

AUDITION INFORMATION



THE MYSTERY OF EDWIN DROOD

Book, Music, & Lyrics by RUPERT HOLMES
Based upon the unfinished book by
CHARLES DICKENS

Directed by Brian & Theresa Davis

Audition Dates: June 19 & 20, & June 25, 2022
Performance Dates: Aug 11 - 28, 2022

WELCOME

Thank you for your interest in auditioning for a Theatre Tallahassee production!

If you've auditioned for us before, welcome back!

If this is your first time auditioning at Theatre Tallahassee, we're thrilled to have you! We've been around now for 70 years, and we wouldn't have lasted so long without new people, new talent, and new voices.

Whether you're a veteran performer who just moved to town or you've never been on stage before but really want to try, we'd like to encourage you to audition for shows at Theatre Tallahassee.

We're aware that auditioning can be an overwhelming experience, even if you've done it a hundred times before. We've put this information booklet together for you to help you learn a little more about the play, the characters you will be reading for, and to give you some idea of what to expect during auditions.

Please read over the character list and director's comments, and pay attention to any specific audition requirements for this show. Then review any script sides provided. You will also need to fill out and submit an audition form.

Break a leg!

MAINSTAGE SEASON

This production is part of our Mainstage Season of shows. Theatre Tallahassee's Mainstage auditorium seats up to 271 audience members a night. Shows run for three weekends, with opening night on a Thursday, and the following weekends running Friday through Sunday. The second Saturday is a double show day, with both a matinee and evening performance. Additional shows may be added depending on ticket sales, or benefit performances.

ABOUT OUR AUDITIONS

Theatre Tallahassee auditions are open, and we want to encourage diversity – we try our best to discourage directors from pre-casting roles. And unless specified in the character list, most roles are open to all races and ethnicities.

Know what you're auditioning for. Do a little research on the play and characters. Audition sides are included in this packet, as well as a character breakdown to give you some idea of which roles you'd like to audition for.

Audition requirements and formats may vary from show to show. Some directors prefer "closed" auditions where actors wait in a separate room until called. Some like to have every actor in the room. Some prefer monologues, or cold readings, or need you to sing. This audition packet should give you an idea of what you can expect.

We know that it can be disappointing not to get a part. We always have more people audition than we have roles for, and there are many factors that directors have to weigh when casting. We encourage you to audition often. Just because you weren't right for one role, doesn't mean that you won't be perfect for another.

We look forward to seeing you on stage. Break a leg!

COVID CHANGES

At this time, Theatre Tallahassee is following the current CDC guidelines for COVID safety as much as we are able. Distanced seating and masking for audience members may be required, depending on the current COVID risk in our area.

Theatre Tallahassee requires all actors, crew, and staff to be fully vaccinated at least 14 days prior to the first in-person rehearsal. Other precautions such as temperature checks, and mask-wearing plus testing are possible, pending the environment at the time that rehearsal commences.

A reminder: as a non-profit, community theatre, we are unable to provide payment for actors, and we understand that the risks of an unmasked performance at this time may be too high for some volunteer actors, despite all the precautions we will be taking to minimize that risk. Please consider this before auditioning.

THE PLAY

The Mystery of Edwin Drood is a hilarious, interactive whodunit mystery musical that allows the audience to enter the action and become the ultimate detectives. The show is based on Charles Dickens' unfinished novel of the same name. In small town of Chesterham, England, the young and charming Edwin Drood has been mysteriously murdered. But by whom? His leering romantic rival, John Jasper? The infamous purveyor of opium and vice, Princess Puffer? The mysterious Landless twins, newly arrived from Ceylon? Or someone else even more dastardly and villainous? Dickens passed away before he was able to reveal the culprit. Rupert Holmes' award-winning musical solves this predicament by asking the audience to choose which character is the killer by putting it to a vote. Staged in metatheatrical manner by the Music Hall Royale, a traveling Victorian theatre troupe full of just as many colorful characters as the roles they play, this charming and inventive musical is sure to intrigue and entertain any musical or mystery lover.

ABOUT THE DIRECTORS

BRIAN DAVIS

Brian is the Artistic Director of Theatre Tallahassee. Starting as a volunteer back in 2011, his first assignment at TLT was running sound on *Bedroom Farce*, where he quickly learned that his knee was at the same level as the switch for the sound amplifier. Many missteps later, he has now designed and run sound successfully for several productions, designed and built sets, acted a few times, swept floors, changed light bulbs, and knows how to fix the sensor on a Sloan auto-flush toilet, oh... and directed ten shows. Some of the directing credits include *Buddy Bro Bubba Dude*, *A Christmas Carol*, *Constellations*, *Private Lives*, *One Man, Two Guvnors*, *Irving Berlin's White Christmas*, *Fox on the Fairway*, and *You're A Good Man, Charlie Brown!*

THERESA DAVIS

Theresa is the Executive Director of Theatre Tallahassee. She has been seen many times on the Theatre Tallahassee stage, credits include *Steel Magnolias*, *Agnes of God*, *The Odd Couple*, *Fox on the Fairway*, *In a Forest Dark and Deep*, plus has costumed countless shows and musicals. This is her first foray into the world of directing!

THE MYSTERY of EDWIN DROOD

IMPORTANT DATES

○ AUDITIONS

Sun, June 19 at 7pm

Mon, June 20 at 7pm

Sat, June 25 at 2pm

Please see next page for Audition info

Sun, June 26 at 7pm

Call backs, by director invitation only

■ REHEARSAL PERIOD

Rehearsals are currently scheduled Mon-Fri (7pm-10pm). Final schedule and times may vary depending on schedules.

