

**Jack the Ripper
audition pack**

Please find in this pack a character list, information on the production and how the auditions will take place.

This is a theatre production based on the legends of Jack The Ripper. It is set in 1888 Whitechapel, in London. However, we are producing this as a steampunk aspect of the show. This means that there will be steampunk elements within the costuming, set, and storyline.

Audition Dates and times

Auditions take place from 1pm on Sunday Feb 5th, Please arrive by 1pm (doors open from 12pm) . It is expected to go on until 5, however if we have a large number of people to see, we may run later. Everyone who attends will be auditioned, however long it takes.

Final casting will be announced by the close of Wednesday Feb 8th.

Rehearsals will commence with a full script reading on Sunday Feb 12th.

Rehearsal times are Wednesdays 7pm – 9.30pm (door open from 6pm)

Sundays 1pm – 5pm (door open from 12).

As a theatre production is a team effort and we want this to be of professional quality, we require that all performers called for that audition, arrive on time.

For rehearsals please bring your script, diary, a pen, and wear comfortable clothing.

Show dates are to be confirmed in line with cast availability and venue availability – we do not book venues until a show is cast. We are expecting to be performing in late May or in June. Venues will mainly be local (South Devon) but we are looking into performing in Bristol as well.

Audition structure

At 1pm, we will introduce the production team, and answer any questions about the project. We will speak briefly about the group, for the benefit of those who are new to us.

Please provide us with the audition form (final page of this document).

Scripts will be distributed, and small scenes read in groups, in front of the panel. Please be supportive of everyone, because everyone is doing their utmost best.

We look for expression in reading (there is no right or wrong at this point, but we do look for effort to put feeling into the reading) and how you have characterised whoever you are reading for.

We also look for other qualities that assist the smooth running of the team. Namely punctuality and pleasantness towards others.

Remuneration

Involvement for all (cast, and crew) is on profit-share. This means that once venues and

travel are covered, any and all profits from the show ticket sales, whatever they may be, are shared equally, among all those who have made the show happen.

Cast will also be expected to take part in a costumed promotional photo/ video shoot. The video will be used to make an online promotional trailer for the show, and photos will be used online in social media and for posters. Cast will also be welcome to use these images and video clips for their own portfolios and showreels.

For successful cast members, these details will be formalised in actors agreements.

At the end of the production, people whom we are really impressed with, will be offered membership of our small casting agency (no fees etc) if so desired.

Another note

We do ask cast to help spread the word of a show – this can mean sharing posters online on your social media, or putting one in your local shop. Word of mouth is one of the best ways to spread information on a show, and to get friends and family along. We also publicise online in video, social media, around 300 events/ classifieds websites, press releases to local publications, and radio, distribute posters to local shops, leaflet drops, as much as our team can find the time to do.

Conduct while with us.

We are very team orientated, and work together in a lively, supportive manner. The biggest rules are 1) if a problem occurs please let the production team, or the safeguarding officer – as relevant – know as soon as possible. 2) Drama goes on stage. We do not tolerate bullying, inappropriate behaviour.

Drunkenness at rehearsals or shows is also forbidden.

(please see our website under the “about us” tab for members and committee rules, and our other governance documents and policies)

If you are going to be late or cannot make a rehearsal because of illness or emergency, please make sure that the production team are contacted to let us know. After the second “no-show” with no contact, it may be believed that you no longer wish to participate in the show, and your role may be re-cast.

Character notes.

While characters are organised according to historical gender in the table below, we are not averse to altering some for the production, if needed, as we are aware we have a large number of male roles. The names of the characters would then be feminised.

Jack the Ripper himself, appears seven times in the script. Because we never reveal his identity, he will appear played by ideally different men from within the cast, so that while he is always dressed the same, with a hat, mask and long coat, he is fractionally different each time.

As well as scripted lines, characters may be expected to join in crowd scenes as well, as relevant. We are also looking for people who may not be so confident in speaking roles but who want to appear as extras in inn/ crowd/ mob scenes.

Some of the male characters are small one-scene roles, and therefore may be played by someone taking on more than one role, with relevant time for costume and make-up changes.

We are fairly flexible on age, therefore no ages are stated, with the following provisos.

- None of the prostitutes, their clients, or Jack, are to be played by performers under the age of 18.
- William Gull needs to be older than many of the other characters.

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Members rules of conduct, and how we are structured at:

<http://www.southdevonplayers.com/about-us.html>

Male Characters

John Kelly - paranoid schizophrenic, one of Ripper suspects, hates prostitutes, blaming his wife – whom he murdered - for giving him VD. Currently on the run at the time the story takes place.

Henry/ Harry Turner -local pedlar, cheerful, slightly cynical and very practical.

Frederick Abberline -chief investigator from Scotland Yard. Down-to-earth, humanitarian, with a long hidden grief .

Inspector Edmund Reid – Local policeman, very competent, somewhat a freethinker

William Gull (Famous doctor, freemason and personal physician to Queen Victoria). Aloof, but practical

John Reeves - Local workman

Inspector Barrett. - Abberlines assistant. They have worked together on several cases before. Practical and pleasant.

Adam – client of the whores.

Charles Cross - Local workman

PC Watkins - local policeman, gaining his confidence, but not afraid to take on new challenges

Robert Paul - local workman

John Pizer - local Jewish workman, accused of being the Ripper.

Diemschutz - local carter, historically male, however can become a female character if needed.

