

Beauty and the Beast

Directed by Rhiannon Hannon. Choreographed by Louise Denison. Musical Direction by Jim Lunt.

Open Auditions for Chorus: Sunday 19th September 2021

Performed: Thursday 18th November 2021-Monday 3rd January 2022

Ages 9-15 (on opening night)

AUDITION INFORMATION

Introduction

Our annual pantomime is the biggest event of the year at Theatre Royal Wakefield. 2019's production of *Jack & the Beanstalk* was a hit with audiences and critics alike and played to over 29,000 people. After having to postpone in 2020, we are delighted to be able to bring panto back to Wakefield with this year's production of *Beauty and the Beast* which will be directed by Rhiannon Hannon and choreographed by Louise Denison. The musical director is Jim Lunt and our very own Dame, Chris Hannon, has written a fantastically funny script.

We are looking for 9-15 year olds (must be at least 9 and no older than 15 on opening night) who can dance, act and sing to be part of the chorus in this production. The chorus will play a crucial role, working alongside a professional cast, in making the show spectacular.

The schedule is tough and requires commitment and discipline but it is also a brilliant opportunity to perform alongside and work with a professional cast and crew.

We know how difficult the last year has been for everyone and understand that young people in particular have struggled with so much upheaval both at home and in school. Because of this we want to ensure that this year goes as smoothly as possible while also keeping pressure on pupils and schools to a minimum. With this in mind we have made a few important changes in terms of communications with schools. We would like to get an agreement in principal with schools that, if successful, their pupil can take part in the production and that they are happy for them to take the necessary time off school in November and December. Along with these FAQs we have produced a letter for schools and ask that you show this to the relevant person before you fill in our web form.

AUDITIONS

When are the auditions?

The auditions are taking place at **Theatre Royal Wakefield on Sunday 19th September 2021, 12pm-7pm.**

We will begin with opportunities for everyone to sing and dance in groups (a short song will be given out to everyone on the day or sent in advance) and, as the afternoon progresses, there will be moments when some are sent home having been unsuccessful this time. A detailed schedule of the day will be sent out nearer the time to everyone who has signed up by filling in our web form.

We ask parents to ensure they are contactable throughout the day as finish times will vary. **Please note: children aged 13 and under must be signed out by parent/guardian before they can leave for the day.**

What is the process for signing up for auditions?

If you would like to attend the audition then please fill in the web form linked below by **Friday 17th September** or let Janine know if you need the form sent as a Word document in good time for you to be able to return it by Friday 17th September.

LINK TO AUDITION SIGN UP WEB FORM:

[Click here for sign up form](#)

You can contact Janine by email if you have any questions at janine.heseltine@theatreroyalwakefield.co.uk
We will let you know of any changes to timings etc and can pass on any further information you may need nearer the time.

When will rehearsals be?

