



RICHARD III

By William Shakespeare

AUDITION NOTICE

KEY INFO

Dates

Pre-audition workshop:

Saturday 6 January 2024 - 11:00am - 1:00pm

Auditions:

Tuesday 9 January 2024 - 7:00pm - 10:00pm

Wednesday 10 January 2024 - 7:00pm - 10:00pm

Saturday 13 January 2024 10:00am - 5:00pm

Recalls:

Saturday 20 January 2024 10:00am - 5:00pm

Venue for Workshop

Wheatsheaf Hall, off Wheatsheaf Ln, S Lambeth Rd, SW8 2UP

Venue for Auditions and Recalls

Theatre Deli Leadenhall Studios, 107 Leadenhall Street, London EC3A 4AF

Rehearsals

Monday (7:00pm - 10:00pm), Wednesdays (7:00pm - 10:00pm) and Saturdays (10:00am - 5:00pm) from Saturday 10 February

Rehearsals will mainly be held at Theatre Deli, with some occasionally at Wheatsheaf Hall and other venues. Rehearsal venues will always be within Zone 1-2

Tech Rehearsals

Monday 6 May 2024 & Tuesday 7 May 2024
Bridewell Theatre, Bride Lane, London EC4Y 8EQ

Dress Rehearsal

Wednesday 8 May 2024
Bridewell Theatre, Bride Lane, London EC4Y 8EQ

Performances

Thursday 9 May 2024 - Saturday 18 May 2024
7:30pm (2:30pm matinee on Saturdays)
Bridewell Theatre, Bride Lane, London EC4Y 8EQ

Sign up to audition

Read this audition notice, then visit: membership.sedos.co.uk

Any queries?

Please email us at richard3@sedos.co.uk

More about Sedos

Visit our website at sedos.co.uk

INTRODUCTION FROM THE DIRECTOR

This is a production that has been 5 years in the making for me. I first prepared this interpretation of Richard III in 2018 for a director's school interview, where I was asked to pitch a modern retelling of a Shakespeare play of my choice. The concept below was what I came up with, and though I didn't get into director's school, I became determined to fully realise this version on stage, rather than have it remain hypothetical.

Personally, I have often found Shakespeare to be a tad inaccessible, and my aim with this production is to bring it into a modern setting, retaining the language and poetry of Shakespeare, but using more familiar surroundings and characters to allow audiences like me to connect properly with themes and messages of Richard III.

Dan

ABOUT THE SHOW

Richard III is one of Shakespeare's most famous history plays and follows the machinations of Richard, Duke of Gloucester, as he attempts to clear the obstacles between himself and the throne of England in the years following the War of the Roses.

Our production will do away with the duels and pitched battles, with grandly dressed kings, queens, and nobles and instead takes us to the modern seat of power in the United Kingdom: Westminster. We will take the themes of Richard III, namely ambition, betrayal, political machination, appearance versus reality and the accrual of personal power, and see them reflected in the politics of the British Government and the Conservative Party over the last few years in the wake of the Brexit Referendum. Real life has provided our inspiration for the character of Richard III - we will explore the parallels between the machiavellian scheming of Richard during his rise and his increasing desperation to cling to power during his fall through the recent career of Boris Johnson.

With this modern, political setting allied with ambitious technical elements, we hope to tell the old story of Richard III in a new way, one that allows the audience and cast to connect with this story. At the same time, this interpretation will allow us to pass comment on the politics of our time, but using Shakespeare's extraordinary prose - to also tell a modern story in a traditional way.

WHO WE ARE LOOKING FOR

We are looking for a company of performers who value creative collaboration and are comfortable with a degree of creative autonomy. With 40+ speaking roles, Richard III can be considered both a 'star-vehicle' and an ensemble piece - beyond the role of Richard, the vast majority of the other roles are similar in size and open to development. Alongside this, there will also be scripted and improvisational opportunities around filming pre-recorded footage to feature in the production. We hope to give our company the opportunity to explore, question and create these characters and footage, alongside the creative team.

As such, we are also seeking to create a diverse company of performers from a wide range of backgrounds, ages and identities to bring a plethora of different lived experiences to this creative process.

Disability

Productions of Richard III have often had an able-bodied actor directed to use physical movement or speech to portray a physical disability - **we will not be asking the actor playing Richard to impersonate somebody with a disability and ask you not to do so when auditioning for this role.** If you are a disabled actor who doesn't wish to mask their disability in this role, then we would be delighted to see your interpretation.

We will consider performers with a disability for any role and actively encourage disabled performers to audition. If you would like to discuss further, including how the audition process might work and practicalities in the rehearsal or performance, please do get in touch.

Gender Identity

Due to the explicit parallels being drawn between Richard and Boris Johnson, we will be looking for a male-identifying performer to play Richard.

