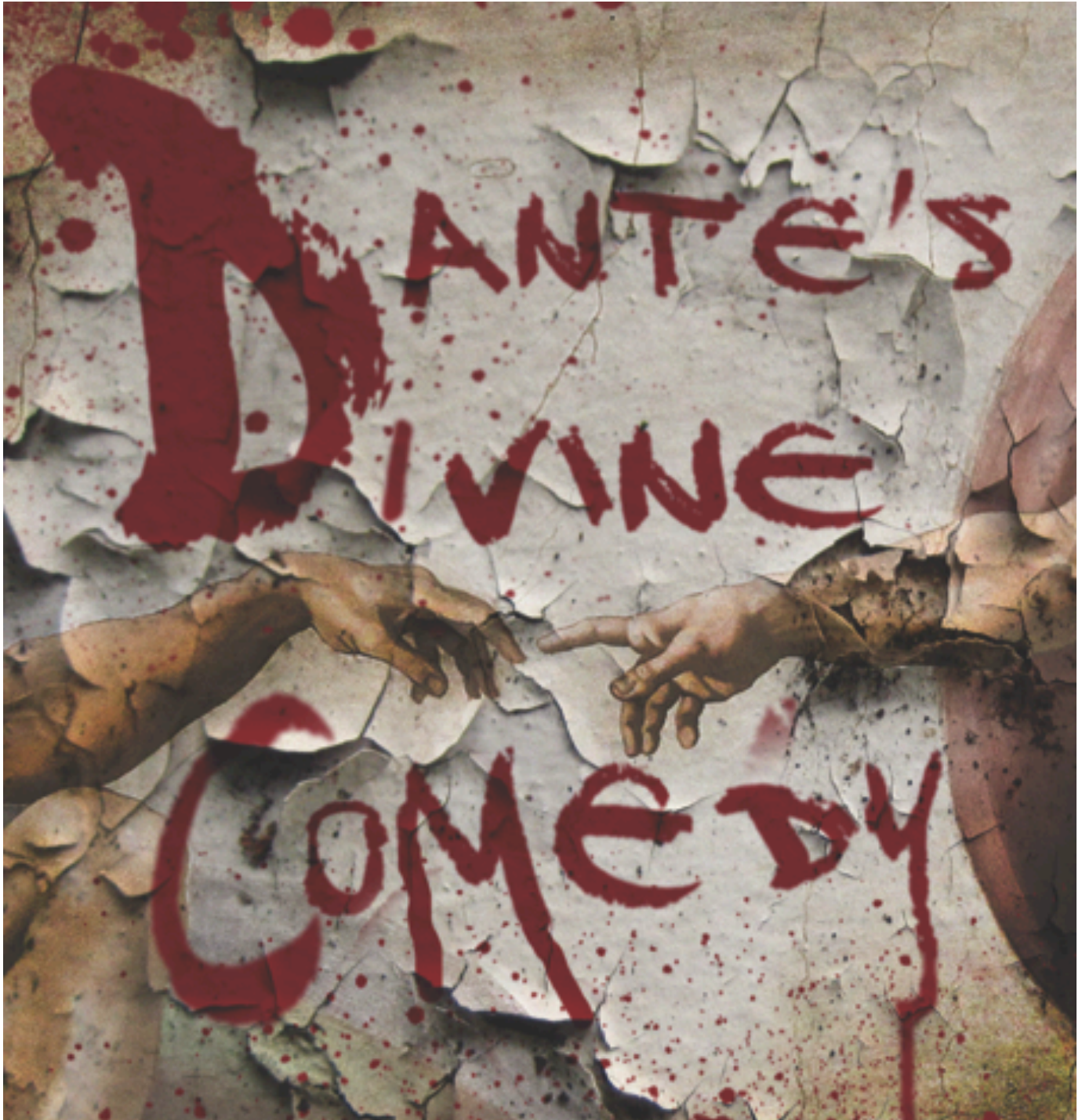


Dante's Divine Comedy

Directed by Douglas Baker



1. Auditions

You do not need to prepare anything for the audition. The audition will be in the form of a few games followed by some script work.

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.

When: 6:15-6:30pm registration, auditions 6:30pm-9:30pm, Tuesday 17, Wednesday 18 and Thursday 19 January 2017. Choose whichever date suits you best.