Date	Time	Venue	Rehearsal
Friday 24th September	5-8pm	Theatre Royal Wakefield Walker Studio	Chorus rehearsal 1
Friday 1st October	5-8pm	Theatre Royal Wakefield Walker Studio	Chorus rehearsal 2
Friday 8th October	5-8pm	Theatre Royal Wakefield Walker Studio	Chorus rehearsal 3
Friday 15th October	5-8pm	Theatre Royal Wakefield Walker Studio	Chorus rehearsal 4
Thursday 21st October	6-8.30pm	Theatre Royal Wakefield Walker Studio	Chorus singing rehearsal
Friday 22nd October	5-8pm	Theatre Royal Wakefield Walker Studio	Chorus rehearsal 5
Friday 29th October	5-8pm	Theatre Royal Wakefield Walker Studio	Chorus costume fittings
Sunday 31st October	2-5pm	Theatre Royal Wakefield Walker Studio	Chorus rehearsal 6
Tuesday 2nd November	5-8pm	Jubilee Hall- Lupset	Chorus call with main cast
Wednesday 3rd November	5-8pm	Jubilee Hall- Lupset	Chorus call with main cast
Thursday 4th November	5.30-8pm	Jubilee Hall- Lupset	Chorus singing rehearsal
Friday 5th November	5-8pm	Jubilee Hall- Lupset	Chorus call with main cast
Monday 8th November	5-8pm	Jubilee Hall- Lupset	Chorus call with main cast
Tuesday 9th November	5-8pm	Jubilee Hall- Lupset	Split call for chorus- Some will work with main cast
	4.45- 9.15pm	recording space in central Wakefield TBC	Those chosen to record Click Tracks will join our Musical Director
Wednesday 10th November	5-8pm	Jubilee Hall- Lupset	Chorus call with main cast. Last rehearsal room run
Thursday 11th November	2-6pm	Theatre Royal Wakefield	Day on stage. All chorus called
Saturday 13th November	2pm-10pm	Theatre Royal Wakefield	Tech Day 1 All Chorus called
Monday 15th November	2pm-10pm	Theatre Royal Wakefield	Tech Day 2 All Chorus called
Tuesday 16th November	2pm-10pm	Theatre Royal Wakefield	Tech Day 3 All Chorus called

Wednesday 17th November	12pm-6pm	Theatre Royal Wakefield	RED TEAM inc. performing DRESS 1 at 1.30pm
	2pm-10pm	Theatre Royal Wakefield	BLUE TEAM inc. performing DRESS 2 at 7pm
	4pm-10pm	Theatre Royal Wakefield	YELLOW TEAM notes and watching DRESS 2
Thursday 18th November	11am- 5.30pm	Theatre Royal Wakefield	YELLOW TEAM inc. performing DRESS 3 at 1.30pm
	1pm-9pm	Theatre Royal Wakefield	RED TEAM watch DRESS 3 then performing in SHOW 1
	4pm-9pm	Theatre Royal Wakefield	BLUE TEAM notes and watch SHOW 1

When are the performances?

The shows run from Thursday 18th November 2021 until Monday 3rd January 2022.

We will split the groups into three teams so your child will be in a third of the performances but please make sure for now you are available for the **whole** performance period. Some of the performances take place in the daytime and so time off from school/ college will be a requirement.

Date	Time		
Thursday 18 November			18:00
Friday 19 November		13:30	19:00
Saturday 20 November		14:30	19:00
Monday 22 November	10:00	13:30	
Tuesday 23 November	10:00	13:30	
Wednesday 24 November	10:00	13:30	
Thursday 25 November	10:00 (Relaxed Performance)		18:00
Friday 26 November		13:30	19:00
Saturday 27 November	11:00	14:30	19:00
Monday 29 November	10:00	13:30	
Tuesday 30 November	10:00	13:30	
Wednesday 1 December	10:00	13:30	
Thursday 2 December		13:30	18:00 (both BSL signed performances)
Friday 3 December		13:30	19:00
Saturday 4 December	11:00	14:30	19:00
Monday 6 December	10:00	13:30	
Tuesday 7 December	10:00	13:30	
Wednesday 8 December	10:00	13:30	
Thursday 9 December		13:30	18:00
Friday 10 December		13:30	19:00
Saturday 11 December	11:00	14:30	19:00

Monday 13 December	10:00	13:30	
Tuesday 14 December	10:00	13:30	
Wednesday 15 December		13:30	18:00
Thursday 16 December		13:30	18:00
Friday 17 December		13:30	19:00
Saturday 18 December	11:00	14:30	19:00
Monday 20 December		14.30	19:00
Tuesday 21 December		14.30	19:00
Wednesday 22 December		14.30	19:00
Thursday 23 December		14.30	19:00
Friday 24 December	11:00	14:30	
Sunday 26 December		14:30	19:00
Monday 27 December	11:00	14.30	19:00
Tuesday 28 December		14.30	19:00
Wednesday 29 December		14.30	19:00
Thursday 30 December		14.30	19:00
Friday 31 December	11:00	14:30	
Sunday 2 January		14:30	19:00
Monday 3 January	11:00	14:30	

How is the chorus made up?

