

2024-25 Season Auditions

Ohio Shakespeare Festival, located in Akron, will begin casting for the 2024-25 season of shows:

Much Ado About Nothing by William Shakespeare

Othello by William Shakespeare

The Woman In Black by Stephen Mallatratt; based on the novel by Susan Hill

Romeo & Juliet by William Shakespeare

A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder Book by Robert L. Freedman, Music by Steve Lutvak

The December production of *Every Christmas Story Ever Told (And Then Some!)* is already cast with members of the OSF full time staff.

Any and all productions have the potential to be rescheduled or canceled as updates to COVID-19 safety guidelines are made. Ohio Shakes only moves forward with productions if our safety requirements for employees/contractors and the audience can be maintained in a reasonable fashion. Read on to learn some of the safety protocols and requirements.

Up to three AEA Special Appearance (tier 2) contracts available for each production. All non union actors paid a stipend determined by size of role, length of commitment, housing needs, and number of years spent working with the company. You are welcome to inquire about stipend sizes for an approximate idea of non-union pay scale at any time.

OSF does offer actor housing to out-of-town actors. We consider out-of-town to be a person whose residence in more than 1.5 hours drive time from the theatre. Actor housing is limited to 2 actors per show.

Open Auditions will be in-person on **Monday April 1 5-10p** and **Sunday April 7, 12-5pm**. Video submissions* also accepted and must be submitted before April 7 to be considered. *In-person auditions distinctly preferred.*

To sign up for an audition time or submit a video audition, click this link: <https://forms.gle/wtMj51MwWhzeto8g7>

Unlisted YouTube links are the preferred method of sharing your video content.

*Please know your video analytics may not properly reflect the timing of when we have viewed your videos—sometimes, we download videos to view offline, and sometimes we view YouTube links through GoogleDrive preview boxes, which do not consistently reflect correct analytics back to YouTube.

Please bring to audition two headshots and resumes.

Prepare 1 Shakespeare monologue. You have the option to also sing (a cappella) a short selection of a song, if you are also auditioning for GENTLEMAN'S GUIDE.

Please keep total length to 2 minutes or less.

Invited callbacks will be scheduled at a later date.

OHIO SHAKESPEARE COMPANY MEMBERS:

Ohio Shakespeare Festival operates with an informal resident acting company. Ohio Shakespeare company members who have worked with the Festival within the recent past do not need to attend general auditions (but may attend should they wish). All company members must fill out this form to be considered: <https://forms.gle/wYN7FzxYrz42ctp16> **(Please do not fill out the form on this link if you have not worked with Ohio Shakespeare in the past.)**

Directors will reach out if they would like to invite company members to further callbacks.

COVID-19 Safety and Vaccination Requirements for 24-25 Season

Ohio Shakespeare Festival employs union actors, and as such, we must require the following of anyone working at the Festival.

- Anyone working at Ohio Shakes for the 24-25 season must be vaccinated against COVID-19. We do not copy or keep on file your medical info.
- You do not need to be vaccinated before auditioning or accepting a role; but the full vaccination must be complete before the first rehearsal. Ohio Shakespeare will work with you in any way possible to help you achieve that deadline.
- Beginning in 2022, if eligible, we recommend that you also receive your yearly booster shot.
- No unvaccinated personnel will be hired for these productions.
- Company members who come into contact with COVID exposure in their personal lives while working on a production with Ohio Shakespeare will immediately notify

Ohio Shakespeare and will stay home until testing negative for the virus (or some similarly effective safety measures have been met, depending on the situation). This could lead to canceled or postponed rehearsals or performances. Ohio Shakespeare will appropriately support contractors during this process.

- Sanitizing products will be available at all times.
- These are just some of the potential safety measures we will take. You are welcome to ask any questions about COVID safety procedures throughout the audition process. OSF reserves the right to change any COVID safety protocol at any time to more accurately reflect the current recommendations from local and national health officials.

When indicating gender descriptions below, please know that Ohio Shakespeare is open to all the ways a person can identify on the gender spectrum. Genders and ages are associated with the character, not necessarily the actor. All races and ethnicities considered for all roles. The exceptions are Othello (person of color) and Desdemona (white), to maintain the racial dynamics and themes of the text. Diverse casting in gender, age, race/ethnicity, and physical ability is a primary goal for all productions.

MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING

By William Shakespeare

Directed by Nancy Cates

Performing: Outdoors at Stan Hywet Hall & Gardens

Rehearsals begin: June 4

Performances: July 4 - July 21; Thursday-Sunday evenings

Description: Performed **outdoors** at Stan Hywet Hall & Gardens, Shakespeare's comic masterpiece.

AVAILABLE ROLES:

- Available roles for women+:

- Beatrice - self-possessed, single-by-choice, warm-hearted, strong-headed. She and Benedict have some sort of history, but what it was is unclear in the text. They certainly enjoy bandying words and insults back and forth.
- Hero - Beatrice's cousin, younger and more mild-mannered than Beatrice, but still lively and fun. She helps set up the friendly plot to set-up Beatrice and Benedict.
- Ursula - Friend and attendant to Hero; she helps set up the friendly plot to set-up Beatrice and Benedict.
- Margaret - Friend and attendant to Hero; she unwittingly is used in the malicious plot set up by Don John to trick Claudio.

- Available roles for men+:

- Benedict - self-possessed, single-by-choice, warm-hearted, strong-headed. He and Beatrice have some sort of history, but what it was is unclear in the text. They certainly enjoy bandying words and insults back and forth.
- Claudio - friend of Benedict and very in love with Hero. A bit naive in his feelings and eventually tricked by Don John into believe that Hero is unfaithful.
- Don Pedro - The Prince, but also a friendly and familiar figure to our main characters. He helps set up the friendly plot to set-up Beatrice and Benedict.
- Borachio - Margaret's lover; he knowingly helps Don John in a malicious plot to trick Claudio.

- Available roles for all genders:

- Don John - Don Pedro's illegitimate brother, who has recently lost a war against his brother's men and is bitter about the situation. Melancholy and sullen and vindictive; he concocts a plot to ruin Hero and Claudio seemingly just to sow chaos in the happy household.
- Leonato - Hero's father, the Duke of Messina, and Beatrice's uncle. Protective and caring, though he is trick by Don John's plot in believing that Hero has been unfaithful on her wedding night.

- Dogberry - The night constable, a very comic figure to us, though he is very convinced of his seriousness and import.
- Friar Francis - The friar who is to marry Claudio and Hero. An important cameo role, he quickly comes up with a potential scenario to save Hero and Claudio's marriage after the wedding is ruined.
- Conrad - self-interested, he is knowingly part of the plot to upset Hero and Claudio's marriage.
- Verges - deputy to Dogberry, chief police Messina; an older figure, comical to us but takes his duty to Messina with seriousness and loyalty.
- Antonio - Hero's uncle, Beatrice's father; his good relationship with Leonato stands in contrast with Don Perdo and Don John's animosity.
- Balthazar - Leonato's serving man who helps with the plan to help set-up Beatrice and Benedict.

OTHELLO

By William Shakespeare

Directed by Ansley Valentine

Performing: Outdoors at Stan Hywet Hall & Gardens

Rehearsals begin: July 6 (some table work possible before this date during MUCH ADO rehearsals)

Performances: August 1 - 18, Thursday-Sunday evenings

Description: Performed **outdoors** at Stan Hywet Hall, the classic tragedy of the moor of Venice.

AVAILABLE ROLES:

- **Available roles for women+:**

- Desdemona - The daughter of the Venetian senator Brabantio. Desdemona and Othello are secretly married before the play begins. While in many ways pure and meek, Desdemona is also determined and self-possessed.
- Emilia - Iago's wife and Desdemona's attendant. A cynical, a realist, a worldly woman.
- Bianca - A courtesan, or prostitute, in Cyprus. Bianca's favorite customer is Cassio, who teases her with promises of marriage.

- Available roles for men+:

- Othello - The play's protagonist and tragic hero. A Christian Moor and general of the armies of Venice, Othello is an eloquent and physically powerful figure, respected by society and hated by Iago.
- Michael Cassio - Othello's lieutenant. Cassio is a young and inexperienced soldier, whose high position is much resented by Iago.

