



Season 2023/4 Launch

Our Directors Launch for the 2023/4 season was held on 12 March 2023 and was well attended by a wide range of actors and volunteers. Below is a short synopsis of each play, with relevant details of play dates, audition dates and an overview of casting requirements.

In addition to actors for this diverse and interesting selection of great plays, we are also keen to hear from people who wish to help out with the many Backstage and Front of House roles. Please do get in touch via info@summerseatplayers.co.uk to find out how you can play your part in our wonderful Theatre.

Please note that the casting requirements printed below are to be used as a guide only. Casting ages and gender can vary depending on the director's vision and other people cast in the play.

Play One (Main Stage): Kiss Me Like You Mean It by Chris Chibnall

Director: Paul Ward

Audition Date: 10th May 2023 from 7.30pm

Show Dates: 22nd - 30th September 2023 (Matinee on Sunday 24th September)

Casting Requirements: 2M (1 x 20's, 1 x 60/70's) and 2F (1 x 20's, 1 x 60/70's)

Details: On a midsummer's night in Manchester, Tony and Ruth meet at a party in a shabby terraced house. On the floor above, Don and Edie, married fifty years, are having a party of their own; only gradually does its purpose become apparent.

Play Two (Studio): Hard to Swallow by Mark Wheeler

Director: Gemma Walker

Audition Date: 1st April 2023 from 12.30pm

Show Dates: 16th - 21st October 2023

Casting Requirements: Flexible casting (Next Generation – u30's -, supported by older members)

Details: Based on Maureen Dunbar's award-winning book and film Catherine: The Story of a Young Girl Who Died of Anorexia Nervosa. Catherine Dunbar died in 1984, after a seven-year battle against anorexia nervosa. She was just twenty-two. Mark Wheeler's potent documentary play uses the words from Catherine's diaries and also of those most closely involved and affected.

Play Three (Main Stage): 1984 by Matthew Dunster

Director: Stephen Davies

Audition Date: N/A - An ensemble of varying ages is required – please contact Stephen Davies direct or via info@summerseatplayers.co.uk if you are interested in being involved.

Show Dates: 17th - 25th November 2023 (Matinee on 19th November)

Details: 1984 follows the life of Winston Smith, a low ranking member of 'the Party', who is frustrated by the omnipresent eyes of the party, and its ominous ruler Big Brother. 'Big Brother' controls every aspect of people's lives.

Play Four (Main Stage): The Suitcase Kid by Jacqueline Wilson, adapted by Vicky Ireland

Director: Andrea Parle

Audition Date: 17th May 2023 from 7.30pm

Show Dates (Split run) : 18th - 21st (Matinee on 21st) AND 25th - 27th January 2024 (Matinee on 27th)

Casting Requirements - Flexible casting

Details: Ten-year-old Andy used to live happily at Mulberry Cottage with her family: Mum, Dad, and Radish the rabbit, who lives in Andy's pocket and shares all her secrets. But then it all went wrong: Mum went to live with Bill, and Dad went off with Carrie. And Andy is expected to shuttle between the two - living out of a suitcase - and come to terms with her strange new families.

Play Five (Studio): Quartet by Ronald Harwood

Director: Geoff Sword

Audition Date: 5th April 2023 from 7.30pm

Show Dates: 19th - 24th February 2024

Casting Requirements - 2M (60/70's) and 2F (60/70's)

Details: Cecily, Reggie and Wilfred reside in a home for retired opera singers in Kent, England. Each year, on the tenth of October, there is a concert to celebrate Verdi's birthday. Jean, who used to be married to Reggie, arrives at the home and disrupts their equilibrium. She still acts like a diva and refuses to sing. But the show must go on in this funny and poignant play.

Play Six (Main Stage): Jane Eyre by Willis Hall

Director: Natalie Crompton

Audition Date: 16th April 2023 from 7.30pm (Workshop style)

Show Dates: 22nd - 30th March 2024 (Matinee on 24th March)

Casting Requirements: 8F and 4M (varying ages)

Details: The story of Jane, a seemingly plain and simple girl as she battles through life's struggles. Jane has many obstacles in her life - her cruel and abusive Aunt Reed, the grim conditions at Lowood school, her love for Rochester and Rochester's marriage to Bertha.

Play Seven (Main Stage): Jeffrey Bernard is Unwell by Keith Waterhouse

Director: Garyk Barnett

Audition Date: 7th May 2023 from 2pm

Show Dates: 17th - 25th May 2024 (Matinee on Sunday 19th)

Casting Requirements - 2F and 3M (all 40's and up)

Details: Jeffrey Bernard, part time journalist and full time drunk. Dead drunk, he is locked in a closed Soho pub so he mixes an eye opener and tells tales of all the embarrassing, hilarious things that have happened to him while under the influence.

Play Eight (Studio): Iron by Rona Munroe

Director: Jon Walker

Audition Dates: 26th April 2023 from 7.30pm and 3rd May 7.30pm (Workshop style)

Show Dates: 17th - 22nd June 2024

Casting Requirements - 3F (1 x 40's and up, 2 x approx. 20's) and 1M (40's and up)

Details: Josie is seeing her mother Fay for the first time in a while – she's never walked into a prison before, and she's been putting it off for fifteen years. Fay is serving life for murdering her husband with a kitchen knife. Her daughter needs to find out why she can't remember anything that came before that terrible night, why her own mother would kill her father. Uncovering the memories they share is going to be more perilous than either of them can imagine...

All auditions will be held at the Theatre Royal, Ramsbottom

Matinee performances (Main Stage only) are all Sundays from 2pm unless otherwise stated