Where: Theatre Deli Studios, 30 Marsh Wall, Isle of Dogs, London E14 9TP

Nearest Tube: Canary Wharf or South Quay

Recalls: 10am-4pm, Sunday 22 January 2017 **Venue:** As Above

You will be called on Friday 20 January if the director would like to see you again.

The recalls will essentially be a mock rehearsal. This is going to be a devised show so it's just as much of an opportunity for you to see how we will run the staging process as for us to see how you all work together and respond to direction. We will be looking at how you create parts together and how we can develop those ideas into an engaging narrative.

You will be called by Friday 20th January if the director would like to see you again.

2. Show Dates

The show will be performed from Tuesday 4th April to Saturday 8th April at Baron's Court Theatre. Each performance will start at 7.30pm and you will be called at least an hour beforehand to warm up. On Monday 3rd April you will preferably be available from midday onwards but if this is impossible for you, it's not vital.

3. Rehearsals

First rehearsal will be Wednesday 25th January. Rehearsals will be mainly on Monday and Wednesday evenings and Sunday afternoons/evenings. You may not be needed for every single rehearsal, but it is likely you will be needed for most of them. 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

Dante's Divine Comedy is an epic journey to hell and back again, it is one man's mission to find his lost love Beatrice-who tragically died. It's full of beautiful poetry, colorful characters and a classical, heroic journey through hell, purgatory and paradise.

Barons Court is a lovely, but limited space so we will be heavily movement based and overtly stylized in order to compensate for this and really stir the imagination. We will have an assortment of basic props

that will be used in the devising process to create the iconic imagery from the poem.

Be not afraid! This will be no stuffy moral, angst-ridden sermon; it's going to be a roller coaster ride that will hit the audience hard and ask important questions about life, death and love whilst giving us plenty of laughs along the way. It's called Dante's Divine Comedy for a reason. We'll make use of an eclectic blend of music from classical all the way through to heavy metal. There will also be some singing involved-but don't panic; it's all group singing as part of the chorus. Anyone who can play an instrument would also be handy!

5. Cast Breakdown-

The only parts that **have** to be male and female are the lovers Dante and Beatrice. Other than that, the whole thing is open.

8 or 9 parts – depending on whether Beatrice is part of the chorus or not

Dante-Our leading man, he is on the brink of suicide at the start of the poem, trapped in a dark and foreboding place, until Virgil, his idol, is sent by Beatrice to rescue him. Dante's journey is one of fulfilment, a character that learns of the woes, pitfalls and occasional joys of humanity and decides at the end that is better to live.

Virgil-The wise sage who is somewhat all knowing and leads Dante on his epic quest. Virgil is a little sassy and enjoys putting Dante in his place. Virgil, in real life, famously wrote The Aeneid and there are many references to that throughout the play. Virgil is very much the way into the story for the audience, as the person with a lot of knowledge and backstory of each circle of hell and holds some of the answers to the many question posed.

Beatrice-The lost love of Dante, the one who sees his plight and decides to help him. Once Dante arrives in heaven though, she gives him a hard time. She makes him question all of his actions and tells him that though they are truly in love they will never be able to be together. A sad, tragic and yet, exciting part.

Chorus-Six different actors will represent the chorus. It is made up of all the other characters in the poem. Rest assured, these are not small parts, and in fact they are probably the most challenging roles in the entire production. It is likely the chorus will have the most stage time of anyone-each member of the chorus will have at least 1 monologue if not more. One moment you will deliver splendid poetry that conjures the beautiful imagery for the audience, the next you will get physical and create a magnificent chasm or be part of a boat sailing down the river Acheron and another you will jump between playing different characters in quick succession. It requires energy, enthusiasm and a great sense of humour. You will know exactly whom you are playing once you are cast.

The parts played by the chorus are:

Lions, Tigers & Bears oh my!
Lost souls
Demons
Charon
Francesca
Paulo

Julius Caesar
Electra
Plato
Socrates
Cerberus
Souls trapped in Trees
Brunetto
Popes
Vanni Fucci
Judge
Lawyer
Aeneas
Harpies
Zombies
Furies
Schicchi
Capocchio
Devils
Cato
Angel of Purgatory
Commuters
Angel of Humility
Sinners
La Pia
Sapia
Cherubs
Picarda
Emperor Justinian
St. Peter
St. James
St. John