- Available roles for all genders:

- Iago - The play's villain, seeking to manipulate the demise of Othello through any means possible. Extremely clever, out for himself, unempathetic.
- Roderigo - A jealous suitor of Desdemona. Young, rich, and foolish.
- Brabantio - Desdemona's father, a somewhat blustering and self-important Venetian senator
- Duke Of Venice - The official authority in Venice, the duke has great respect for Othello as a public and military servant.
- Montano - The governor of Cyprus before Othello.
- Lodovico - One of Brabantio's kinsmen, Lodovico acts as a messenger from Venice to Cyprus.
- Graziano - Brabantio's kinsman who accompanies Lodovico to Cyprus.
- Clown - Othello's servant

THE WOMAN IN BLACK

Adapted by Stephen Mallatratt; based on the novel by Susan Hill

Directed by Tess Burgler

Performing: Indoors at Greystone Hall in downtown Akron

Rehearsals begin: September 3

Performances: October 3-26, Thursday-Saturday evenings, Sunday matinees

Description: A gothic horror story about a ghostly woman in black who, when she appears, foreshadow's the death of a child. A young actor is hired to help an older man retell and relive a horrific and unexplainable event, but the past soon mingles with the present in sinister ways.

The role of **Arthur Kipps** has been cast from our informal resident company.

AVAILABLE ROLES:

- **Available for all genders:**

- Actor - an older man, haunted by traumatic events and seeking help to retell a haunting life experience to help explain what happened to him. At first, he is a completely incapable actor, but he soon settles in and discovers an exceptional ability to portray many figures from his past. The actor in this role will portray many different characters with several dialects. If a woman+ actor is cast, this part will be played as a pants role, not re-gendered.
- The Woman - nonspeaking, imposing ghostly figure that appears throughout the story. If a male+ actor is case, this part will not be re-gendered.

ROMEO & JULIET

By William Shakespeare

Directed by Lara Mielcarek

Performing: Indoors at Greystone Hall in downtown Akron

Rehearsals begin: January 7, 2025

Performances: February 6 - March 2, **including 2 Wednesday morning student matinees**. Possible increased stipends for non-union performers available to offset missed work days.

Description: Shakespeare's timeless romance of the star-crossed lovers and their warring families. This production will include 2-4 student matinee performances. Availability for student matinees is required to be considered for casting.

The role of the Apothecary has been cast from our informal resident company.

AVAILABLE ROLES:

- **Available for women+:**

- Juliet - Romeo's star-crossed lover, a young daughter of Capulet. Hopeful, head-driven, loyal.

- **Available for men+:**

- Romeo - Juliet's star-crossed lover, a young son of Montague. Idealistic, heart-driven, given to melancholy.

- **Available for all genders:**

- The Nurse - Juliet's nurse and close confidant.
- Friar Lawrence - Secretly marries Romeo and Juliet, hoping their love and union will settle the feuding households.
- Mercutio - Romeo's best friend and neither a Montague or Capulet, but related to The Prince. Strong stage combat skills required.
- Benvolio—a peacemaker who nevertheless gets wrapped up in the fighting. A very good friend of Romeo's. Stage combat skills required.
- Tybalt—more than Prince of Cats. Juliet's cousin. Strong stage combat skills required.

- The Prince—forbids dueling amongst the Capulets and Montagues, banishes Romeo.
- Lady Capulet—Juliet’s mother, hopeful that Juliet will marry County Paris.
- Lady Montague—Romeo’s mother, concerned with the brawling that goes on between the two households.
- Balthazar—part of the famous opening brawl and the unhappy messenger who mistakingly tells Romeo that Juliet is dead. Some stage combat skills required.
- Abraham—part of the famous opening brawl, some stage combat skills required.
- Chorus—a narrating figure. Depending on casting needs, Chorus may be combined with other roles.
- County Paris—the count who is eventually engaged to marry Juliet. Stage combat skills required.
- Sampson—part of the famous opening brawl, some stage combat skills required.
- Gregory—part of the famous opening brawl, some stage combat skills required.
- Lord Capulet—Juliet’s father. Very protective of her, but very upset when, for no apparent reason, she refuses to marry Paris.
- Lord Montague—Romeo’s father, part of the opening brawl. Some stage combat skills required.
- Peter— a servant in the capulet house
- Paris’s page
- Citizens of Verona, Musicians, Ensemble—specifically seeking actors with stage combat experience, dance abilities, and musical abilities.

