

# Good Person of Szechwan

Written by Bertolt Brecht (translation by John Willet)

Directed by Brigitte Adela

1 - 5 November 2016

Barons Court Theatre



## 1. Auditions

You do not need to prepare anything for the audition. The audition will be in the form of a workshop, with improvisation games that explore your ability to play various characters and games to see how you interact with others. There will be a singing warm up as there will be singing within the play, you don't need to be a professional singer just willing to have a go! (The only characters that sing on their own in the play are Shen Teh, Wang and Yang Sun, all other songs will be in groups).

On the night you audition, 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. Recalls will be scene readings and a song (if applicable).

**When:** 6.45-7pm registration, auditions 7pm-9pm, Tuesday 30 and Wednesday 31 August 2016. Choose whichever date suits you best.

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

**Recalls:** 10am-2pm, Saturday 3 September

**Venue:** Clean Break Studios

You will be called by Friday 2 September if the directors would like to see you again.

## **2. Show Dates**

The show will be performed from Tuesday 25 October to Saturday 29 October at Barons Court Theatre in West London. Each performance will start at 7.30pm and you'll be called at least an hour beforehand to warm up. The dress rehearsals will be on Sunday 24 October all day and Monday 25 October. On Monday you will preferably be available from midday onwards but if this is impossible for you, it's not vital.

## **3. Rehearsals**

First rehearsal (depending on cast availability) on Monday 5 September. Rehearsals will be mainly on Monday and Wednesday evenings and Sunday afternoons/evenings. You might not be needed for every single rehearsal. All rehearsals will be in central London. A rehearsal schedule will be created as soon as possible, once the cast's availability dates are all accounted for.

## **4. About the Play**

*The Good Person of Szechwan* is Bertolt Brecht's famous parable that explores if a good person can exist in an unjust society. In the play, three gods come to earth in search of enough good people to justify their existence. They find Shen Teh, a good hearted but penniless prostitute. They reward her by gifting her money that enables her to give up her profession and set up her own business. However with people in the town feeding off of her kindness, she finds it impossible to survive and is led to disguising herself as a man, thus creating her alter ego, Shui Ta.

Through rehearsals we will, as a team, explore the relevance of the play in our current world. We will explore the journey and the struggles of the characters living in Szechwan, and how they survive in a capitalist society.

## **5. Cast Breakdown**

We are looking for a cast of 10-14 people, with various playing ages and ethnicities. As this is an ensemble play, with people multi-roling, we are flexible with final cast numbers. We are look-

ing for people that enjoy collaborating and enjoy moving around (there will be physical theatre elements used in the play, nothing difficult!).

There are 23 characters in total in the play including Shen Teh (the actor playing Shen Teh will also play her alter ego Shui Ta). The other characters are all the people that live in the province such as Wang (a water seller), Yang Sun (an unemployed airman), Mrs Yang (his mother), Lin To (a carpenter), Mrs Shin (a widow), Mrs Mi Tzu (a property owner), Shu Fu (the barber)... to name a few.

Final characters will be given after the first rehearsal to give everyone a chance to explore the various characters and so we can work to your individual strengths.