Mason', and the classic showtune style of 'It's an Art', the show brings a unique and distinct feel to each scene. Similarly, as most characters appear for just one song each number focuses on capturing true emotion rather than advancing a plot, giving performers so much to explore. These factors combine to make *Working* a show that will excite and challenge its cast (and audience) in equal measure.

## MOVEMENT

Although our Movement Director, Tess Robinson, will describe this show to you as "A *Chorus Line*, but for everyday people," the movement will be reflective of those everyday people and not of *A Chorus Line*! *Working* will involve pedestrian movement and, importantly, the intention behind it. In choreography, pedestrian movement is defined as everyday movements, gestures or actions that become exaggerated and stylised for theatrical purposes.

We are particularly interested in working with Actor-Singers for this production and creating something suited to everyone's abilities. It's not necessary to be an experienced or highly skilled dancer for this show, we're looking for people who are open to and enthusiastic about learning how to create dance out of everyday moments in the character's lives. If you are a more confident dancer, however, we're happy to add more into the mix!



# ABOUT sedos

With a membership of over 200, a programme of around 8 to 10 challenging fringe theatre productions every year and a reputation for West End quality in every production, Sedos are proud of their claim to be the premier amateur theatre group in London.

Urinetown, 2018



Victor/Victoria, 2014



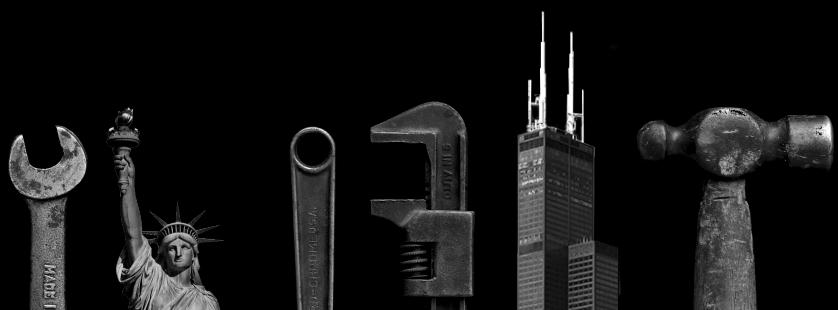
One Man, Two Guvnors, 2010



Ragtime, 2019



The acting and producing membership includes an eclectic mix from all over London but maintains strong links with the City via its members from investment banks, law firms, brokers, Exchanges and many other financial and city based firms. We are an unincorporated association run by an executive committee and a registered charity (no. 1173896). We maintain a strong emphasis not only on member participation but also on excellence, as the reputation of the society grows within the community.



# ABOUT THE CREATIVE TEAM

## Director PETER SHIMMIN

Peter is an actor and director originally from the Isle of Man. Peter's foray into directing began when he was studying Acting at the Arts University Bournemouth, with a production of *Footloose*. Since joining Sedos in 2016, Peter has performed in a number of shows including *London Road*, *Candide* and *Lucky Stiff*, and was also the Assistant Director for *Ordinary Days*. Peter co-directed *Dogfight* in 2018 and directed *How to Succeed* last year. By day, Peter works in Marketing at OYO.

## Musical Director WILL GAINES

In his younger days Will trained primarily as an instrumentalist, learning piano and saxophone whilst never once going near a choir. Consequently, Will considers himself the living embodiment of the joke “those that can’t do, teach”, and is most at home behind his piano. He first brought his talents to Sedos for their 2019 production of *How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying* after working on a production of *Pippin* as well as several revue shows and cabarets at Bath University. When not in the theatre he can be found working as a data engineer, playing rugby, or in the pub.

## Movement Director TESS ROBINSON

Tess first performed with Sedos in 2019 as Tracy Turnblad for their weekend workshop of *Hairspray*. She continued to perform later that year in the ensemble of *Soho Cinders* and *Ragtime*. Tess hails from South Wales where she trained in ballet, contemporary, musical theatre and street dance and competed for national titles in the latter. She was the kind of kid who forced her friends to learn all the *Cats* routines in the playground at lunchtime and began choreographing with her school musicals, so developed a knack for working with and coaching non-dancers from a very early age. Tess’s day-job is as a UX Researcher for Condé Nast.

## Producer MICHELLE CALVERT

Michelle graduated the BA Hons Acting course at Arts Educational London in 2010. Whilst pursuing acting she worked as director and producer at the Christopher Eccleston Theatre in Salford where she produced *Into the Woods*, *Guys and Dolls* and *Singing in the Rain*. Most recently she performed in the ‘Play in a Day’ Sedos performance of *Bull*. This will be her first experience producing a musical with Sedos.