A GENTLEMAN’S GUIDE TO LOVE AND MURDER

Book by Robert L. Freedman, Music by Steve Lutvak

Directed by TBD

Music Direction by TBD

Performing: Indoors at Greystone Hall in downtown Akron

Rehearsals begin: March 25, 2025

Performances: April 24, 2025 - May 18, 2025, Thursdays-Sundays, weekday evenings and Sat/Sun matinees

Description: On the night of his mother's funeral, middle-class Englishman Monty Navarro learns an incredible secret: he is the "son of the daughter of the grandson of nephew of the second Earl of Highhurst." In other words, Monty Navarro is an aristocrat -- if he can only find a way to prevent the eight earls preceding him from inheriting the earldom first. Buoyed along by love for two different women, the stunning and self-centered Sibella and the pious and witty Phoebe, Monty takes on his mission. As for the D'Ysquith family? One actor plays each ill-fated member, from the flamboyant country squire to the terrible actress to the aging war hero. In the witty, and ceaselessly entertaining *A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder*, the audience is treated to Edwardian style, classic farce, and stunning operatic singing. *Gentleman's Guide* combines the best of the past with a contemporary sensibility and humor that earned it the 2014 Tony Award for Best Musical. With non-stop laughs, a unique and soaring score, and unforgettable characters, *A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder* has become an instant classic.

The role of the Monty Navarro has been cast from our informal resident company.

AVAILABLE ROLES:

- Available for women+:

- Sibella Hallward - Flirtatious, narcissistic, willful, calculating, and irresistible. A social climber, yes, but also truly loves Monty, and in the end would do anything to protect him. Tremendous wit and high style.
 - Vocal: Character mezzo, low F# to high A
- Phoebe D'Ysquith - Monty's cousin; virtuous, forthright, romantic, earnest; an ingenue with backbone.
 - Vocal: Coloratura soprano up to a high sustained C# with an optional high Eb.
- Miss Shingle - A Cockney housekeeper/governess who has served a wealthy, titled family for 30 years. Character actor.
 - Vocal: Mezzo Soprano

- Available for men+:

- The D'Ysquith Family - the nine members of this ill-fated family are played by one actor. Extreme physical comedy and stage combat skills requirements.
 - Vocal: While this character sings, this role can be carried by a confident but less-skilled singer (i.e. patter songs, etc.)

- Available for all genders:

- The Ensemble is designed to be played by 3 men and 3 women OR can be cast individually for a larger ensemble. Ohio Shakespeare will determine the exact breakdown of these characters after auditions to best serve the needs of the show.
 - WOMAN #1: Mourner; Tour Guide; Ancestral Portrait; Skater; Bridesmaid; Pub Owner's Wife; Mrs. Pebworth; Phoebe's Maid; 3rd Newsboy; Tailor; Selina Chard (Servant); Flower Girl
 - WOMAN #2: Mourner; Tourist; Ancestral Portrait; Skater; Bridesmaid; Mrs. Hetherington; 4th Newsboy; Tailor; Lady Eugenia D'Qsquith; Flower Girl
 - WOMAN #3: Mourner; Sibella's Maid; Tourist; Ancestral Portrait; Miss Evangeline Barley; Bridesmaid; Miss Hayes; Tailor; Hilda (Servant); Flower Girl
 - MAN #1: Mourner; Tourist; Ancestral Portrait; 2nd Clerk; Skater; Tailor; Groomsman; Tom Copley; Dr. Brownlee; 1st Newsboy; Weight Lifter; 3rd Actor; Ancestral Bust; Walter (Servant); Dr. Pettibone (Medical Examiner); Prison Guard
 - MAN #2: Mourner; Tourist; Ancestral Portrait; 1st Clerk; Skater; Tailor; Groomsman; Pub Owner; Mr. Cross; 2nd Newsboy; Weight Lifter; 1st Actor; Lord Asquith's Physician; Ancestral Bust; Mr. Waters (Servant); Chief Inspector Pinckney
 - MAN #3: Mourner; Tourist; Ancestral Portrait; Skater; Tailor; Groomsman; Pub Patron; Henry's Employee; Mr. Goodsall; 2nd Actor; Alfred Gorby (Butler); Lord High Steward (voiceover); Magistrate