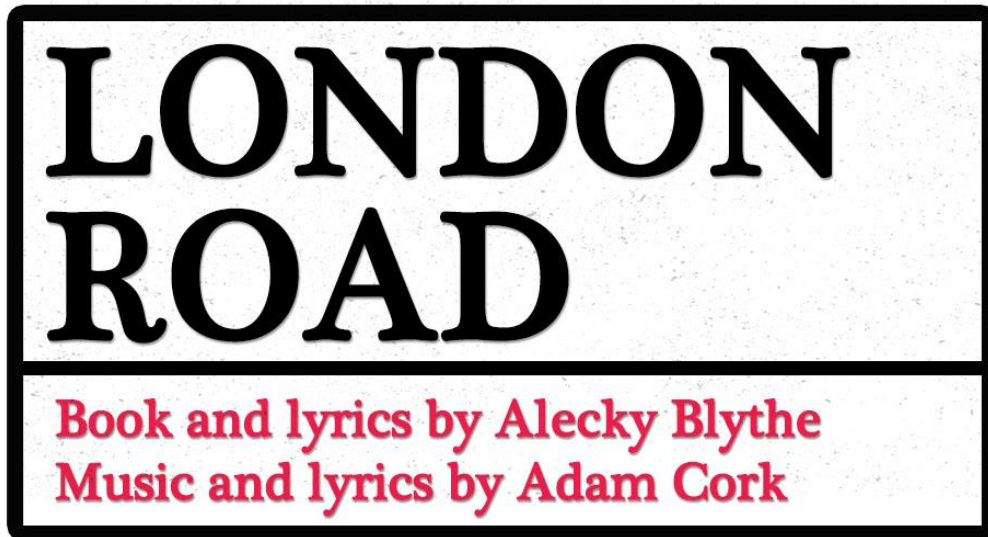


Audition notice



27th July – 6th August 2016, Bridewell Theatre

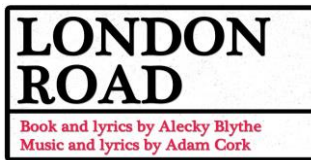
Director: Matt Gould
Assistant Director & Movement Director: Gayle Bryans
Musical Director: Jordan Clarke
Producer: Steven King

Workshop (optional): Thursday 7th April, 7pm
Auditions: Wednesday 13th April, 7pm and 8.30pm
Thursday 14th April, 7pm and 8.30pm
Saturday 16th April, 10.30am, 1pm and 3.30pm
Recalls: Sunday 17th April, throughout the day

The workshop will take place at 1 Brewers' Hall Garden, London EC2V 5DX. Other venues to be confirmed.

To book an audition please e-mail: LondonRoad@sedos.co.uk

If you have any questions that are not answered in this audition notice, please email LondonRoad@sedos.co.uk and we will get back to you as soon as possible.



In late 2006, the everyday life of the quiet rural town of Ipswich was shattered by the discovery of the bodies of five women.

The residents of London Road had struggled for years with the soliciting and kerb-crawling that they frequently encountered. As Steve Wright, the occupant of No.79, was arrested, charged and then convicted of the murders, the immediate community grappled with the media frenzy and what it meant to be at the epicentre of this tragedy.

Playwright Alecky Blythe recorded extensive interviews with the people of Ipswich which she crafted into the text for *London Road*. She then crafted what she had recorded into the book and lyrics of *London Road* so that all words heard on stage are the words as originally recorded by Blythe. Furthermore, the style of performance that Blythe favours and which was used in the original production of *London Road* was to copy the original speech patterns of the original speakers as closely as possible. Similarly the score is composer Adam Cork's response to the melodic and rhythmic speech patterns captured on those recordings. The use of the original words and the original speech patterns in both speech and song drives and absolute authenticity of the material being performed.

Neither the murdered women nor their killer are depicted, nor are the murders themselves; rather, the piece is concerned with the residents as they cope with the events unfolding around them, the media attention drawn to their neighbourhood, and their attempts to rebuild and regenerate their community afterwards in particular with the formation of a neighbourhood watch committee and then the "London Road In Bloom" competition. The piece does not feature principal characters in the conventional sense; instead, an ensemble cast assume the roles of various locals, sex workers and reporters, and most characters are not referred to by name.

The piece takes us from the dark times of the murders, through to the uplifting transformation of the road.

"The prostitutes made our lives hell.... You know there are plenty of other people in the world that need to be thought about...other than the girls.... I feel sorry for the families but not for them.... I'd still shake his [Steve Wright's] hand an' say thank you very much for getting rid of them."

