Oxford Playhouse Production - Late April / early May 2027

OTG is opening pitches for our 2027 Playhouse production. The exact week is still to be agreed but is likely to be in late April / early May.

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 has let us know that they prefer a classic play with a high name recognition which would fit well with their spring programme. We are not looking for Shakespeare and OTG plays that have sold well in this slot previously include:

- Murder in The Cathedral
- Pygmalion
- Chariots of Fire
- Sense and Sensibility
- Antigone
- The Crucible

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!

Since 2020 we have not had the benefit of the use of a full-scale set construction space, 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.

Timetable

The timetable for applications is as follows:

15 June – 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 2027.

10 July – Deadline for pitch documents to be sent to pitches@oxfordtheatreguild.com

For more details of what to include in your pitch, please see the notes below. 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 of the committee. We also ask that you provide a 250 word summary of your pitch that can be circulated.

Last week of July – Interviews

Interviews will be held 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 Chair, Vaughan Pierce (vaughan.pierce@oxfordtheatreguild.com) and he will be happy to talk to you about it.

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

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.