

Autumn/Winter Production(s) 2020



We are delighted to open applications to direct production(s) for our Autumn/Winter 2020 season. We are keen to hear from as many potential directors as possible. Even if you have no directing experience, we would be pleased to hear from you.

In recent years, we have staged up to 3 productions as part of the autumn/winter season but we are mindful of the need to balance the availability of production team members as well as actors and so the committee will seek to programme so as to offer as many opportunities as possible whilst ensuring we have a viable season in terms of workload.

The range of venues for these productions is considerable. We have performed at the Maths Institute, the Theatre at the Old Fire Station and the Wesley Memorial Church in recent years but we are by no means limited to those venues. If you have ideas for other spaces we can explore, we would be very interested to hear of them – particularly if you have contacts that would make securing a booking more likely.

And in terms of repertoire, we have always viewed these productions as our chance to be more experimental. This does not mean that more established plays will not be considered but we are able to consider a broader range of titles than we can for the Playhouse or Garden show slots. If you have a piece that you are passionate about, we would like to hear from you.

If you are unsure about any aspects of the pitch process, please do email in and we will assist all we can. Whilst previous directing experience is valuable, it is by no means essential – this is an ideal opportunity for a first time director to test the waters.

Please note that OTG has a separate new writing review and submission process: all new scripts should be submitted in full to the committee via pitches@oxfordtheatreguild.com well in advance of any pitch deadline to be considered for production. Additionally, we ask that a director who is not also the author be nominated for such productions.

Timetable

The timetable for applications is as follows:

15 December 2019 – Applications open

We welcome any preliminary indications of an intention to pitch (to pitches@oxfordtheatreguild.com) at an early stage, and can provide any needed practical advice along the way. It is essential that directors check with rights holders ahead of preparing their pitches to be certain that a production would be possible in the second half of 2020.

6pm on 18 January 2020 – Deadline for pitch documents to be sent to the committee (pitches@oxfordtheatreguild.com)

For more details of what to include in your pitch, please see the attached notes. Please note that unfortunately we cannot guarantee to consider any late applications owing to the short timescales

Late January – Interviews

We will confirm the precise timings of the interviews as soon as possible.

Please note that following a recent review of our pitch process, we have made the following amendments:

- In the event of there being fewer than two candidates submitting a pitch, the pitch process will be automatically reopened for an additional TWO weeks.
- The committee reserves the right to create a shortlist of candidates to be invited to the interview stage.

If you have any questions about the process or would like help in putting together a pitch, please get in touch with us at pitches@oxfordtheatreguild.com and we will be happy to talk to you about it.

Preparing a pitch

Please prepare a short document covering all the points below. This will be circulated to the Guild committee and will form the basis of our discussions with you.

In addition to the pitch, please supply a substantial extract from the play (if not Shakespeare), as well as a short summary of your pitch (up to 250 words) for circulation to our members in Prompt, our regular newsletter. We ask that all documents are supplied in PDF form if at all possible.

Please do not hesitate to ask if you need any help completing the pitch. There are three main areas to look at when planning your pitch:

About the play

- Synopsis
- Why you have chosen it
- Key selling points – for audiences and potential cast members
- Size and mix of cast
- Rights – are they available and at what cost

Your approach

- How you intend to treat the play – style, design, tone etc.
- Your approach as a director and what OTG members will get out of the experience of working with you as a director
- Your theatrical CV
- Any collaborators you have already spoken to

Requirements & Planning

- Specific skill(s) required for cast, if any e.g. accents, stilt walking
- Technical requirements and anything out of the ordinary, with any cost implications (rough idea)
- Suggested audition dates (i.e. point in a month) and format
- Suggested rehearsal start date, plus an outline rehearsal schedule

Working with OTG

Creating a safe and supportive atmosphere is important to us as an organisation so we ask that everyone who is involved in OTG activities takes the time to read our Statement of Values, our Bullying & Harassment policy and our Audition policy.

OTG statement of values

Oxford Theatre Guild (OTG) is a charity registered in England and Wales and is run wholly by volunteers to promote the advancement of the art of drama. We believe that all OTG's members and volunteers have the right to be healthy, happy, safe, valued and respected. OTG collectively strive for best practice in health and safety and an environment free from bullying, harassment or discrimination.

OTG's committee will work pro-actively to prevent or tackle anything that contravenes our values. Any actions, speech or behaviour in breach of these values should be brought to the attention of the committee.

Click [here](#) to read our Bullying & Harassment Policy

Click [here](#) to read our Audition Policy