

Summer 2023 Pitches

OTG is opening pitches for our Summer 2023 outdoor production.

OTG has been making acclaimed outdoor theatre in Oxford college gardens, parks and playing fields for over 60 years. From Shakespeare to Chaucer and Jane Austen to Robert Louis Stevenson, we've entertained thousands of residents and visitors to our city.

Following on from a successful production of Shakespeare's *The Tempest* in University Parks, we are keen to hear about your creative vision for our next garden show. We can offer a wealth of support and expertise, as well as practical assistance to the director.

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. It is also worth noting that the committee will be looking to appoint a director with *some* experience (though not necessarily with OTG).

Given what we know about other summer 2023 shows, we are steering clear of *Romeo and Juliet* and *Midsummer Night's Dream*.

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:

1st October – Applications open

We welcome any preliminary indications of an intention to pitch (to pitches@oxfordtheatreguild.com) at an early stage.

30th October – 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.

Second week of November – Interviews

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

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

Note

- 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.

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
- Any safeguarding issues
- 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 to read our Bullying & Harassment Policy.](#)

[Click to read our Safeguarding Policy.](#)

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