



Brentwood THEATRE Company

Actors' Information Pack – Christmas
2018
for
Kathryn Schultz Miller's
**Legends of King
Arthur**
Directed by James Sinclair

The following information has been put together to give you some information about Brentwood Theatre, our Christmas show for 2018, and the audition process.

Legends of King Arthur will be Brentwood Theatre Company's 17th annual production. Brentwood Theatre is an intimate venue that offers local school's and members of the public an immersive experience. Many families return to us year after year as part of their Christmas traditions.

In addition to schools' and public performances we also offer a 'Pay What You Can' evening as well as a relaxed performance, working with local charities to welcome visitors with a sensory or communication disorder, learning or physical disability, or autism spectrum condition.

Whether you are a returning actor or a new face, please read through this pack, and if you have any questions please do not hesitate to get in touch by emailing our cast co-ordinator Bex at bex@brentwood-theatre.org

Simon Cook, Bex Foreman, Peter Taylor
Producers – Brentwood Theatre Company.

Brentwood THEATRE

Brentwood Theatre is owned and maintained by Brentwood Theatre Trust, a registered charity, and is at the centre of our local community. The first performance took place on 3 December 1993

As a charity, the Theatre pays neither rent (due to a special arrangement with Essex County Council) nor rates (thanks to the generosity of Brentwood Borough Council). Similarly, we do not receive any regular funding and can only run self-funding projects; therefore we rely upon an entire Company (both on-stage and off) receiving less than market rates, as well as the support from a huge team of unpaid volunteers.

Brentwood THEATRE Company is the trading name under which our in house professional shows are produced. The first, in December 2002, was David Wood's *Meg and Mog Show* and following its success a children's show with music has been staged every year. These have included five further David Wood adaptations; *The Nutcracker Sweet*, *The Gingerbread Man*, *James and the Giant Peach*, *Fantastic Mr Fox* and *The Twits*, two beautifully crafted Beatrix Potter shows – *Jemima Puddleduck and Her Friends* and *Peter Rabbit and His Friends*, and the Brothers Grimm fairy tale *Hansel and Gretel*. In 2014 there was a return to David Wood and Roald Dahl with *Danny Champion of the World*, in 2015 a very well received production of *The Wind in the Willows*; and in 2016 a fun and wacky *Through the Looking Glass*. Last year, in 2017, we staged *Narnia*, in what was our best selling production to date.

Over the years we have worked with a number of Directors including David Toltek, Vernon Keeble Watson, Ray Howes and Joseph Walsh. We are delighted to announce that James Sinclair will join the team this year to direct 'Legends of King Arthur' for us this coming Christmas. James has both choreographed, and assistant directed for us in previous years, and we can't wait to see his vision come to life.

Christmas 2018

AUDITION FOR OUR 2018 PRODUCTION

Kathryn Schultz Miller's
Legends of King Arthur
Directed by James Sinclair

Synopsis

This magical show retells the famous legends of the Legends of King Arthur and Arthur with his Knights of the Round Table. Watch as Arthur grows from a young squire into the rightful king of England. Merlin's Magic, and Lancelot's bravery help Arthur on his quests against a fiery dragon and the evil Morgana. Along the way Arthur falls in love with the beautiful Guinevere and she inspires Arthur and his knights to save the kingdom of Camelot.

Auditions

We care about how we treat actors who are good enough to give up their time and pay their own travel expenses, therefore we strive to make the audition process as open as possible. We like to put you at your ease so that we see your best performance. We are an ideal training ground for those who are new to the profession, but also like to see experienced actors. We pride ourselves in the support given to company members and in the close theatre 'family' which inevitably develops.

Interested?

If, after reading the detailed information below, you would like to audition for this production then please contact and confirm with our cast co-ordinator - Bex Foreman (bex@brentwood-theatre.org) as soon as possible.

Who?

