



GREAT EXPECTATIONS

Casting Breakdown and Advance Audition Information

Thank you for your interest in The Courtyard's production of *Great Expectations*, which will take place at The Courtyard Centre for the Arts, Hereford, in October 2019 (rehearsals starting mid-September). This page provides some general information about the production, the auditions and The Courtyard.

Background

The Courtyard is staging Nick Ormerod and Declan Donnellan's adaptation of Charles Dickens' *Great Expectations* as its third pro-am production. The past two pro-ams - *Lord of the Flies* and *Pride and Prejudice* - successfully brought together professional actors, members of the Herefordshire community and The Courtyard's own youth theatre to create projects that not only led to productions of great quality but which also contributed to The Courtyard's talent development programme in which the professional actors passed on vital skills to the youth theatre. We are confident our production of *Great Expectations* will emulate and surpass the successes of our two previous pro-ams.

The Cast

We are now seeking two professional actors to play Magwitch and Miss Havisham, and possibly some other minor roles, depending on the needs of the production. The casting breakdown is overleaf.

Auditions

We will be holding auditions in central London on Tuesday, 30 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, 9 September to Saturday, 5 October 2019
Rehearsals:	commence on 9 September in Hereford
Performances:	from 1 to 5 October 2019 (7 shows)
Salary:	£485 per week (rehearsals and performances), plus £167 p/w subsistence, travel at beginning and end of contract
Producer:	Ian Archer
Director:	David Durant

The Courtyard

The Courtyard is Herefordshire's major centre for the arts. It is a 16-year-old building 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. The Courtyard has an excellent reputation for in-house productions, which in the past have ranged from full-scale musicals to Shakespeare, comedy and original pantomimes and national tours.

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.

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Casting Breakdown

We are looking for two very strong, flexible adult character actors who need to be able to work with young people. Both actors may also be asked to take on smaller roles in the production.

MAGWITCH

Male

Playing age: 40-60

Height: 5'8" - 6'2"

Physical appearance: Strong, brutish look, a hardened convict from the East End of London.

Accent: Strong Cockney accent

Character: A hard looking and strong individual, not afraid to get his hands dirty or even commit a crime in order to survive. He is a man who has not been given the best start in life and from a hard background. He goes through a big change as the story unfolds and, despite his harsh treatment from life and the law, is able to recognise kindness and repays the good that is shown him.

Skills: The performer will need experience of working with young people of all ages and abilities, have a very strong physical ability and awareness of movement. A level of stage combat will also help. Strong vocal ability will also be key especially when passing on techniques to the young performers.

MISS HAVISHAM

Female

Playing age: 40-60

Height: 5'2"-5'8"

Physical appearance: A worn, feeble, slim and ill looking woman

Accent: Heightened RP

Character: A woman once jilted at the altar who tries to manipulate and control everyone and everything around her. She is not well and is slowly becoming more unstable and in need of controlling others around her. Very weak and mentally tortured; she is in a constant state of anxiety.

Skills: The performer will need experience of working with young people of all ages and abilities, have a very strong physical ability and awareness of movement.