We are looking for three teams of six performers.

What are you looking for?

9-15 year olds (age on opening night) – we are only working with children of performance license age this year. This is due to licensing laws and available dressing room space.

We are looking for male and female performers who have strong classical dance technique, can act with character and personality and sing.

All performers will be required to sing as an ensemble during the musical numbers as well as dance so please be aware that a basic vocal audition will take place for all.

A complete commitment to the rehearsals and performances is essential. This is a large-scale production and its success depends on everyone dedicating themselves to its delivery.

You will need to be available for all rehearsals and performance dates.

When will I know the outcome?

We hope to be able to let you know the outcome the day after the auditions (Monday the 20th September) as the first rehearsal is on Friday 24th September. In addition to those actually cast there may also be a short stand-by list in each category. If you are on this list then you are, in effect, reserves in case anyone drops out.

Please note that we will not be able to give individual feedback after the audition.

What might I need to bring?

You should bring plenty to drink and snacks with you as some of the sessions will be quite physical.

Please have a notebook and pen to hand.

Louise asks that you take all dance shoes with you to the audition (ballet shoes, tap shoes etc) so that you are fully prepared. Everyone should also make sure that you are wearing appropriate dance wear, and nothing too baggy. Please wear your hair neatly and a light stage make-up for aged 14+

What do I do during the auditions if I am a parent?

We will let parents/guardians know nearer the time if they can stay in our Centre for Creativity cafe space. You will not be able to stay in the auditorium during the audition.

We ask all parents to be contactable during the day and that they are available to pick up their children when required. **Any child aged 13 or under must be signed out by a parent/guardian before they can leave.**

Anyone aged 14 and 15 can leave on their own as long as a parent/guardian has made this clear on the permission form. Please read the form carefully and fill/tick all relevant boxes.

Why do you need to take photographs at the audition?

During the audition process we may take some photos to help us put a face to an audition number or so we can remember a group together. If you are not successful at audition we will delete these pictures.

My child didn't get in and is disappointed

Please be aware that there will be a high volume of people auditioning, and unfortunately not everyone will be successful. It is therefore really important that parents and carers work with the theatre to manage children's expectations. Please help us to reiterate that auditions can be exciting and an enjoyable experience, even if they aren't successful.

If you are successful at the audition...

REHEARSALS**When and where do we rehearse?**

Please see the rehearsal schedule at the beginning of this document.

What clothes do we need for rehearsals?

You need to have clothes that are easy to move in and appropriate dance shoes.

Do I need anything else?

We work fairly intensively, so bring with you whatever you think you need in the way of refreshments for the duration of the call – likely to be between 3 and 6 hours. This must include bottled water to ensure that you maintain hydration during physically demanding periods.

PERFORMANCES**What is the performance schedule?**

The production opens on Thursday 18 November 2021 and closes on Monday 3 January 2022. There are 84 performances which include mornings, afternoons and evenings. Each of the three chorus teams will perform in roughly a third of these performances.

How big is the cast?

There are 7 professional actors and a chorus of 6 for each performance, plus three musicians in the pit.

What happens between performances?

You will generally be playing 2 performances each day you are scheduled, either a morning and afternoon, or afternoon and evening. In the break between shows (approximately 1.5 hours) you cannot leave the theatre as you will be licensed and under chaperone supervision so we suggest you bring food with you so you can remain in the building with your chaperone.

What costumes will I be wearing?

You will have multiple costumes, each reflecting what is required for the various scenes in which you will be taking part, which we provide. All we ask you to provide are the shoes and we will tell you what is required.

What if my question hasn't been answered?

Please contact Janine Heseltine on =janine.heseltine@theatreroyalwakefield.co.uk