London Road was originally performed at the National Theatre in 2011 winning the Critics' Circle Award for Best Musical.

"This miraculously innovative show finds a new way of representing reality [and] opens up rich possibilities for musical theatre." *Guardian*

"An astonishing document about a beleaguered yet resilient community... a startling, magically original success." *Evening Standard*

"The most genuinely interesting and innovative new musical I've seen for ages."
Whatsonstage.com

"An astonishingly daring and original piece of theatre." *Financial Times*

A feature film of the show was made in 2015 starring Olivia Colman and Tom Hardy and including many of original cast.

Further information

<http://www.nickhernbooks.co.uk/9781848421769>

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/London_Road_\(musical\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/London_Road_(musical))

Extracts from the cast album are on Youtube.

The film soundtrack is on Spotify.

More information is on the Sedos website: Sedos.co.uk

Cast size

The cast size will be 18: 9 men and 9 females. Ages are various!

Each actor will play a variety of parts, with a main role, plus various other parts. 11 of the parts are residents of London Road. The other leading male parts are Simon (a reporter), Mark (another Ipswich resident) and Chris Eakin (BBC news reporter). The 4 other female roles are the 3 prostitutes and Carol (a local Councillor). Further detail is given below. We have worked out (as far as possible) the exact doubling, so if there is a particular character that you are interested in and want to know what it is likely to be doubled with, please drop us a note!

Note – whilst the ages of the original people are given, as per the original, we will expect actors to play people of various different ages. We will be aiming to have slightly older actors on the “older” parts such as the residents of London Road, and “younger” actors on the younger parts, such as the prostitutes – but most of the supporting roles can be any age, so versatility is key. In order to create a sense of cohesion on stage, we will be looking to cast “couples” at least in a way that the pairs look convincing on stage, and certain of the couples appear “older” than others, so that will be taken into account – but please don’t rule yourself out of anything. The production team is unable to determine how old the cast members for each part will be until we have our auditionees! But note that whilst a couple may need to appear for example - in their 40’s- we are not in any way going to restrict ourselves to only considering people in that age bracket – it is about being able to portray the character convincingly – and for the ensemble as a whole to appear right and cohesive. This is therefore a great opportunity for actors of all ages, shapes and sizes.

Text and performance style

The piece is verbatim theatre – therefore a very naturalistic style of performance is required. Whilst we will be aiming to recreate the sound/accents of the original people, we will be doing this from the text and by listening to the CD/film rather than the original tapes. So whilst we will be absolutely true to the original, rather than “copy”, we will be using the performance materials to create our production and to use the text to understand the emotions and feelings of the characters of the show to get at the underlying truth. So we will be working to create fully rounded characters in the same way we would work with any other script.

Music / Movement

The music is unlike any other musical! Adam Cork has used the speech patterns and transcribed the rhythmic and melodic rise and fall of the original subject. We will therefore be exploring how best to deliver that to bring over the original in as pure as form as possible – but allowing the actors still to breathe and bring the parts to life. Cork has also very cleverly created harmonies by using counterpoint and repetition – so harmonic capability is an absolute must. We are therefore looking for actors who have musical ability as well as singers who can act!

The movement will be real, rather than dance, however given the nature of the piece certain parts will be highly stylised. So ability to move naturally and rhythmically is required!

The team

Director: Matt's shows for Sedos include *Noises Off*, *Into the Woods*, *A Man of No Importance*. Tom Stoppard's plays – *Hapgood* and *Arcadia* and the epic production of Alan Ayckbourn's linked shows *House/Garden*. He is also an experienced musical director and producer. For Sedos, musical direction credits include *Rent*, *Parade*, *My Favorite Year* and *Grand Hotel*. Other musical direction credits include the Sondheim shows: *Assassins*, *Merrily We Roll Along*, *Sweeney Todd*, *Company* and *Into the Woods*; other favourites include: *Jesus Christ Superstar*, *Pirates of Penzance (Broadway Version)*, *Cabaret* and *Anything Goes*.

Assistant Director & Movement Director: Gayle has choreographed a number of shows for Sedos: *Into the Woods*, *Grand Hotel*, *My Favorite Year*, *The Wild Party*, co-choreographed *Too Darn Hot* and *Victor Victoria*- for which she was also Assistant Director - and recreated the original choreography for the first two *EuroSedos* productions. An experienced performer too, roles with Sedos include April in *Company*, Avril/Mallory in *City of Angels* and Miss Adelaide in *Guys and Dolls*. Also co-produced an independent production of *Flora*, *The Red Menace*.

