AUDITION NOTICE

ARMS AND THE MAN

17-21September

Bridewell Theatre

sedos

PRESENTS

ARMS AND THE MAN

Bernard Shaw

KEY DATES AND VENUES

**Workshop** Friday 3 May 2019, 6.30pm

**Auditions** Friday 10 May, Saturday 11 May, Wednesday 15 May 2019

**Recalls** Saturday 18 May 2019

**Venue** 1 Brewers’ Hall Gardens, London EC2V 5DX

**First Rehearsal** Tuesday 11 June 2019

**Performances** Tuesday 17 September – Saturday 21 September 2019 (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>

Any questions: [armsandtheman@sedos.co.uk](mailto:armsandtheman@sedos.co.uk)

ABOUT THE SHOW

‘Arms and the Man’ is one of Bernard Shaw’s most successful romantic comedies, and his first to be performed in New York. It’s an anti-war play set in the Balkans, and involves love interest and social climbing as well as characters being brought down a peg or two as a result of their actions. So it fits very well with the current zeitgeist as well as continuing, in a wryly comic way, to remind us of the futility and folly of war and of posing rather than being true to yourself.

Act One takes place when a Swiss mercenary climbs into the heroine, Raina’s bedroom and although he’s fighting with the enemy and she’s romantically in love with a mad-cap officer on her own side, she hides him.

Acts Two and Three are a few months later at the end of the war when the Swiss returns the coat he escaped in, and further intrigues and confusions develop from this, particularly as Sergius, the officer Raina thinks she loves, wants to have a raunchy time with Louka, her maid.

Although the play was originally written to be set in the 1880s, we have decided to update the period until just after the First World War. Everyone is very aware of the four years of war with the recent centenary, and using 1918 and 1919 as the setting will make the play more immediate and relevant to a modern audience. Arms and the Man becomes more real rather than a costume drama.

ABOUT THE CREATIVE TEAM

DIRECTOR, PETER FOSTER

Peter is best known to Sedos as a Designer but he started his life in theatre as a Staff Director for English National Opera where, over seven years, he directed major revivals from across the repertoire. He worked as senior acting tutor at the London Theatre School directing and designing plays. Further productions include *The Mikado, Carmen, Macbeth, Beauty and the Beast, An Ideal Husband, Vanity Fair, Dancing at Lughnasa* and *A Gentle Spirit.* For Sedos, Peter has designed *The Rivals, A Doll’s House, You Can’t Take It With You* and *After the Dance.* Away from theatre, Peter works as a speech trainer with politicians and City executives.

PRODUCER, PETA WALMSLEY

Peta has previously produced *You Can’t Take it With You* for Sedos in 2018 and made her Sedos debut in 2017 behind the scenes marketing *The Rivals*, elsewhere she has been involved in a number of improv groups and also acted in productions of *Mother Courage,* *Waiting for Godot* and *Blackrock*. When not larking around the Bridewell or Brewer’s Hall Garden she spends her time away from the theatre working for an incredible INGO working with women and girls in poverty.

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR, GRAHAM WHITE

Graham has been performing in a range of plays in London since 2016, including two very varied shows with Sedos, 'The Rivals' and 'Earthquakes in London' at the Bridewell. He is excited to be making his debut as assistant director with this witty and important play.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

WORKSHOP

If you would like to find out more about the show vision and character breakdowns, we will be holding a workshop on Friday 3 May 2019 at Brewers’ Hall Gardens (BHG) from 6:30pm. This will be an opportunity to meet the team, act extracts from the show, 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>

AUDITIONS

Auditions will be held on Friday 10 May, Saturday 11 May, Wednesday 15 May 2019, with the opportunity for recalls on Saturday 18 May, all at BHG.

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

REHEARSALS

The first rehearsal will be on Tuesday 11 June, this will be a read through. At the second rehearsal, on Thursday 13 June, there will be a presentation by the cast to the technical team, followed by a social.

Rehearsals will take place on Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 6:30 to 9:30pm, and on Saturdays from 10am to 2pm.

SHOW WEEK

The following dates require mandatory attendance:

Saturday 14 September 2019 (day) Final run through

Sunday 15 September 2019 (day and evening) Get in and technical rehearsal

Monday 16 September 2019 (evening) Dress rehearsal

Performances are from Tuesday 17 to Saturday 21 September at 7:30pm with a Saturday matinee at 2:30pm, at the Bridewell Theatre.

AUDITION FORMAT

The audition panel will comprise the Creative Team plus a member of the Sedos committee to ensure fairness.

Each group of 8 auditionees will have chosen a one-hour slot, and will be seen on a “first come, first served” basis.

You will be expected to have prepared the audition text for your chosen character, but do not need to have learned it by heart.

PREPARATION

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

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

CHARACTER BREAKDOWN

**Raina** (F, early 20s) is a romantic, in love with the romance of war but brought to her senses by its realities. She is spoilt and has money lavished on her by her parents, or at least by her father.

**Catherine** (F, late 40s), Raina’s mother, is a practical woman who runs her house and her husband better than he organises his troops. She is a social climber.

**Paul Petkoff** (M, early 50s), Raina’s father, is the highest ranking officer, a Major, allowed by the imperial power, in this case Austria (a side swipe at Britain). He is a realist.

**Nicola** (M, 30s), who works for the Petkoffs, wants to set up as a shopkeeper. He thinks marrying Louka will make him respectable, but that’s not her plan!

**Louka** (F, 20ish), the maid, is a social climber who is certain she’s anyone’s equal. She has set her heart on Sergius, and will even use blackmail to ensure her future.

**Sergius** (M, late 20s) is an aristocrat and an officer because of his social standing rather than his ability. He believes that he can dally with Louka at no cost …

**Bluntschli** (M, early 30s), the Man, is a Swiss mercenary who stays alive by keeping chocolate rather than bullets in his pockets. He’s a capitalist and a realist, everything that Sergius isn’t.

**Russian Officer** (M/F, 20s/30s), cameo role in Act One, is fooled into thinking that Raina is honest.

CASTING NOTES

It is Sedos’ policy that casting is based on suitability for the role, regardless of Sedos membership.

Accents – if you wish to adopt a “country” accent when auditioning for Nicola or Louka, please do!

Availability – Due to crossover in rehearsal times, if you have been cast in *Soho Cinders* or *Dangerous Liaisons* you will not be able to be considered for *Arms and the Man.*

FEES AND SUBSCRIPTIONS

There is an audition fee of £5 for non-members payable when booking your audition.

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. By the very nature of amateur theatre, performers are not paid – not even expenses.

Each performer must be a member or Sedos to perform in a show. Membership fees are £30 a year is paid by direct debit, £35 otherwise. There is also a show participation fee of £30 both of which are payable by the first rehearsal.

**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 [armsandtheman@sedos.co.uk](mailto:armsandtheman@sedos.co.uk). We would be delighted to hear from you!

LINKS AND CONTACT

Sign up to the workshop / request an audition:

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

Sedos FAQs:

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