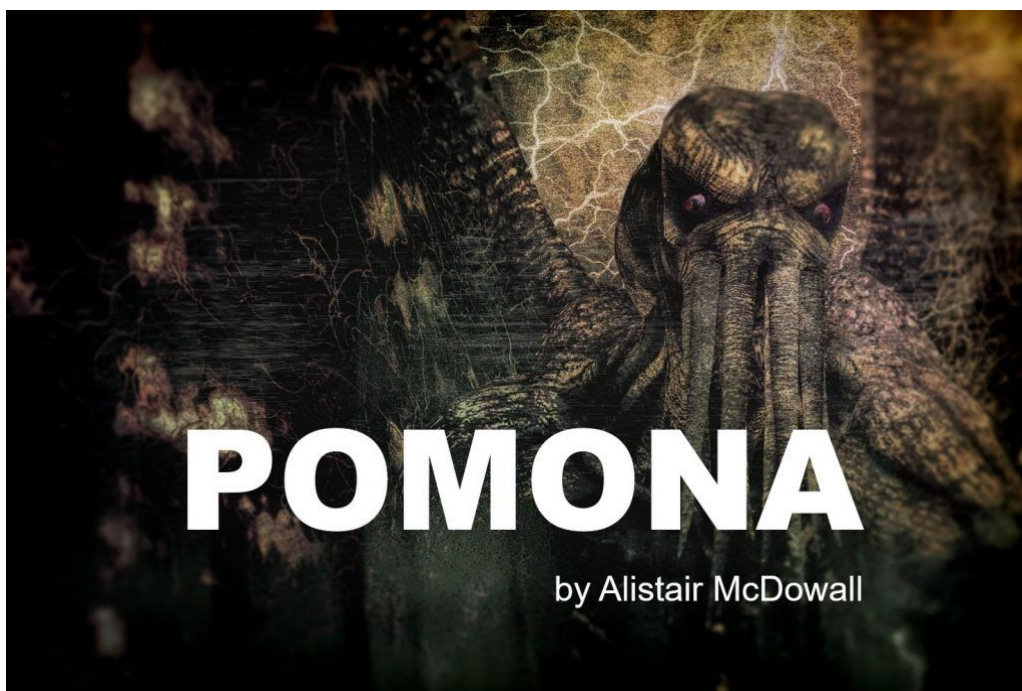


Pomona

Written by Alistair McDowell
Directed by Tom Cunningham

Performance dates: 24 - 28 March 2020
Venue: Lion & Unicorn Theatre



1. Auditions

When: Tuesday 7, Wednesday 8, & Thursday 9 January 2020. Choose whichever date suits you best but bear in mind that auditions get busier later in the week.

Time: Registration 6.40pm. Auditions from 7pm-10pm.

Where: Theatre Deli, Broadgate Studios. 2 Finsbury Ave, London EC2M 2PF
Nearest stations: Liverpool Street (5 minute walk) or Moorgate (5 minute walk)

Format: Auditions are free and open to all. You do not need to prepare anything for the initial audition. The audition will involve some group work followed by readings of script extracts (these will be provided on the night and you will have a few minutes to prepare). Recalls will be

in the form of readings. Extracts from the script may be given to you in advance of the recall to give some context, but you will not be required to learn these by heart.

All 3 KDC shows will be auditioning in the same venue at the same time, to allow you the chance to audition for two or three shows in the same evening. The audition slot for each show will last between 40 - 60 minutes.

On the night you audition, you will be asked to fill in an audition form so that we have your contact details. On the form you can let us know if there are any specific parts you'd like to audition for or which play you prefer, as well as if there are any rehearsal dates you can't do.

2. Recalls

You will be contacted by Friday 10 January if the directors would like to invite you recalls.

Date: Sat 11 January 2020

Time: Registration 1 pm. End by 5 pm

Venue: Clean Break Studios, 2 Patshull Road, London, NW5 2LB

Nearest stations: Kentish Town tube and Kentish Town West overground.

3. Show Dates

The show will be performed from Tuesday 24 March 2020 to Saturday 28 March at Lion & Unicorn Theatre in Kentish Town. Each performance will start at 7.30pm and you will be called at least an hour beforehand to warm up. There will be a full run-through the Sunday before the opening night and a dress and tech rehearsal during the day on the Monday before the opening night. On the Monday you will need to be available from midday onwards. If this is impossible for you, it may not be vital but you will need to flag this to the director when you audition (verbally) and note it on your audition form.

