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Revolution Season 2014 Audition Notice

The Apple Cart

Written by George Bernard Shaw

Directed by Lorenzo Mason

Tuesday 4 November – Saturday 8 November

The Lion and Unicorn Theatre



1. Auditions

You do not need to prepare anything in advance, pay to participate or register for auditions. Isn't that so much more relaxing?

A number of monologues, both male and female, from the play and other related texts will be provided on the day of the audition. However you are welcome to bring your own material and it would help if it has some relation with the play (i.e. monologues on politics and government, famous speeches by politicians, kings, queens, leaders of men, what have you)

Recalls will have actors reading parts from the text in pairs and groups, you may be asked to read several parts or repeat one part depending on need.

On the night you will be asked to fill in a preference form so that we have your contact details and know if there are any specific parts you'd like to audition for.

Date: 21st, 22nd & 23rd July. Please come on whichever day suits you

Time: 6.30pm

Venue: Clean Break Studios, 2 Patshull Road, Kentish Town, NW5 2LB. The nearest tube is Kentish Town

Recalls will be on Saturday 26th July from 10am to 2pm. You will be called on Friday 25th if we'd like to see you again.

2. Show Dates

We'll be performing from Tuesday 4th November to Saturday 8th November at The Lion and Unicorn Theatre in Kentish Town. The shows will start at 7.30pm and you'll need to be at the theatre at least an hour beforehand. The dress rehearsal will be on Monday 3rd November. You will need to be free from midday onwards, possibly all day.

3. Rehearsals

Rehearsals will be on Monday and Wednesday evenings and Sunday afternoons/evenings. All rehearsals will be in central London.

4. About the Play

London, The Future.

After publicly stating the government is corrupt, King Magnus of the House of Windsor finds himself locked in a political battle of wits with Prime Minister Joe Proteus and his scheming and conniving cabinet. The PM intention is to deprive the King, and the entire Royal Family, of the ability to speak publicly in the press and the Platform, in short to reduce them to a cipher. They send out newly elected Business Secretary Bill Boanergas which turns out to be....not the best choice.

The government itself is facing interference by massive corporations, who seek to insinuate themselves and influence Parliament, with very few diehard democrats still willing to stop them.

Meanwhile a strange and unusual danger is coming from the United States, spearheaded by the ambiguous Ambassador Vanhattan, and in the royal palaces own rooms the King has to deal with the changing moods of his mistress, the ambitious and power hungry Orinthia. Can the King survive the political arena (and his lover), or is it the end of the Royal Family?

Written in 1929, Shaw's play is a funny, sharp satire on the modern world of politics and all its imperfections that still resonates today, touching on themes like democracy, personal liberty, popularity, freedom of speech and what it means to be a King and a Politician. The author, anticipating the future, perfectly describes today's democratic process, but offers a wonderful twist that few will see coming.

5. Cast Breakdown

Please note that the playing age doesn't necessarily imply the actors have to be that age.

1) King Magnus: (male) playing age 30-50

The main character of the play, an (implied) monarch of the House of Windsor, he is a very popular king with the people, and is often butting heads with Parliament. Very good with words, he is somewhat of a closet Idealist, but is painfully aware of the ever increasing populist side of democracy, the waning influence of the UK on the world stage, and the influence of Big Corporations.

2) Joe Proteus: (male) playing age 30-50

The Prime Minister, whatever party he leads is not important. He is a politician by trade and knows all the tricks and schemes we see commonly in politics, perhaps his biggest skill is being able to maintain order and superiority over his often squabbling cabinet. He considers the King his greatest adversary and wants nothing more than to shut him up, by act of parliament if possible.

3) Bill Boanerges: (male) playing age 30-50

The newly appointed Business secretary and President of the board of trade, a working class man who never misses an opportunity to point out he is a working class man, he fancies himself a proletarian hero and more intelligent and charismatic than he actually is. He easily falls under the influence of the King after "debating" with him.

4) Orinthia: (female) playing age 20-40

The King's mistress, she is a woman of fire and brimstone. In times past she might have been a mighty warrior queen but to modern ears her grand stands on Absolute Power seem hopelessly outdated. She is continuously egging on the King to grab more power, an idea Magnus abhors and constantly rejects. Nevertheless the King is irresistibly drawn to her.