We are casting the following roles using 5 actors - 3 male, 2 female – With the ability to sing and dance. Experience in children's shows and ability to communicate with a young audience is preferable. Being able to work on a fast-paced, multi-character production is essential. Some experience with puppetry would be valuable.

Actor 1 – Male

Merlin - The great and wise magician who advises the King.

Actor 2 – Female

Young Arthur - a boy, 12 years old.

Knight

Lady of the Lake

Morgana

Actor 3 – Male

Kai - Arthur's foster brother, 15 years old

Puppeteer

Lancelot

Knight

Actor 4 – Female

Guinevere - Princess of the Cameliard

Cloaked woman

Puppeteer

Lady of the Lake

Actor 5 - Male

Spike

Cloaked Man

Puppeteer

Arthur - An adult King who at times recalls his life as a 12 year old boy

Where?

In the main Theatre auditorium with the 'waiting room' being The Spotlight Bar - the main public entrance. Directions to Brentwood Theatre are provided at the end of this information pack.

When?

Sunday 2nd September 2018, starting around 10-00am and you should be available to attend all day. In reality, some actors will be asked to leave at lunchtime when we make a 'cut'.

Audition Format

The final audition timetable and requirements have yet to be finalised, and will be confirmed by email closer to the date, however the format laid out below is a good guide.

On arrival please check in with our Audition Co-ordinator and then relax in The Spotlight Bar until called. Should you need to change, dressing rooms will be available – ask one of our volunteer staff for access.

The audition panel will consist of 3 people with other informal observers positioned around the auditorium.

The audition process is role specific and will begin with a group movement workshop:

- You'll show us how well you can move. We'll assess your sense of rhythm and timing, and watch you interact with other prospective cast members. This play with music does not feature an emphasis on dance, however there is a requirement for you to be able to move well for choreographed stage fights.
- You will be asked to perform privately in the Theatre's main auditorium by reading a prepared monologue suitable for children of up to two minutes.

An appropriate break for lunch will allow the panel to deliberate, during which they will make a cut. Those who remain will be given an excerpt from the script of 'Legends of King Arthur' from which to read.

- The second part of the audition will require a 'reading in' from the 'Legends of King Arthur' script which will be opposite an actor brought in solely for this purpose. We don't expect a perfect delivery but we are looking for an understanding of the piece, also whether you can take direction.

Refreshments

One of our volunteers will be on hand to ensure refreshments are available on arrival and at breaks. You are welcome to help yourself, but please keep our facilities clean and tidy.

Advising you of the outcome

Everyone deserves the courtesy of a personal call irrespective of the outcome and we promise to let you know the result within a couple of days of the audition. Should you wish to receive specific feedback on your audition, our Director will be pleased to provide this at a mutually convenient time.

For those who are successful

Initial contact regarding your success is likely to be brief as there will be a lot of post-audition calls to make. We'll therefore get in touch again, after which a formal contract will be produced, the key parts of which are:

- **Rehearsals** - Intensive rehearsals will take place during a 2 week period starting Monday 19th November 2018, the second week of which also sees the Technical crew setting up.
- **Performances** – a 4 week run begins on Tuesday 4th December 2018 and ends on 30th December 2018 – up to 42 performances in total. In the first week these are specifically for Schools.
- **Christmas & New Year** - there are no performances on 24, 25 & 26 December 2018.
- **Payment** – £260-00 per week for a six-week contract (two weeks rehearsal, four weeks of performances). Payment is made each Friday.
- **Comps** – An allowance for 4 complimentary tickets will be made available.

Accommodation & Lunches

If you're concerned about either travelling long distances between home and the theatre, or transport reliability - particularly as our Schools' performances start at 9-45am, - you'll be pleased to hear we are often able to provide free local lodgings for the duration of the show courtesy of our network of supporters. During the rehearsal period excellent hot lunches may be provided at no cost by Brentwood School by arrangement with the Headmaster.

Video Recording.

Subject to license, this production will be recorded by a professional videographer. DVD copies will be available after the show's final performance.