4. Rehearsals

First rehearsal (depending on cast availability) on Monday 13 January. Rehearsals will be no more than 8 hours a week, mainly on Monday-Thursday evenings and weekend afternoons/evenings. You might not be needed for every single rehearsal. A rehearsal schedule will be created and circulated as soon as possible, once the cast's availability dates are all accounted for.

KDC rehearsals take place in central London. The most frequent venues used in past seasons are:

- Theatre Deli - Deli Studios, 2 Finsbury Ave, London EC2M 2PA. Nearest tube(s): Liverpool Street (4 minute walk), Moorgate Station (5 minute walk)
- Hoop and Grapes pub, 80 Farringdon St, London EC4A 4BL. Nearest tube(s): Blackfriars (7 minute walk), St Paul's Station (9 minute walk)

5. KDC Subs

Auditions are free and open to all. If you are cast, you will be required to pay a 'subs' fee of £70, which gives you membership of KDC for three seasons (one year). KDC Theatre is a charity. Your subs, along with tickets, help to cover some of the costs of putting on the show.

6. About the Play

“It’s all real. All of it. Everything bad is real.”

Ollie has come to Manchester to look for her missing twin sister. More girls are going missing from a brothel. A man drives around the ring road all night. Two security guards stand outside Pomona - a seemingly abandoned space in the centre of the city. Somehow, all of the characters’ lives seemed to circle around this place. What dark secrets is Pomona hiding?

This disturbing, disorientating play blends elements of horror, sci-fi and tabletop RPGs into a brilliantly written story that explores the claustrophobia and possible extreme consequences of modern city life. The story is told through episodic scenes out of chronological order. Most scenes focus on 1-3 characters and each of the parts offer great opportunities for detailed characterisation. There are also a couple of scenes where the whole cast comes together to narrate the story (in a similar style to a “dungeon master” in Dungeons and Dragons). This is a chance for the whole cast to develop and showcase their skills of storytelling as an ensemble.

7. Cast Breakdown

There are 7 characters in the play (please note that despite some of the characters being sex workers, there is no nudity or sex acts performed in the play):

- Zeppo - M
Owns a lot of the city, including the mysterious Pomona. Zeppo spends most nights driving the ring road, eating chicken nuggets. He seems to know something about the bad things that are happening but doesn’t like to get involved.
- Ollie - F
Has come to Manchester to look for her missing sister/has just started working as a prostitute. The person playing this part will also play Ollie’s twin sister (although this might not necessarily be obvious to the audience).
- Fay - F
Works as a prostitute. Fay tries to help Ollie (or her sister) when she first arrives at the brothel. Eventually, she stands up to Gale when she learns what has been happening. She has experienced violence from her ex-partner in the past.
- Keaton - F, small
Mysterious and quite reserved. Keaton doesn’t say much but somehow seems dangerous. She makes friends with Charlie when she attends one of his Dungeons and Dragons nights. The person playing this part will also appear silently in some scenes wearing a Cthulhu mask.
- Gale - F
Runs the brothel where Ollie and Fay work and also Charlie and Moe’s boss. Gale works for the mysterious people in charge of Pomona and . She is mean and ruthless, but also clearly terrified of her superiors.
- Moe - M
Works as a security guard outside Pomona with Charlie and gets ordered to kill someone. Moe takes things seriously. He talks less than Charlie and generally seems more suited to his job. He has a history of violence.
- Charlie - M

Works as a security guard outside Pomona with Moe and gets ordered to kill someone. Charlie likes role playing games and doesn't have many friends. He behaves in a naive, childlike way, which seems at odds with his job.

The script only specifies genders for the characters (and in Keaton's case, the fact that she is small) and none of the parts require particular ages or ethnicities. As the play is set in Manchester, it would be useful to know if you can do (or will be able to learn by the performance dates) a Manchester accent, but this isn't a requirement as some variety among the accents would be good.

8. About the Director

Tom has directed a few plays before, including productions of *Road* and *Sexual Perversity in Chicago*, but this will be his first time directing for a few years and the first time with KDC. He is usually seen performing and has appeared in several KDC productions as well as productions for other companies.

He sees there being two main aspects of the rehearsal process for this play: developing strong individual characters (which will be helped by the excellent script) and finding creative ways to tell a story as a group. As a director, he is very keen that the rehearsal process is collaborative and is usually very open to suggestions. Most importantly, he wants everybody to enjoy themselves and feel able to give the best performances they can.

9. Anything else?

Despite several of the characters working as prostitutes, there is no nudity or revealing dress in the play and while the play does cover graphic content (sex, violence), this is mostly only spoken about. There is only one scene of physical violence - a fight between Charlie and Moe.