



# OPEN EVENING & AUDITIONS



**Brownsea Open Air Theatre**  
**ROMEO & JULIET**  
**Performances between**  
**July 24th - August 12th 2023**

If you have never been involved with BOAT before, the following information is essential for you to read. This applies not only to those auditioning for a role in the play but to those wanting to work backstage, making costumes and props, set building or working front of house. Even if you are an 'old hand' please read this carefully as it includes information specific to 2023. All this information is important, but particularly take note of the key dates below. As always - Auditions are open to EVERYONE over the age of 16. No previous experience is required, just enthusiasm and talent.

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## ABOUT BOAT

BOAT is one of the biggest theatrical productions in the south, annually performing on the National Trust's Brownsea Island in Poole Harbour, Dorset. These beautiful surroundings make for a wonderful show and a fantastic evening of traditional Shakespeare.

The company is professionally run, but all of those involved with BOAT, whether on stage, backstage or front of house are unpaid volunteers. Since 1964 BOAT has involved around 1,500 volunteers, entertained more than 100,000 people and raised around £250,000 for the National Trust. Every production takes many months to prepare each year, but it is an experience that the cast, crew and audience remember for a long time, and relish coming back to year after year. Make 2023 the year that you join us!

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## WHEN AND WHERE

On: **WEDNESDAY 4th, THURSDAY 5th & FRIDAY 6th JANUARY between 5:30pm and 8pm** (you can come to any of these dates).

If you are interested in auditioning but can't make these dates please contact the BOAT 2023 Production Manager - [boatproductionmanager@gmail.com](mailto:boatproductionmanager@gmail.com)

At: **Bay View Suite, BIC, Exeter Road, Bournemouth, BH2 5BH**

The BIC is in the centre of Bournemouth near the sea front. There is a multi storey car park (charges apply), and it is a short walk from the town centre. Entrance is by the main doors on Exeter Road.

You will have the chance to meet department heads and members of the different teams as well as other potential new 'BOATers' like yourself.

On arrival you will be asked to check in and if you haven't already filled out an application form you can do so on arrival.



## COVID SAFETY MEASURES

The BIC is large and has an air handling system. Hand sanitiser will be available.

Face coverings may be worn whilst moving around inside the building, but are not mandatory.

You are welcome to stay as long as you like after your audition but please be considerate of others and maintain social distancing where appropriate.

If auditioning for an acting role you will be measured by the costume team.

Please bring your own refreshments as there will be no food or drink available at the BIC.

All BOAT personnel have been vaccinated against COVID,

## AUDITIONING FOR AN ACTING ROLE?

If you are auditioning for an acting role **you should book an audition slot in advance:**

**ALL AUDITION SLOTS ARE NOW FULLY BOOKED**

Please arrive 10-15 minutes prior to your allotted time to make sure that your audition forms have been completed and submitted correctly.

## The Audition

Before coming to audition, please download the "Audition Pieces". Select which role(s) you want to audition for and prepare the relevant audition pieces. Individual auditions will take place in a separate room in front of a panel of 3 people - the director and two other BOAT actors / directors. We are all used to the experience of auditioning so we know how nervous this makes people feel. Be assured, we are not looking for a polished performance - our aim is to create an atmosphere in which you feel you can do yourself justice. If you make a mistake, it's fine. If you want to start again, that's not a problem either. Just relax and enjoy yourself.

The panel may ask you to do the piece again, and may suggest you try something different. This doesn't mean you did it wrong, they just want to see you try different aspects of the role.

**YOU MUST BE 16+ by 24th July 2023 to audition for a part.**

## The BOAT Experience

Performing on Brownsea Island is a unique and wonderful experience, but it does require a big commitment from all the cast - from the initial read through all the way through to the dismantling of the set once the production is finished. Please read the following before deciding to audition ...



## REHEARSALS

Rehearsals will be 3 evenings a week (the pattern of evenings will vary but will all be between Monday and Friday). If cast you will not have to attend every rehearsal in the early stages as these will be scheduled in accordance with a detailed rehearsal plan involving specific scenes or actors. You will be required for all rehearsals from the end of June.

The rehearsals will be held in three stages. Specific dates will be confirmed asap after the auditions. All rehearsals will be in the Bournemouth / Poole area.

- 1) Indoor rehearsals: - from the end of April until the first week in June. In these rehearsals we will explore the play, learn the lines and basic blocking, and experiment with ideas.
- 2) Outdoor rehearsals: - these will take place out of doors during the rest of June. These rehearsals will be used to further develop ideas, and make sure the show works in the open air.
- 3) Island rehearsals: - on set rehearsing from the beginning of July. This allows us to polish and hone the show, and get used to the set. The last week of these rehearsals is a very busy time with technical and dress rehearsals. Actors need to be available every night from Monday 18th to Friday 22nd July - even though it is unlikely you would be called every night. We just need back up plans in case of bad weather.

All cast will be responsible for getting to rehearsals on time. Indoor and Outdoor rehearsals are from 7pm - 10pm. For Island rehearsals you must be able to get to the ferry point at Sandbanks before 6pm.

Please note that once we get to the island rehearsals our ferry won't be back on to the mainland until about 10:30pm (11:30pm during the week of Technical Rehearsals). Please take this into account if you are thinking of auditioning - particularly if you live some distance away.

## PERFORMANCES

All cast will need to be available every evening for the full THREE weeks run of the play (including weekends) Although public performances are Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, the other evenings are designated as contingency nights should a performance be called off for bad weather. Although the Opening Night is advertised as Wednesday 26th July, there is also a special preview performance, before an invited audience, on Monday 24th July (contingency Tuesday 25th).

## CAST MEMBER EXPECTATIONS

As a cast member you would, of course, be expected to:

- Turn up to every rehearsal you are called for – at the scheduled time.
- Take direction and write notes.
- Learn your lines by an agreed point in the rehearsal schedule.

You will also be expected to:

- Help with set build, props making and painting when you can (this takes place on the Island on Sundays). Everyone finds this an enjoyable experience as they see different aspects of the play coming together and meet other members of the company.
- Help dismantle the set (scheduled for the weekends immediately after the final performance).
- Help publicise the show as much as you can.

*William Shakespeare's*  
**Romeo  
& Juliet**



## INTERESTED IN A NON-ACTING ROLE?

If you are looking for a non-acting role you will be introduced to the Heads of Department who will give you a clearer idea of what is involved in each department, and will find out your special interests and experience. We are very happy to introduce you to new skills and, rest assured, we are delighted to welcome people without any experience of theatre. You might like to be active in more than one department and, even if you are not part of the official set-build team, you will be given a pass that enables you to come to the island on Sundays to help with all the tasks that are involved in mounting and dismantling a huge open air production. This is a time when everyone is essential and, as well as working hard, we also aim to make it an enjoyable social occasion when cast and crew meet and mingle.