



THE ELVES & THE SHOEMAKER

Casting Breakdown and Advance Audition Information

Thank you for your interest in our Christmas family production of *The Elves & The Shoemaker*. This page provides some general information about the production and about The Courtyard Centre for the Arts, Hereford.

Background

The Courtyard has an excellent reputation for in-house productions, which range from full-scale musicals to Shakespeare, comedy, original pantomimes and national tours. In 2014 we produced our first-ever children's Christmas show in our Studio theatre, which just happened to be *The Elves and The Shoemaker*, and which had a sell-out run. We've subsequently produced *Hansel & Gretel*, *The Snow Queen*, *Little Red Riding Hood* and in 2018 *Snow White*. The shows have become so successful that we have extended the run year on year and this year performance run is from 7 to 31 December. All this is in line with our commitment to produce and present quality theatre for families, schools and young children.

The Story

In this year's production our two noble and heroic Elves, Corky and Peeptoe, come to the aid of the out-of-luck (and money) shoemaker Giotto. This is a rip-roaring tale, with songs, dancing, and high-energy storytelling. The play is written by Nick Lane and is full of high adventure from beginning to end. We are looking for two talented actors who are able to multi-role, sing, and dance and retell the story with plenty of energy.

Cast

The cast will comprise two adult professional actors, one male and one female, and you will find the casting breakdown overleaf for information.

Auditions

We will be holding auditions in central London on Monday, 29 July. Auditions are by invitation only and we will contact those we want to see. If you would like to be considered for an audition, please go to our casting page on Spotlight (our preferred casting option). If you or your agent cannot access Spotlight, then email your CV to Mel Langford mel.langford@courtyard.org.uk by 12 noon on 15 July. Email attachments should be 1MB or less and we ask that if you have submitted yourself on Spotlight that you do not send a back-up email.

Production Details

Overall dates:	Monday 2 to Tuesday 31 December 2019
Rehearsals:	Monday 2 to Friday 6 December, 9am to 5pm, in Hereford
Performances:	Saturday 7 to Tuesday 31 December 2019, 2/3 shows per day, depending on demand, 6 days a week, so min 39 / max 54 shows, as per the performance schedule. All performances will take place at The Courtyard
Salary:	£485 per week (rehearsals and performances)
Subsistence:	£167 p/w subsistence
Travel:	At beginning and end of contract
Producer:	Ian Archer
Director:	David Durant
Writer:	Nick Lane

The Courtyard

The Courtyard is Herefordshire's major centre for the art situated on the site of the old swimming baths near the centre of Hereford and comprises a 400-seat main house, 120-seat studio, café bar and restaurant, a gallery, workshops, rehearsal spaces and meeting rooms. In 2018-19 we are celebrating our 20th Anniversary, having opened our doors for the first time in September 1998.

Hereford

The cathedral city of Hereford is approximately 3 hours from London and is equidistant (approx 50 miles) from Birmingham, Bristol and Cardiff. Herefordshire has lots of pretty market towns (Ledbury and Ross-on-Wye, to name but two), picturesque black-and-white villages and some stunning countryside.

Contact

For further information please phone David Durant on 01432 346532 or email david.durant@courtyard.org.uk – email is often an easier form of communication.

The Courtyard
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Casting Breakdown

**PLEASE NOTE WE ARE LOOKING FOR ADULT PROFESSIONAL ACTORS
TO PLAY THESE ROLES, NOT CHILDREN!**

Corky (Male 21 – 36)

Physical Appearance: tall (for an elf) slim but athletic with very good posture

Height: 5'8" – 6'1"

Accents: nothing specific but ability to portray a variety of accents is vital

Attributes: a trustworthy and by the book Elf who knows all the Elf codes and ensures they are regularly stuck to. A loveable but overly pedantic Elf who is in charge, and if anyone were to be minister of health and safety – it's Corky. He is very lovable all the same but likes to get the job done and done well.

Skills: this show is for children, so experience in performing to children's audience is important, as is the ability to multi-role, manipulate puppets, storytelling, sing, dance and play an instrument. A strong level of physical ability is also key as well as slapstick.

PeepToe (Female, 18 – 30)

Physical Appearance: short, slim and athletic build

Height: 5'2" - 5'6"

Accents: nothing specific but ability to portray a variety of accents is vital

Attributes: PeepToe is a fun-loving and slightly wild Elf who relishes a good time and would never normally stop to consider the rules. She is feisty, a little fiery, but with a good heart. PeepToe is fairly new to all this Elf business and so has a lot to learn and not a lot of patience.

Skills: this show is for children, so experience in performing to children's audience is important, as is the ability to multi-role, manipulate puppets, storytelling, sing, dance and play an instrument. A strong level of physical ability is also key as well as slapstick.