5) Queen Jemina: (female) playing age 30-50

Queen-Consort to the King, she is in many ways the opposite of Orinthia. She is calm, collected, elegant, composed, mindful of protocol and deceptively intelligent. Though far less an expert on politics as Magnus she provides for him a different perspective most times, in many ways, thanks to her adherence to protocol and form, she is the King's anchor to sanity.

6) Alice the Princess Royal/ Amanda Postelwaithe: (female) playing age 20-30 [double role]

Alice is clearly her father's daughter, she puts on the air of a somewhat vapid and vain teenager but this is merely a front to conceal her political intelligence and her ability to manipulate people with dubious praise, a trait shared by Magnus, which she uses to aid her Father.

Amanda Postelwaithe, Power mistress General on the Cabinet, is a fiery passionate woman, more concerned with the future of the country than her own party, leading to her generally siding with the King. She enjoys chiding her "politician by trade" colleagues and is desperately trying, along with Lysistrata, to combat the influence of Big Business corporations in government.

7) Pliny: (male) playing age 50-60

The Chancellor of the Exchequer and the oldest politician in office. He is rather fed up of a lifetime of squabbling and backstabbing and general idiocy, and is constantly trying to end internal squabbling and repair relationships, with varying success. A lifetime in politics has given him a soothing tone of voice and use of language.

8) Crassus: (male) playing age 30-40

The Commonwealth (Colonial in the text) secretary in government. He is a conniving backstabbing politician who not-so-secretly wants the PM's job, and never misses an opportunity to wrong-foot him and criticize him, especially in front of his colleagues. It is also implied he's somewhat corrupt and has helped relatives and big business moguls in politics.

9) Lysistrata: (female) playing age 20-40

The Power mistress General, Lysistrata, like Amanda, is more interested in achieving results than following the party line, and sees the King as friend and someone who, somewhat ironically, shares the same views as her. She is a former school mistress and that shows in her personality and mannerisms, particularly her tendency to school the cabinet as if they were naughty school-children. Her constituency has been dogged by a large corporation called Breakages Limited and she is trying desperately to curtail their influence.

10) Nicobar: (male) playing age 30-40

The Foreign secretary and the right hand man to the Prime Minister, he has played the political game for a while now and fears Proteus's demise as much as his own, aware that his power and position come from him. He is one of the harshest critics of the King and has grown accustomed to his tricks and honeyed words, yet is not as clever as Magnus.

11) Balbus: (female) playing age 30-40

The Home Secretary, technically a male character in the text. Balbus is ambitious but has reactionary views and believes in outmoded, old fashioned and borderline offensive ideas, such as the economy comes before the people, everything is fine so long as our big corporations make money, the poor sap from the public budget with their greed and so on. Balbus, like Crassus, has ambitions for the top of government, but everyone else on the Cabinet isn't prepared for the Nightmare Dystopian Scenario that would follow should the Home secretary become PM.

12) Pamphilus: (female) playing age 20-40

One of 2 private secretaries to the King, smooth tongued and polite to the point of making it martial art. Technically male in the text Pamphilus is the more senior of the secretaries to the King and essentially acts as his publicist and spin doctor, sharing Magnus's trait of levelling subtle praise on someone while masking a true intention.

13) Sempronius: (male) Playing age 20-30

One of 2 private secretaries to the King, smooth tongued and polite to the point of making it martial art. Sempronius is more philosophical than his colleague Pamphilus, waxing lyrical on the odd habits of his father, with which he opens the play, and more jokingly mischievous than his counterpart. He is in charge of the King's personal mail, particularly his correspondence with Orinthia, implying that he is the King's Publicist and "fixer".

14) Vanhattan: (female) playing age 20-40

Originally male in the text. The American Ambassador and an Anglophile, deeply enamoured with the British Countryside, old, somewhat outmoded English traditions and pretty much anything "British". She is however aware of the political influence his government, which she represents, holds on the UK. She arrives suddenly in front of the King and the Queen, enthusiastically announcing that the U.S. has rescinded the Declaration of Independence, and is re-annexing itself to the United Kingdom. Queen Jemina is pleasantly amused by this development but Magnus loathes the idea, aware of the fact that, though America would nominally be a subject to England, it's actual power, wealth and influence would mean things would be pretty much the other way around, with the already heavily Americanized England being absorbed by its bigger cousin.