

Oxford Playhouse Production 2023

OTG is opening pitches for our 2023 Playhouse production.

Working at the Playhouse is, as we are sure you can appreciate, the biggest challenge of our theatrical year and a hugely rewarding experience for everyone involved. The first step in that is choosing the right play and director.

The Playhouse haven't yet let us know what sort of plays might suit their spring programme for 2023 so, at the moment, the field is wide open. In putting on plays in this venue over the last six decades, OTG has run the gamut of English theatre from Chaucer to Stoppard, as well as international playwrights, such as Chekhov. Thus you can be as creative as you wish in your pitch ideas. One of our aims this year is to encourage more diversity both in terms of playwrights and subject and this important initiative is central to our mission.

In terms of cast size, there are no hard and fast rules. However we are a large company with many talented actors and it is desirable to offer a reasonable number of roles for what is the highest profile production of our year. It is also worth noting that the committee will be looking to appoint a director with some experience (though not necessarily with OTG) – the Playhouse is not the place for a first-time director!

At this stage, we cannot say with any certainty which week we will be allocated for the production but, at the moment, the most likely slot will be in mid-May, although we hope they might find us an earlier slot.

Since 2020 we have not had the benefit of the use of a full-scale set construction space such as Burcot, so we will need to work with substantially more limited set building resources than we have become used to!

We are asking potential directors to have these things in mind when looking at pieces they might wish to pitch.

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:

17 May – Applications open

We welcome any preliminary indications of an intention to pitch (to pitches@oxfordtheatreguild.com) at an early stage. Because we are still liaising with the Playhouse about programming constraints, please do let us know the names of plays you are thinking of pitching and we can check with them about specific suggestions ahead of a full pitch document. 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 spring of 2023.

26 June – Deadline for pitch documents to be sent to 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

Your name and the title of plays(s) you are pitching will be circulated to all members. We also ask that you provide a 250 word summary of your pitch that can be circulated to members.

First week of July – Interviews

Interviews will be held with the committee online, or in central Oxford, in the evening.

If you have any questions about the process, working at the Playhouse or would like help in putting together a pitch, please get in touch with the Guild Secretary Martha Zumack (secretary@oxfordtheatreguild.com) and she will be happy to talk to you about it.

OTG Statement of Values

The Oxford Theatre Guild (The 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 The OTG's members and volunteers have the right to be healthy, happy, safe, valued and respected. The OTG collectively strive for best practice in health and safety and an environment free from bullying, harassment or discrimination.

The 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.

Preparing a pitch

Please prepare a short document covering 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. We would 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