## Creative Designer GILL DANIELL

Gill's first and last venture into acting was in a primary school production of *Annie* in the role of Miss Hannigan. Ever since those early days, she has preferred to flex her creative skills behind the scenes. After training in special fx make-up and hair in Glasgow, Gill moved to London to volunteer at the Finborough Theatre working odd jobs from set design to general management. Having brought her collective creative skills to assist with the latter stages of *How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying* in 2019, this will be her second production with Sedos.



# DATES FOR THE DIARY

## WORKSHOP

If you would like to find out more about the show vision and how to get involved, we will be holding a workshop on Thursday 5th December 2019 at Brewers' Hall Garden ('BHG') from 7pm. This will be an opportunity to meet the team, act and sing through part of the show, learn what level of movement will be involved, experience our rehearsal process and ask any questions you may have. The workshop is free and open to all, members and non-members.

Please sign up here, so we have an idea of numbers: <https://membership.sedos.co.uk/signup>



## REHEARSALS

The first rehearsal will be on or around the 1st February (depending on cast availability) and will include a readthrough (and fun sing-through) for the whole cast with a social in the evening after.

Rehearsals are called on Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 7-10pm, and on Saturdays between 10am-5pm. There are no rehearsals on 11th/12th April due to the Easter Holiday so there will be an additional rehearsal on Sunday 19th April.

## SHOW WEEK

The following dates require mandatory attendance:

- Saturday 9th May 2019 (day): Final Runthrough
- Sunday 10th May 2019 (day + evening): Sitzprobe & Tech rehearsal
- Monday 11th May 2019 (evening): Dress rehearsal

Performances take place from Tuesday 12th to Friday 15th May 2020 at 7:30pm. On Saturday 16th May there will be a matinee performance starting at 2:30pm.



# AUDITIONS

Auditions will be held on Sunday 5th, Monday 6th, Tuesday 7th and Wednesday 8th of January 2020, with the opportunity for recalls on Sunday the 12th January, all at BHG.

## REQUEST AN AUDITION

All audition materials will be made available to you once you've signed up to an audition slot. You will receive a link to all audition pieces via your audition slot confirmation email.

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.

Request an audition here: <https://membership.sedos.co.uk/signup>

You will then be sent a link by email to confirm the booking — your slot is not booked until you have confirmed via this link (and paid your £5 fee if you are not a Sedos member). Please check your junk mail if the email does not arrive.

If you can no longer take part, or need any more information about auditions, please email [working@sedos.co.uk](mailto:working@sedos.co.uk).

## AUDITION FORMAT

Each person will be allocated a 10 minute slot upon application. The audition panel will consist of the creative team plus a member of the Sedos committee to ensure fairness is maintained.

Please come prepared with a verse and chorus of a song of your choice. The song should demonstrate your technical singing ability, but we are particularly looking for people who can tell a story through song. If you are called back for a specific role, you will be asked to sing an excerpt of a song from the show.

Please select two of the assigned monologue extracts to prepare in advance - it's best to pick two contrasting characters so you can show your versatility.

There will also be a group movement audition that will mostly focus on pedestrian movements (movements that imitate and exaggerate everyday gestures or actions) and one 8-count (2 bar) dance routine.

Exact timings will depend on the day, but you can see an example of how audition days will run below:

