



AUDITION PACK

Summer 2024

Welcome to York Stage...

Welcome to the audition process for York Stage's production of Stephen Sondheim and George Furth's **COMPANY**.

I am so excited to be mounting this show at Theatre@41. Having seen many productions of this brilliant show, and indeed having been in a production myself, I am full of ideas of how we can frame and create a fresh new production filled with the usual York Stage dynamism.

Joining me on the creative team for this show we have Sondheim mastermind, JAMES ROBERT BALL working as the show's Musical Director. With a wealth of knowledge and knack for bringing out the best in a cast's musicality and performance potential, he is the perfect choice to help shape this new production.

The first ever musical to not have a plot, **COMPANY** has wowed audiences for over half a century with its central themes of marriage, conforming to society's pressures and relationships (of all kinds). Because of these timeless themes it still feels relevant and connects with audiences on an intimate level today through its ingenious lyrics and book.

For this show we are looking to bring together a cast of 14 performers; in an intimate space like Theatre@41 we need strong singer-actors who can bring truth (and lots of fun) to the brilliant scenes, whilst singing complicated music both as individuals and as an ensemble.

Within **COMPANY** there is the need for movement from all of the cast. Whilst we don't need technical dancers, for the staging we have planned, we do need confident movers who can use their bodies with style and expression.

We have a minimum age for performers within this show of 18.

We are excited to meet you at auditions. At York Stage, we aim for excellence in our casting, welcoming talent from the region regardless of experience. Our creative team excels at recognising raw talent and enjoys giving opportunities to newcomers. Show us your brilliance, and we will take care of the rest!

All the information you may need to prepare for your audition we hope is included in this pack. Please read the contents clearly and thoroughly, if you have any questions they should be answered in this pack but if not please do send us an email.

Good luck and remember to keep calm, we only want you to be your best!

Nik Briggs – York Stage

Audition Process...

Initial Auditions 06/08/24

All performers will be invited to a call on the evening of Tuesday 6th August. This session will take place at: Theatre@41 Monkgate, YO31 7PB.

At this first initial call we will see all those auditioning do the following . . .

- PERFORM A SONDHEIM SONG THAT YOU FEELS SHOWS OFF YOUR VOICE AND IMPORTANTLY YOUR ACTING THROUGH SONG. THIS CAN BE A SONG FROM COMPANY.
- PERFORM TWO SCRIPT EXCERPTS FROM THOSE LISTED BELOW. PLEASE PICK TWO DIFFERENT CHARACTERS, YOU WILL PERFORM THESE WITH SOMEONE READING IN FOR THE AUDITIONS.

It is encouraged that prior to auditions you familiarise yourself with the show, there are lots of cast recordings and YouTube clips of various productions, but we really recommend reading the script in order to fully prepare as we are looking for what you could bring to these characters, rather than emulating what might have been done before.

Please take time to familiarise yourself with the character breakdowns below and we recommend really thinking about a range of characters as in the audition you may be embodying and creating work based on a number of the named parts not just one or two of them.

Recall Auditions 07/08/24

Following the initial session, the creative team will want to see some people again for a recall audition on the following day. You will be invited to a recall audition after your initial call if needed. At this second call we will see songs and scenes for characters which will be sent out to you, we will be looking at pairings/small groups in scenes etc.

RECALL VENUE: Theatre @41 Monkgate RECALL DATE: 7th August in the Evening.

Audition Scenes . . .

For the initial auditions please prepare two of the below pieces, please pick one character within the pieces you choose. We ask you pick two different characters i.e do not play Bobby in two different pieces. We are happy for you to play characters of any gender for the audition.

- Harry and Sarah (Act 1, Scene 2 p18-19)
- Bobby and Marta (Act 1, Scene 5 p59-60)
- Bobby and Joanne (Act 2, Scene 4 p107-109)

Casting Breakdown . . .

Please note due to the structure of the show, all roles also feature as the shows Ensemble (or Company) and therefore all roles except Bobby will also take part in the majority of all the ensemble scenes/numbers.