Beyond the role of Richard, gender will **not** be a factor in any casting choice. As such, the audition pieces will be provided with no character name or specified gender attached and we ask you to consider only the audition piece notes, and if relevant, the age guidance when choosing which piece to audition with/which role(s) you would be happy to accept.

Many of the roles in Richard III are married couples - we would ask you **not** to take this into consideration when choosing which piece to audition with/which role(s) you would be happy to accept. The relationships between these characters will be considered political ones, as they often were at the time, rather than romantic ones.

Racial Identity

We have no pre-assigned racial identities to any of the roles. The modern, political setting of this production means it will only work if the diversity of the UK and British politics is reflected and so diversity within this cast is necessary.

Playing Age

We will be looking to have a cast with a wide range of ages. With the exception of Richard, there is no age guidance for any of the roles.

Accents/Vocal Style

Please use your natural accent for auditions. We would also like to encourage you to speak in as naturalistic a voice as possible for auditions, as opposed to a 'grand Shakespearean voice.'

ABOUT THE TEAM

Director | Daniel Edge

Dan's directing credits include *Kingmaker*, *Elegies for Angels*, *Punks and Raging Queens*, *Bug* in the Bloomsbury Studio and *Rent* at RADA Studios. He previously assistant directed *Amadeus* with Sedos.

Producer | Clare Harding

Clare first fell into all things backstage at university 17 years ago, since then she has produced, stage managed, costumed and been part of the crew for well over 30 productions. Most recently Clare produced Sedos' last Shakespeare production, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*.

Creative Technical Director | Adrian Jeakins

Adrian has been involved with Sedos for 15 years (that crept up!) and is most often found manning a sound desk (recently with Dan on *Amadeus*) or making some mad video (recently with Clare on *Midsummer*).

Committee Liaison

Every Sedos show has a committee liaison, who provides a link between the production team and the Sedos management committee. Their role is to provide support and act as an independent voice, should any auditionee, cast or team member wish to raise a query or concern. We are also happy to receive feedback at any time about our productions, including the audition process, via feedback@sedos.co.uk.

For this show our committee liaisons are Olly Levett (olly@sedos.co.uk) and Henry Whittaker (henry@sedos.co.uk).

JOIN THE CREW

We will also be looking for volunteers to get involved throughout the show process, including props, set builders, stage crew, Front of House and Box Office help.

To express interest in any of the roles above please email

richard3@sedos.co.uk

WORKSHOP, AUDITIONS AND RECALLS

Workshop

When

Saturday 6 January 2024 - 11:00am - 1:00pm

Where

Wheatsheaf Hall, off Wheatsheaf Ln, S Lambeth Rd, SW8 2UP

Sign up

You must sign up at membership.sedos.co.uk and confirm your attendance via the link in the email you received. Your workshop attendance slot is not booked until you have done this.

The workshop is an opportunity to get to know Richard III and the team. We will talk about our vision for the show, perform some extracts and there will be an opportunity to ask questions.

You don't need to prepare anything for the workshop and it is free to attend for Sedos members and non-members. Attendance is not compulsory and whether you attend or not will not affect your chances of being cast.

Auditions

Members and non-members of Sedos can audition. There is a £10 refundable reservation fee for non-members to audition (please see page 9 for more information.)

You will be able to audition for all roles, apart from Richard, if you have been cast in Just So. If you are auditioning for Richard please ensure you have good availability across the whole rehearsal period, for other roles we hope to be able to work around your availability within reason.

When

Tuesday 9 January 2024 - 7:00pm - 10:00pm

Wednesday 10 January 2024 - 7:00pm - 10:00pm

Saturday 13 January 2024 10:00am - 5:00pm

Where

Theatre Deli, 107 Leadenhall Street, EC3A 4AF

Format

Within each audition session each auditionee will be seen individually on a first come first served basis.

You will be sent script extracts to prepare when you sign up to audition. They will be specified for those auditioning for Richard, there will be two pieces to prepare, a monologue and a dialogue. For all other roles you will be able to select from three monologues and three dialogues, please choose one monologue and one dialogue to prepare for your audition. There is no need to learn the pieces by heart; it is absolutely fine to audition with the script in your hand.

Sign up

You must sign up at membership.sedos.co.uk and confirm your attendance via the link in the email you received. Your workshop attendance or audition slot is not booked until you have done this.

For auditions once you have confirmed your attendance you will receive an email with links to the audition materials, the audition form (please fill this out before you attend your audition) and our DE&I monitoring form (this is optional but really appreciated if you do complete it).

Recalls

When

Saturday 20 January 2024 - 10:00am - 5:00pm

Where

Theatre Deli, 107 Leadenhall Street, EC3A 4AF

More information about the recalls and what to prepare, if anything, will be provided to those who are recalled.