10:00 – Auditionee #1

10:10 – Auditionee #2

10:20 – Auditionee #3

10:30 – Auditionee #4

10:40 – Auditionee #5

10:50-11:10 – 20 min for group movement audition for Auditionees #1 – #10

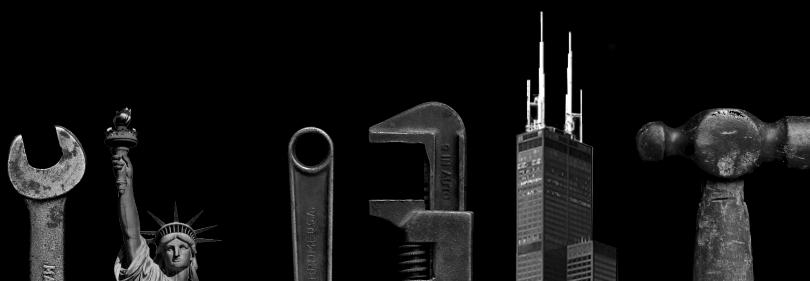
11:10 – Auditionee #6

11:20 – Auditionee #7

11:30 – Auditionee #8

11:40 – Auditionee #9

11:50 – Auditionee #10



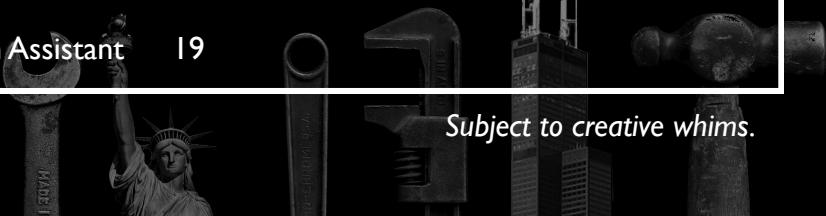
# CHARACTER BREAKDOWN

We are looking for a cast of between 6 to 10 actors, with an even split of men and women. Amongst them, the cast must portray the below 26 characters alongside ensemble numbers and supporting vocals.

THE MEN	JOB	AGE	SONG
Rex Winship	Hedge Fund Manager	20+	
Conrad Swibel	UPS Delivery Man	20+	
Ralph Werner	Student	19	
Freddy Rodriguez	Fast Food Worker	18-20	Sings "Delivery"
Raj Chadha	Tech Support	20+	
Utkarsh Trajillo	Elder Care Worker	25+	Sings "A Very Good Day"
Mike Dillard	Ironworker	45+	Sings "Fathers and Sons"
Anthony Coelho	Stone Mason	50+	
Eddie Jaffe	Publicist	50+	
Joe Zutty	Retiree	60+	Sings "Joe"
Frank Decker	Interstate Trucker	30+	Sings "Brother Trucker"
Allen Epstein	Community Organiser	20+	
Tom Patrick	Fireman	40+	

THE WOMEN	JOB	AGE	SONG
Terry Mason	Flight Attendant	20+	
Grace Clements	Millworker	20+	Sings "Millwork"
Theresa Liu	Nanny	20+	Sings "A Very Good Day"
Amanda McKenny	Project manager	25-35	
Roberta Victor	Sex Worker	25+	
Maggie Holmes	Cleaner	30+	Sings "Cleanin Women"
Rose Hoffman	School Teacher	50-60	Sings "Nobody Tells Me How"
Candy Cottingham	Fundraiser	50+	
Delores Dante	Waitress	35+	Sings "It's An Art"
Kate Rushton	Housewife	30+	Sings "Just A Housewife"
Sharon Atkins	Receptionist	20+	
Charlie Blossom	Ex-Newsroom Assistant	19	



Subject to creative whims.

# CASTING NOTES

While we have some doubling options in mind (and will ensure this is fair across performers) it is likely to be an organic process based on individual strengths. If you have any strong feelings about a particular character or song, please state this on your audition form and this will be considered, though we cannot guarantee the allocation of parts.

Remember that the words in the script are those of real people taken in an interview. Actors should avoid the temptation to over dramatize or comment on the material, particularly the more serious monologues. People tend to talk about themselves in a matter-of-fact way, with a certain degree of shyness and self-deprecating humor, and often the more terrible the story, the bigger the smile they will have when telling it and the lighter they will make it.

It is Sedos' policy that casting is based on suitability for the role (regardless of Sedos membership). We actively encourage actors of all ethnicities to audition for roles.

## ACCENTS

The characters in *Working* represent all walks of life in America. Therefore, all accents should be either American Standard or American Regional accents (see map for suggestions):



## AVAILABILITY

Unfortunately, due to crossover in rehearsal times, cast will not be able to take part in the Sedos Members Week.

## FEES AND SUBSCRIPTIONS

Sedos is one of London's pre-eminent amateur theatre societies with the aim of producing quality amateur theatre to the best artistic quality possible. In the nature of amateur theatre performers are not paid – not even expenses.

There is an audition charge of £5 for non-members which is payable when booking your audition slot. Each performer must be a member of Sedos to perform in a show. Membership fees are £30 a year if paid by direct debit, £35 otherwise. There is also a show participation fee of £40.

## LINKS AND CONTACT

Sign up to the workshop or request an audition: <https://membership.sedos.co.uk/signup>

Sedos FAQs: <https://sedos.co.uk/aboutus/faq.htm>

If there's anything else, please contact the production team at [working@sedos.co.uk](mailto:working@sedos.co.uk).

# GOOD LUCK

And see you at auditions!

Peter, Will, Tess, Michelle and Gill.