Musical Director: Jordan is currently studying composition at the Royal Academy of Music having previously studied at Chetham's School of Music. He has musical directed/assistant musical directed/played piano for a number of shows including *West Side Story*, *Grease*, *Little Shop of Horrors*, *HMS Pinafore*, *Calamity Jane*, *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* and *Miss Saigon*. He has written two musicals: *Dear Diary* and *Tyneham: No Small Sacrifice*. Extracts can be found at www.soundcloud.com/tyneham-the-musical.

Producer: Whilst this will be Steven's first time as producer for Sedos, he has been involved on a number of production teams since first getting involved with the society in 2007 including as Set Designer - *Noises Off*, *Victor Victoria*, *Into The Woods*, *A Man of No Importance*; Lighting Designer - *House (House/Garden)*, *Baby*, *The Last 5 Years*, *Assassins*, *Hapgood* and *AV - Godspell*.

Key dates

Rehearsals will take place on Tuesday and Wednesday evenings and generally alternate at weekends with a couple of both-day weekends.

The read through and initial cast get together will be on Sunday 8th May.

Evening rehearsals will generally start at 7pm, weekend rehearsals, 10.30 – 4.30pm.

Please ensure that you keep the entire weekend of 23rd/24th July free as this will include final rehearsals, band-call, get-in etc.

25th July (evening) is Technical Dress rehearsal and 26th July (evening) will be full Dress.

Performances

Wednesday 27th July – 6th August (7.30pm)

No performances on Sunday 31st July or Monday 1st August

Matinees on Saturday 30th July and Saturday 6th August (2.30pm)

Performances will take place at the Bridewell Theatre, Bride Lane, Fleet St, London EC4Y 8EQ, where Sedos is the resident theatre company.

Workshop and Auditions

Workshop

When: Thursday 7th April, 7pm

Where: 1 Brewers' Hall Garden (formerly known as City Business Library), London EC2V 5DX

Sign up: if you plan to attend, please email LondonRoad@sedos.co.uk so that we have an idea of numbers.

The workshop will be an opportunity to learn more about the musical, the roles and the audition process. There will be opportunities to read extracts of the script and sing through the piece to be prepared. No preparation is required prior to the workshop and attendance is strictly optional. Attendance will not affect your chances of being successfully cast.

Audition format

When: Wednesday 13th April and Thursday 14th April, 7pm or 8.30pm; Saturday 16th April, 10.30am, 1pm or 3.30pm.

Within each time slot, auditionees will be seen on a first-come first-served basis

Where: to be confirmed

Sign up: please email LondonRoad@sedos.co.uk to sign up. Please include any timing preference when asking for a slot but note that priority for the Saturday 10.30am slot will be given to those auditionees involved with *Such Stuff As Dreams Are Made On*.

Pippa Kyle is kindly organising the auditions and will be the person principally minding the LondonRoad@sedos.co.uk email address and she will be very happy to deal with any queries, or seek input from other members of the production team as necessary.

Please come prepared with:

- The song extract: "That's when it all kicked off" (material will be provided)
- The short section of dialogue for one or more of the characters that you are interested in (material will be provided)
- A song of your own choice

We may not ask you to sing the song of your own choice – for example if we have general knowledge of your performance ability already.

There will not be a separate dance audition.

Please note that while you are welcome to register an interest in several roles, we may only have time to hear you read / sing for one at the initial audition. We may also only have time to hear part of the song, so don't be put off if you are stopped partway through — this is not a reflection on your performance.

As this is an ensemble piece, we will discuss the parts most suitable at the auditions – particularly if you have a particular interest in a particular part.

Audition extracts will be made available via a password protected website – details will be given to

you when you register to audition.

If you cannot make any of the audition dates, please get in touch by emailing LondonRoad@sedos.co.uk and we will do our best to accommodate you.

Audition Form

When you register to audition, you will be sent the audition form, please complete this and bring with you to the audition. This is so we have full details about you, your experience and what part(s) you are auditioning for. If you are only interested in one particular part, then do indicate this. It will not affect our opinions of you!

Recalls

When: Sunday 17th April, throughout the day

Where: to be confirmed

More details of the recalls will be given if you are recalled. We are not intending to do “workshop” recalls. Recalls may involve some simple movement.

Notification

We will aim to inform you as quickly as possible after the auditions whether you have been recalled/cast. 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 constraints etc. In the event that you are unsuccessful, we will be very willing to provide feedback when time permits.

