

2021 First Round of Auditions

Ohio Shakespeare Festival, located in Akron, will begin casting for the first two hopeful* live shows in our 2021-22 restart season.

*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 for summer 2021.

A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM and OTHELLO

For anyone submitting, it is **IMPERATIVE that you read thoroughly not only the audition information, but also the safety and vaccination requirements for performing should you be cast.**

Potentially up to three AEA contracts available for each production*. All non union actors paid a stipend determined by size of role, length of commitment, and number of years spent working with the company. You are welcome to inquire about stipend sizes for an approximate idea of your non-union pay scale at any time.

*Contingent upon Equity restarting negotiations for Special Appearance / Guest Artist contract levels.

Open Auditions will be virtual. **Video submissions must be sent to OSFauditions@gmail.com before April 5, 2021** to be considered.

Unlisted YouTube links or Vimeo links are the preferred method of sharing your video content. Please be sure your share settings are correct before sending. Please avoid sending large video files to download. If you need support in learning to upload videos to youtube, or are in any way unable to access needed technology to create and send an audition video, please reach out and we will work with you.

Along with video submissions, actors must submit a **headshot and applicable resume**. Please indicate if you are submitting for MIDSUMMER, OTHELLO, or both.

In video audition: Prepare 2 contrasting Shakespeare monologues, no longer than 3 minutes in total length **OR** a scene to read from MIDSUMMER or OTHELLO. *If you play an instrument or sing, please include a sample of that work at the end of your video* (the music section does not count toward your 3 minute total).

Invited callbacks will be scheduled to take place over Zoom between April 1 and May 1 approximately. The director will reach out to actors individually to schedule Zoom callbacks.

Ohio Shakespeare Festival operates with an informal resident acting company. Ohio Shakespeare company members who have worked with the Festival within the past two operating seasons do not need to submit a general audition video. All company members **must** submit an email expressing their interest to tess@ohioshakespeare.com. Please indicate if you are submitting for MIDSUMMER, OTHELLO, or both.

All company members must email their interest to be considered! No exceptions.

COVID-19 Safety and Vaccination Requirements for 2021-22 Season:

- If you are working on a production with Ohio Shakespeare in the 2021-22 restart season, you must have received both your vaccine and booster *before* the first rehearsal/day of your contract. (If your brand of vaccine requires only one dose, the booster is irrelevant in that case.)
- No unvaccinated personnel will be hired for these productions. Copy of vaccine card or other reliable proof of vaccination / booster required upon signing your contract.
- You do not need to be vaccinated before auditioning or accepting a role; but the full vaccination **must** be complete before the first rehearsal, including the three-week wait after final dose. Ohio Shakespeare will work with you in any way possible to help you achieve that deadline.
 - Everyone working with the 2021 acting companies (designers, contractors, employees, etc.) will also be vaccinated.
- Vaccinated 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.

- Temperature and symptom checks before every rehearsal and performance; all performances and rehearsals held outdoors.
- Audiences will be appropriately distanced from acting company at all times (no meet & greets, etc.). Audiences will be held to high standards of safety according to the current CDC recommendations for gatherings at the time of performance.
- Sanitizing products will be available at all times. (Hand sanitizer, UV wands, disinfectant spray, a place to wash hands, etc.)
- 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.

When indicating gender below, please know that Ohio Shakespeare is open to all the ways a person can identify on the gender spectrum.

A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM

By William Shakespeare

Directed by Tess Burgler

Performing: Outdoors at Stan Hywet Hall & Gardens

Rehearsals begin: the week of June 20, 2021

Performances: July 15 - August 15, Thursdays-Sundays evening performances, penciled in rain date weekend on August 19-22

Description: *Performed **outdoors** at Stan Hywet Hall & Gardens, Shakespeare's comic and magical masterpiece. Particularly interested in a racially diverse cast, actors who can play instruments, and actors with strong movement skills (dancing, tumbling, contortion, etc.). Differently abled actors also strongly encouraged to audition.*

The roles of Helena, Bottom, and Philostrate have been cast from our resident acting company.

AVAILABLE ROLES:

- **Available roles for women+ (traditionally male characters may be played as pants roles), all ages, races, and ethnicities:**
 - Titania - The formidable queen of the fairies, at odds with husband Oberon
 - Hermia - A young noblewoman of Athens. Hermia is in love with Lysander and is a childhood friend of Helena.
 - Hippolyta - The legendary queen of the Amazons, engaged to Theseus.
- **Available roles for men+, all ages, races, and ethnicities:**
 - Oberon - The king of the fairies, Oberon is at odds with his wife, Titania.
 - Lysander - A young nobleman of Athens, in love with Hermia.
 - Demetrius - A young man of Athens, initially in love with Hermia and ultimately paired with Helena.
 - Francis Flute - The bellows-mender chosen to play Thisbe in the play for Theseus's wedding.
- **Available roles for all genders, all ages, races, and ethnicities:**
 - Puck - Also known as Robin Goodfellow, Puck is Oberon's jester and right hand man, a mischievous fairy who delights in playing pranks on mortals
 - Egeus - Hermia's father, who brings a complaint against his daughter to Theseus
 - Theseus - The duke of Athens, engaged to Hippolyta.
 - Peter Quince - A carpenter and the nominal leader of the craftsmen's attempt to put on a play for Theseus's marriage celebration.
 - Robin Starveling - The tailor chosen to play Thisbe's mother in the craftsmen's play for Theseus's marriage celebration. He ends up playing the part of Moonshine.
 - Tom Snout - The tinker chosen to play Pyramus's father. He ends up playing the part of Wall
 - Snug - The joiner chosen to play the lion. Snug worries that his roaring will frighten the ladies in the audience.
 - Peaseblossom - in this production, the Puck counterpart to Titania
 - Cobweb, Moth, Mustardseed - faeries of Titania's court.
 - Faeries, courtiers - seeking actors who can play instruments, and actors with strong movement skills (dancing, tumbling, contortion, etc.). This ensemble, along with

some others playing leads, will also be featured heavily in the popular GREENSHOW performance.

- Principle Understudy—An understudy who would be available to step in for a principle character.

OTHELLO

By William Shakespeare

Directed by Terry Burgler

Performing: INDOORS at Greystone Hall

Rehearsals begin: September 2021 (TBD dates)

Performances: October 2021 (TBD dates)

Description: *Performed **indoors** at Greystone Hall, the classic tragedy of the moor of Venice.*

The role of Iago has been cast from our resident company.

AVAILABLE ROLES:

- **Available roles for women+, all ages, races, and ethnicities:**
 - Desdemona - The daughter of the Venetian senator Brabantio. Desdemona and Othello are secretly married before the play begins. While in many ways pure and mild mannered, Desdemona is also determined and self-possessed.
 - Emilia - Iago's wife and Desdemona's attendant. A cynical, 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+, all ages, races, and ethnicities:**
 - Othello - The play's protagonist. A Christian Moor and general of the armies of Venice, Othello is an eloquent and powerful figure. This role will be played by an actor of color.
 - Michael Cassio - Othello's lieutenant. Cassio is a young and inexperienced soldier, whose high position is much resented by Iago.
- **Seeking all ages, genders, races, and ethnicities for the following roles.**
 - 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