AUDITION RESERVATION FEES

Through the Sedos 2023 Season, we had nearly 500 people sign up to audition for our shows and production teams volunteered nearly a month worth of evenings and days to see as many auditionees as there were who wanted to audition. At Sedos we're committed to making sure we do as much as we reasonably can to give everybody a chance to be seen. Through the season, we offered nearly 700 audition slots; For most auditions, within a short period of time after announcement, those slots were filled to capacity. We've not charged fees for auditions in the past because we believe that access to theatre is important in promoting inclusion and diversity. We also, however, don't want people to miss out on slots which could have been filled with enough notice.

With slots disappearing so quickly, we found ourselves adding more slots, costing Sedos more money to book venues. Sadly, we also found that there were lots of auditionees who ended up cancelling their slots with very little notice or simply, not attending their auditions. We completely understand that life gets in the way and sometimes you'll have to cancel - that's OK.

For our 2024 season, in a bid to help with lost slots - we'll be introducing reservation fees so that we can make sure that; as many people as possible get the chance to be seen, cancellations are given in good time, waiting list auditionees that take cancelled slots have more time to prepare, and our teams are able to budget efficiently for the cost of holding auditions.

The concept is very similar to if you were to make a dinner reservation where you need to provide card details when booking - if you don't cancel in good time or you don't show up - a charge of £10 will be made to your card. To give us time to reallocate audition slots, we need at least 72 hours notice of cancellation - i.e. you need to cancel your slot at least 72 hours before your audition slot for the charge not to be applied.

The refund of charges which would ordinarily be considered applicable for non-attendance or late cancellation are at the discretion of the Sedos Management Committee.

For those of you who are existing Sedos members, the reservation fee won't apply - a perk of membership! If you would like to become a member of Sedos you can do so at membership.sedos.co.uk.

Further details as to how this system works will be provided when you book your audition slot. Note that your card details are never held by Sedos - for the booking of audition slots they are held securely by the card handler (Stripe).

REHEARSALS

Rehearsals start on Saturday 10 February and will be on Monday and Wednesday evenings (7:00pm-10:00pm) and Saturdays (10:00am-5:00pm).

Rehearsals will mainly be held at Theatre Deli, with some occasionally at Wheatsheaf Hall and other venues. Rehearsal venues will always be within Zone 1-2.

All cast are required at the Bridewell Theatre for the technical rehearsals on Monday 6 May 2024 (this is a bank holiday) & Tuesday 7 May 2024 and the dress rehearsal on Wednesday 8 May 2024.

All the cast will be required to help with the get-out after the final show on Saturday 18 May 2024.

Performances are at 7:30pm on Thursday 9 May 2024 - Saturday 18 May 2024, with 2:30pm matinees on both Saturdays, at the Bridewell Theatre. No show on Sunday 12 May 2024.

MEMBERSHIP & PARTICIPATION FEES

Sedos is one of London's leading amateur theatre societies, with the aim of producing quality shows to the best artistic standards possible, while offering an enjoyable experience to everyone who participates on and off stage. Please note that performers are not paid and do not receive expenses.

If you are cast in Richard III, you must become a member of Sedos (membership is currently £30 per year if paid by direct debit; £40 if paid as a one-off). There are also participation fees of £60 for Richard III. If you feel these fees may be a barrier to your participation please speak to us in confidence about options available to you.

ROLES

Richard III has 40+ speaking roles and can be considered both a 'star-vehicle' and an ensemble piece. As such, unless you are auditioning exclusively for the role of Richard, we will consider all auditionees for every role in the production (you can of course audition for Richard and still be considered for all other roles) hence the removal of character names and gender from the audition pieces.

However, there will be space on your audition form to express interest in/to only be considered for a specific role from the list below.

Richard III/Duke of Gloucester - (M) - 40-55

Richard is both the central character and the villain of the play. He is corrupt, deceitful, and manipulative, but also intelligent and charismatic. His political brilliance and dazzling use of language keep his subjects and rivals under his influence, as well as the audience. He longs for personal power and will stop at nothing to rule.

This role will be inspired by Boris Johnson. The actor must be able to demonstrate both sides to Richard's character - the charismatic, intelligent, self-deprecator and the devious, sadistic villain and often flip between them instantly and back and forth multiple times in one scene.

Additional Roles

Duke of Buckingham

Queen Elizabeth/Lady Gray

Queen Margaret

Duke of Clarence

Lady Anne/Duchess of Gloucester

Lord Hastings

Duchess of York

Earl Richmond/Henry VII

Earl of Derby

King Edward IV

William Catesby

There are 30+ speaking parts in Richard III in addition to the roles above. We will be casting an ensemble of around 10, dividing the remaining roles as equally as possible between them, meaning each ensemble member will likely have at least three speaking roles each.

We will also be looking to bring on board a camera operator, who will film live and onstage during the production. This person will attend some rehearsals and will be a key member of the production. If you would be interested in this role, let us know at the auditions or send us an email at richard3@sedos.co.uk.

ANY QUESTIONS?

Please email the team at richard3@sedos.co.uk if you have any questions.

We look forward to seeing you at auditions.!