Charles Lusk - local businessman, Freemason and founder of local vigilante group. Confrontational, not afraid of making unpopular choices.

Artist - person targeted as per a news paper article for having something red on his shirt – turns out to be paint. Depicted in our script as a character whose personality seems gay although never stated

Dr Llewellyn – doctor assisting Abberline with the medical aspects of the investigations and autopsies. Practical and unshockable.

Carl - soldier from the local barracks

Kenneth – soldier from the local barracks

Thomas Bowyer – Mary-Jane Kellys landlord (historically male, could be female)

Female Characters

Polly” Mary Ann Nichols - Prostitute, murdered by Jack

Annie Chapman - Prostitute, murdered by Jack

Nelly Holland - Another prostitute

Mary Ann Kelly - Unrelated to John, Irish Prostitute, murdered by Jack. Friendly, pleasant, quite a chatterbox, takes a liking to Abberline.

Martha Tabram - Prostitute, murdered by Jack, cynical , angry, barely tolerated at the Ten Bells

Elizabeth Stride - Prostitute, murdered by Jack . New to London after working in the country all summer on farms.

Catherine Eddowes - Prostitute, murdered by Jack

Mrs Hutchinson - Ideally male role, can be female

Eliza – friend of Mary Jane Kelly, also a prostitute, but newer to that line of work

John Waldren - Landlord of the Ten Bells inn. Ideally and historically male, however can become a female character if needed.

Diemschutz (local carter historically male, however can become a female character if needed)

Susie - Waldrons serving girl at the Ten Bells, younger and saucy, but tough

Charles Cross - Local workman (ideally and historically male, could be female if needed)

Inspector Edmund Reid – Local policeman, very competent, somewhat a freethinker (ideally and historically male, could be female if needed)

Thomas Bowyer – Mary-Jane Kellys landlord (historically male, could be female)

Audition form

Please fill this out and bring to auditions. This remains confidential and is only seen by the director, and casting panel. Contacts are only used to contact you about theatre group show news/updates

Name _____ Stage name if preferred: _____

Age (if under 18) _____

Postal address _____

Email address _____

Phone number _____

Please list any roles you would especially like to be considered for, or write "any".

Role preferences; would you prefer a larger or smaller role, and do you have any other preferences?
(Please note we cannot guarantee that you will get exactly the kind of role you are looking for, but the casting panel will do their best to take your preferences into account).

Please list any dates between in the next 6 months that you expect to be away.

If under 16, this statement should be signed by a parent.

I (name) _____ hereby give (child name) _____ permission
to appear in this production, if successful at auditions. I will arrange for myself or (name of
designated guardian) _____ to attend with (child name) _____ at all
rehearsals and show performances, and to ensure the safe travel of the child to and from said events.

I do/ do not (delete as appropriate) give permission for (child name) _____ to appear
in cast photos/ film clips for rehearsals and shows, which may be distributed to the press and to
official South Devon Players online sites for the purpose of show/ group publicity.

Signed: (parent or legal guardian)

Contact details if different from above

NOTES

WHAT PERFORMERS CAN EXPECT FROM US

A strict ethos of professionalism, reliability, positivity, respect, pleasantness, and teamwork. (and love of theatre/ film production)

Promotion online and other media for all productions in which you are involved.

Photographs and video clips of performances.

Clear online information on rehearsals, workshops, other opportunities, etc.

Clear communication (via the internet) from the team. Queries will be answered within 24 hours, Access to our casting agency once you have completed one show or film in a reliable professional manner.

The opportunity to audition for, and perform in theatre and film productions of a professional standard

From to have an equal share in all profits (less production costs) from main theatre and film projects that you are involved in, as a speaking role, with us.

The likelihood of invitation to social events among our members (please note that we are not a social club and while we like to socialise and make friends in the team, that it is an added enjoyment., not a reason to run, and attendance is optional.

WHAT WE EXPECT FROM ALL INVOLVED IN OUR SHOWS

- The ability and willingness to communicate with regard to rehearsal/ show attendance.
- When agreeing to be in a film or stage production, to keep yourself available for rehearsals and performance dates.
- Excellent timekeeping on any performance, rehearsal or audition. Not showing up, or willfully letting a production down, results in removal from the team. Please be aware that being late or no-showing can result in the production company incurring wasted costs, those will be reimbursed in full to the production company by the person who incurred them .
- The ability to keep details of a production, confidential, when asked.
- Professional and pleasant behavior towards all those others with whom you have to work.
- To have relevant literacy, personal and communication skills to complete whatever role that you agree to take, the willingness/ ability to lean new skills needed.
- To have the ability to travel to and from wherever you are required to perform, by yourself, either by your own transport, or public transport.
- To declare any earnings made to HMRC within that time required by law.
- To act within the law at all times when you are representing our team.
- To have due regard for health and safety when on set.
- To attend at least 75% of all rehearsals for a production unless notified in advance. If the attendance target is not reached, or you miss more than one rehearsal with no prior notification, you will be considered to not be interested in the production, and your role may be recast without notice.
- To act in accordance with the members rules of conduct for our team as set out on our website www.southdevonplayers.com (“about” tab)
- Helping to keep rehearsal and performance venues tidy after use.
- - To not attend rehearsals, shows or filming under the influence of any behaviour-altering substances (unless a serious medical reason discussed with the director beforehand)
- The development of performance, and communication (verbal/ non-verbal) skills consummate with those required for a professional performance on stage and/or film.