Summer Production 2025

We are delighted to open applications to direct our 2025 Summer production, which will be held in a garden location or other outdoor space in central Oxford.

Our summer productions have traditionally been Shakespeare plays, but other recent productions include Treasure Island and The Recruiting Officer, so there are no fixed rules other than it be suitable for performance in an outdoor space.

Probably the most important thing to look at when considering a potential play is whether it will appeal to the audiences that traditionally come to our summer shows. There are three main groups: Oxford residents, tourists, and language/summer school parties. So, the play we eventually select will need have to have strong name recognition.

There is a huge freedom to create a special performing arena when we work in a garden setting. If you would like to discuss informally these opportunities with others who have experience with summer show production, please do get in touch.

Our summer shows are major undertakings – large cast, large crew, large creative team. It is probably not the place for someone with no directing experience under their belt – but, of course, it is not only OTG experience that counts.

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

We will be selecting the play and venue in parallel, with a view to securing a venue by the end of November 2024.

Timetable

The timetable for applications is as follows:

28 October – 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 summer of 2025.

24 November – 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 notes below. Please note that we cannot guarantee to consider any late applications owing to the short timescales.

27 November – Interviews

You will be invited to an informal meeting with the OTG committee to discuss your pitch – please view this as an opportunity to sell your vision and answer any questions about your pitch.

If you have any questions about the process, working in outdoor spaces or would like help in putting together a pitch, please get in touch with the Guild Chair (ruth.readshaw@oxfordtheatreguild.com)

Preparing a pitch

Please prepare a short document covering all the points below. This will be circulated to the OTG 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). We ask that all documents are supplied in PDF form where 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 collaborating 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, singing
- Technical requirements and anything out of the ordinary, with any cost implications (rough idea)
- Suggested audition dates
- Suggested rehearsal start date, plus an outline rehearsal schedule