Such Stuff As Dreams Are Made On

We fully understand that our auditions are clashing with your performances! We would be very keen to see you and would suggest either the Saturday morning audition slot, or we can make other arrangements. We also appreciate that you will have less time to prepare, so will take that into consideration. Please get in touch with us if you would like to audition and we will work out the best way to accommodate you.

Reefer Madness

Given the short cross over period between performances of *Reefer Madness* and the start of the rehearsal period for *London Road*, it may be possible to appear in both shows. Your availability will be taken into consideration like with any other auditionee, and that may possibly be an influencing factor. If you are in *Reefer Madness* and are considering auditioning, it would be worth discussing with the production team in advance – but there is nothing to lose by auditioning!

Whose Life is it Anyway? / Frenemies

Given the timing of these shows, it will not be practical to be in *London Road* and one or other of *Whose Life is it Anyway?* or *Frenemies*. As there is some overlap with auditions, please let us and the other audition teams know so that if you are recalled for more than one show, we can discuss with you and with each other to ensure that we don't end up in any awkward situations – but of course if you are offered a part in more than one show, it is up to you to decide which show to choose.

Minimum Age

We are sorry, but we cannot accept performers in this show who are under 16.

Backstage help

If you are not interested in auditioning, but are interested in helping out backstage, in any capacity (from stage crew, to building scenery to sewing costumes to providing front of house assistance) then please let us know by e-mailing LondonRoad@sedos.co.uk. We would be delighted to hear from you.

There will also be a slot on the Audition Form to indicate if you would like to be involved backstage if you are unsuccessful at being cast in the show – all assistance gratefully received!

Sedos: audition, participation and membership 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 — not even expenses. To perform in *London Road* you must be a member of Sedos (membership is currently £35 per year – or £30 if you pay by direct debit) and pay a participation fee of £40. There is a £5 (non-refundable) audition fee for non-Sedos members. For more information about Sedos, please visit our website, sedos.co.uk.

Cast breakdown

Residents of London Road

Ron & Rosemary

- A slightly older couple; good sense of community; Ron is chairman of the Neighbourhood Watch; originally from Peckham; sympathetic characters.

Helen & Gordon

- Both teachers
- A very affectionate partnership. They feel that the area has gone to the dogs and are very depressed about the whole situation and are very against the prostitutes, but by the end have really become part of the community
- Various doubling.

Jan & Tim

- Tim is a former soldier. Jan is a part-time carer. Lived in London Road their whole married life.
- Tim often can't get a word in edgeways; Jan is a sensitive soul. The whole situation has affected her terribly, she feels very depressed.
- Various doubling.

Terry & June

- A jolly pair; fit; enjoy line dancing; sympathetic to the prostitutes and the situation.
- Various doubling.

Julie

- The organiser of the Neighbourhood Watch Committee. Again, has been a resident of London Road for a number of years. Bit of a busybody but with a strong sense of community, cares about it, has a sense of pride; sense of fear and outrage about her kids being in an area where men are picking up prostitutes – who she has no sympathy for.

Dodge

- A likeable sociable person who hosts the London Road in Bloom barbeque. Window cleaner by trade. Lived in London Road all his adult life. Pretty gruff character - cheesed off with the whole situation, both the prostitutes and the press and police.
- Various doubling.

Alfie

- Really taken to the rebuilding of London Road and the “London Road In Bloom” competition winning “Best Overall Garden” three years in a row.
- Various doubling.

Other characters**Three Prostitutes;**

- Girls who worked on London Road and feared for their lives when other girls were being murdered. All trying to improve themselves and make some good from the terrible events. Very moving. The actors playing these parts will also double as Starbucks Girls and Reporters amongst other characters.

Carol

- A Ward Councillor – a wonderfully community minded person who judges the “London Road in Bloom” competition.
- Various doubling.

Simon

- A news reporter – who has the unenviable job of delivering the piece to camera “Cellular Material”.
- Various doubling.

Chris Eakin

- Another BBC News reporter
- Various doubling.

Mark

- Opinionated local guy.
- Various doubling.

A note on accents

Ron & Rosemary have London accents; Terry & June, Dodge, Stephanie and the Starbucks girls have noticeable Suffolk-country accents. All the other Ipswich characters have a more Essex-sounding accent with a slight Ipswich twang

And finally

If you have any questions regarding the show, rehearsals or the audition process as well as to book an audition slot, please contact us via LondonRoad@sedos.co.uk.

We look forward to seeing you at the auditions!

Matt, Gayle, Jordan & Steven