■ TECH WEEK/DRESS AUG 1- 10

Tech runs & dress rehearsals.

○ PERFORMANCES*

AUG 11-14

AUG 19-21

AUG 26-28

Thurs (opening week only), Fri, Sat shows at 8pm. Sun matinees at 2pm. Second Saturday (Aug 20) is a double show day with a 2pm matinee, and 8pm show. Call times are usually 1.5 hours before curtain.

JUNE

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

JULY

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

AUGUST

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

Actors must be able to commit to all performance dates & tech/dress rehearsals.

Actors must also be willing and able to wear masks for in-person rehearsals, and take COVID tests as required.

CHARACTERS

All actors play two parts. Each plays an actor of the Music Hall Royale and also the character he or she plays in Music Hall's production of *The Mystery of Edwin Drod*. In the character breakdowns, the acting company member is listed first, followed by the Drod role. British accents must be employed by all, though variations (Cockney, Scottish, Welsh, Irish, etc.) are permissible, based upon the director's discretion. Please do not let the accents deter you from auditioning, we will have dialect coaches for the production.

Please note, this is an ensemble cast. Ages listed are approximations and are the ages the actors are portraying. Ages could be skewed depending on those auditioning.

All roles are open to any ethnicity.

CHAIRMAN/MAYOR THOMAS SAPSEA: *M or F / 35+ / Baritone/Low Alto (D#3 - F#4 - can pop octaves if needed).* The leader of the music hall troupe. The Chairperson carries the majority of the dialogue and must be quick with a joke and able to improvise. S/he is in charge of keeping the pace of the show moving.

CLIVE PAGET/JOHN JASPER: *M / 35-50ish / Bari-tenor (A2 - A4).* The Royale's male lead, a devilishly attractive cad, and he knows it. In Drod, he is the antagonist. Choirmaster of Cloisterham Cathedral, and uncle of Edwin Drod. In love with Rosa Bud. Madness lurks beneath his smooth exterior.

ALICE NUTTING/EDWIN DROOD: *F / 25 -45ish / Mezzo (B3 - E5).*

Prima donna and London's leading male impersonator, charming but, as you might expect, with determination and a lot of ego. Must command the stage. As Edwin Drod, she is an attractive, rich, and popular young man who has everything

DEIRDRE PEREGRINE/ROSA BUD: *F / 16-30ish / True soprano (A3 - B5), with a high B natural that can't be avoided.* The not-so-innocent ingenue of the Music Hall Royale, Deirdre portrays the love interest of Drod, the young, beautiful and apparently fragile Rosa Bud.

ANGELA PRYSOCK/PRINCESS PUFFER: *F / 45+ / Serious low alto (F3 - D5) - must have a big chest voice and lots of rapport with the audience.* Angela has been a favorite of London audiences forever, a staple of the stage. As the mysterious Princess Puffer, Madam, opium dealer and general purveyor of vice of all kinds, she is glamorous in her ruin.

JANET CONOVER/HELENA LANDLESS: *F / 25-50ish / Mezzo (G3 - D5 [optional E5])* Janet is a long-standing member of the acting troupe, asked to play the mysterious Helena Landless who hails from a mysterious foreign colony not unlike India.

VICTOR GRINSTEAD/NEVILLE LANDLESS: *M / 25-50ish / Bari-tenor (C3 - G4), strong ensemble singer.* Victor is enjoying his premier performance with the Music Hall Royale. His character, Neville, is Helena's twin brother. Very passionate and often angry.

CEDRIC MONCRIEFFE/REVEREND CRISPARKLE: *M / 30-60ish / Baritone (C3 - G4), strong ensemble singer.* This troupe member is a bit of an open book who plays an archetypal vicar, who is also a bit of a lurker, and was in love with Rosa's mother

PHILLIP BAX/BAZZARD: *M / Any age / Bari-tenor (A2 - Eb4 [opt G4 or Bb4]).* Devotee of the theatre, the everlasting understudy, who finally gets his moment. May have quite a major part if the evening turns out that way.

NICK CRICKER, SR./DURDLES: *M / 30+ / Baritone or Tenor (B2 - F4) - ensemble singer.* "Clown Prince of the Royale" who makes the most of every line and plays the drunkard sexton in Dood

NICK CRICKER, JR./DEPUTY: Boy, any age, younger than Cricker, Sr. As the Deputy, lowest in the pecking order, and very funny. Any voice range - ensemble singer.

WENDY AND BEATRICE: *F / (C4-D5)* Drawn from the company, these characters are contemporaries of Rosa Bud.

AUDITION INSTRUCTIONS

Please prepare sixteen measures of the song of your choice – and provide sheet music. An accompanist will be provided. Acapella singing is highly discouraged.

Auditions will consist of a performance of your prepared song and learning a short dance combination. Please bring clothing and shoes suitable for a dance audition.

If you need special accommodations for auditions (i.e. uncomfortable with in-person auditions due to Covid, unable to attend audition dates, disability accommodations, etc.), please contact the director, Brian Davis at Brian@TheatreTallahassee.org

Download and fill out an Audition Form ahead of time:

[Audition Form \(Word Format\)](#)

[Audition Form \(PDF Format\)](#)

Forms can also be accessed by visiting TheatreTallahassee.org/Auditions

CREDITS

THE MYSTERY OF EDWIN DROOD

Book, Music, & Lyrics by RUPERT HOLMES

Based upon the unfinished book by CHARLES DICKENS

Presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals.
www.concordtheatricals.com

Directors: Brian and Theresa Davis

Music Director: Crystal Vaughn

Choreographer: Tori Bulecza

THE THEATRE

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