

MOTHER GOOSE 2025

Casting Breakdown and Advance Audition
Information for dancers/ensemble



Thank you for your interest in our 2025-26 Christmas panto, **MOTHER GOOSE**. This page provides some general information about the auditions and about The Courtyard Centre for the Arts, Hereford.

The Courtyard has an excellent reputation for in-house productions, which in the past have ranged from full-scale musicals to Shakespeare, drama, comedy and original pantomimes. We have staged a pantomime every year since we opened in September 1998, producing all the major titles at least four times now – but this is the first time we will produce *Mother Goose*. Four of our recent pantos were nominated in various categories at The UK Pantomime Awards and our Creative Director Estelle van Warmelo, won the Best Director category outright in 2023. We are also very proud that our script writer, Lyndsay Maples, has been nominated for her scripts no fewer than four times.

Casting: the cast for *Mother Goose* will include seven professional actors for the principal roles and four professional dancers/ensemble who also play the smaller roles. We are looking to cast 1 male and 1 female. These roles are more than just dancing. You need to be a strong triple threat performers with an established voice and the ability to lead vocal sections. Dance ability must be strong with a background in jazz, ballet, contemporary, tap and commercial styles. Male identifying dancers must be strong with good ability for partner work / lifts. Female dancers must be confident working in 3-inch heels. Acting is a must as the ensemble have characters throughout the show and will need to be able to understudy. The ensemble roles are villagers, King of Gooseland, Queen of Gooseland, geese, Bee's friends, water sprites).

If you would like to be considered for an audition, please go to our casting page on Spotlight (our preferred casting option). Please ensure there are links to acting, singing and dance (jazz) reels on your Spotlight CV. The closing date for submissions is 26 May 2025 at 23:00. All auditions are by invitation only. Initial auditions (c.15 mins each) via Zoom will be on 16, 17 (tbc) and 18 June. Recalls, if required, will be held w/c 23 June.

Contract: weekly basic fee £561.88 (for rehearsals and performances), £235 p/w subsistence, a one-off bank holiday payment of £125 (for bank holiday performances and production week overtime), additional fee of £45.43 per Sunday performance, 3% pension contribution, holiday pay and travel at the beginning and end of the contract.

Rehearsal and Production Dates

Rehearsals commence on Saturday, 8 November 2025 in Hereford

Performances from Wednesday, 26 November 2025 to Saturday, 3 January 2026

There will be 63 performances in the run, max two per day, 6 days per week, including Sundays, Christmas Eve, Boxing Day and New Year's Eve.

Production Team

Producer: **Ian Archer**

Musical Director: **Adam Morris**

Designer: **Mark Walters**

Creative Director: **Estelle van Warmelo**

Choreographer: **Graeme Pickering**

Writer: **Lyndsay Maples**

The Courtyard is Herefordshire's major centre for the arts. It is a 27-year-old building near the centre of Hereford and comprises a 400-seat main house, 150-seat studio, large café bar and lounge, a gallery, workshops, rehearsal spaces and meeting rooms.

Hereford: the cathedral city of Hereford is approximately three 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. It's well worth exploring in your time off.

For further information please phone Mel Langford, Administrator, on 01432 346507 or email mel.langford@courtyard.org.uk.

The Courtyard, Edgar Street, Hereford, HR4 9JR, www.courtyard.org.uk