For our production we are interested in seeing how these characters can be played, whilst maintaining the characters gender as assigned by the writers, by actors of all genders.

CHARACTER	CHARACTER DESCRIPTION
BOBBY	Baritone, 35. The story's protagonist, a keen observer who appears to be happy. He is the only one in his circle still single. Terrified of marriage, but fears a lifetime of loneliness.
AMY	Alto, 25 - 40. A frantic neurotic engaged to Paul but terrified of marriage. After a mental breakdown, she finally realizes that Paul is, in fact, her soulmate.
JENNY	Soprano, 30 - 45. Quietly manipulative, simultaneously square and wise. Loves her husband, David, and will indulge him from time to time.
JOANNE	Alto, 45 - 65. Acerbic and demanding. Too old to be part of the young crowd but would not fit well with the older crowd. Puts on a brassy front that melts when she is alone with her husband, Larry.
SARAH	Alto, 30 - 40. Harry's hypercritical wife. She is an avid learner of karate and tends to overeat. Open, accepting, and loving.
SUSAN	Mezzo, 25 - 35. A delicate southern belle. Peter's wife and ex-wife. Motherly in her affections towards Robert. Southern American Accent.
APRIL	Mezzo, 21 - 30. A girlfriend of Robert's. She is a flight attendant who came to New York to live in Radio City. Ditzzy and adorable. General American accent.
KATHY	Mezzo, 30 - 40. A former girlfriend of Robert's, now considered a good friend. They plan to leave the City for a life of domesticity. Sweet and loving.
MARTA	Mezzo, 25 - 35. A girlfriend of Robert's. Intensely modern, seeking adventure and excitement in the City. Marta is not from New York originally so not a New York accent.
DAVID	Tenor, 30 - 45. Jenny's husband; relaxed and always in control. Believes a man should be married and that the sacrifice of freedom is worth what you get in return.
HARRY	Baritone, 30 - 45. Sarah's husband. He is a recovering alcoholic. Believes the advantages of marriage outweigh the disadvantages.
LARRY	Tenor, 45 - 65. Joanne's husband. Stoic and centered, but has moments of goofiness. Indulges his wife's behavior but knows when to put his foot down.
PAUL	Tenor, 25 - 40. Amy's fiancé. Patient with her neurotic nature. Fully commits to the idea of marriage and encourages Robert to do the same.
PETER	Baritone, 25 - 35. Susan's husband. The perfect husband and ex- husband. He is very liberal in his view of relationships.

Your commitments...

Rehearsals

For those successful in being cast we will start rehearsals from the last week of August.

Rehearsals will take place in York on two evenings a week either Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday depending on cast availability. There will also be a rehearsal on a Sunday afternoon. We will be requesting a full availability check at audition sign up. For your convenience, we will issue a full rehearsal schedule at the first rehearsal as not everyone will be called to every rehearsal. Please note due to us only casting 14 members and due to the show having an ensemble cast presence we are expecting all people to have a heavy rehearsal schedule.

It is encouraged that if you accept a place in the COMPANY company you DO NOT audition or accept roles in productions that rehearse around the same time (aside from other York Stage shows as Nik and James cant be in two places at once so they will not clash). Whilst we understand there will be occasions you may not be available for rehearsals it is NOT accepted by the creative team for rehearsals to be missed because of attendance at rehearsals for any other shows. Please let the team know at auditions if there are any other shows you are involved in so we can assess the viability of you taking part in both, again it must be stressed it will be expected rehearsals for COMPANY will be given priority over other rehearsals in all instances.

Performances

The Performances will take place at Theatre@41 Monkgate from the 13-16th November 2024 at 7:30pm. There will be a Saturday matinee at 2:30pm.

The week of the show we will also require all cast and crew on: 10th (All Day), 11th and 12th (Evenings) for tech and dress rehearsals.

Fees

Due to the costs involved in mounting a show like COMPANY in a venue as small as Theatre@41 there will be a show fee of £75 to take part in this production as it is unlikely to recoup its costs. This is payable in instalments if this will be an issue for you.

We do not charge additional subs, membership fees or any other levy's.