



RICKMANSWORTH PLAYERS

Founded September 1944

www.rickmansworth-players.org.uk

Rickmansworth Players Audition Process

This document explains what to expect when auditioning for one of our shows (musical, play).

Rickmansworth Players Introduction for New Members

Rickmansworth Players is an Amateur Theatre Company with a 79-year history (formed 1944) - we stage 1 Adult Musical & 1 Adult Play a year.

In addition, in the last few years we have staged numerous additional performances including shows at the Watford & Brighton Fringe and hosted our own society Summer Theatre Festivals giving additional performance opportunities for you

You need to be a society member to audition - we do not allow any auditions without membership.

Membership of the Society is £30 Adults / £15 for Youth & Students per year (membership year starts in January).

Being an adult member does not only allow you to audition for a part in a show, it also allows you to be involved in other areas of the society.

- We have an active Choir with over 40 members – who rehearse on Tuesday evenings. Membership lets you join the choir and allows us to keep term fees to a low level of £30 per term (3 terms a year of 12/13 weeks)
- Entertainment – as a society we aim to run 4 social events a year with the intention that part of your membership costs (currently a third) will be used to subsidise costs. Our events include our anniversary party (2024 is our 80th anniversary), ceilidhs, dance classes and quiz nights
- We currently run a Youth Group from age 7-18 years old which performs one or two productions a year, in addition to working towards LAMDA Musical and Drama exams
- Backstage & Technical – As well as producing a fair amount of staging each year we are always looking for people to help out either for or before our performances – so whether this is creating a working Chitty Car or sewing the latest costumes we always welcome involvement
- Wardrobe – Membership of Rickmansworth Players allows you to socially hire any of our circa 2,000 costumes for fancy dress (or other) events at a cost of £5 per outfit. The Wardrobe is key for Rickmansworth Players as well as costuming our own shows we have schools and other societies borrowing Wardrobe & Props from our two storage facilities at Tudor Parade in Rickmansworth. If you are interested in volunteering, they are open on Tuesday and Sunday morning 10-12am and are always looking for new helpers. The donations from here contribute to the ongoing running costs of the society and enable us to product top class productions.



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Pre-Audition

Ricky Players run a very fair audition process. You will audition to a panel of directors and independent society members. Their job is to get the best and balanced cast for the show. They will give everyone a fair chance and will judge your performance on the day.

Pre-casting is never entertained. The audition panel are there to ensure a fully democratic decision is made on the day that protects the quality of the show and interest of the society. They have the ultimate responsibility to make the show a success. The rules the panel follow are:

- Go into the process with an open mind
- Give everyone a fair chance
- Be friendly and welcoming
- Cast the most suitable person for the role
- Ricky Player members will always be given priority over new members who have joined for the show if both are equally talented.
- If two equally talented Ricky Players members are both in the running, their contributions to the wider Ricky Players community may be considered.

Please remember...

- If 5 go for a part, 4 will be disappointed.
- Nobody deserves a part. Everyone has to earn it.
- Casting has to look right. Sometimes that means the most talented performer won't be cast because the balance also has to work, especially between couples.
- Everyone will be given a fair chance – make the most of your audition and speak up if you want to do something again but be respectful of timings. Audition day is a long day for the panel, and they have a lot to get through.
- Someone may get a part they haven't auditioned for, even if you did. This is because they ticked the 'other roles' box on the audition form or their performance during the auditions matches the artistic view the panel has for the role. They have the same rights to the part as you do. Be happy for them and accept graciously that they were chosen for good reason.
- If you are offered an alternative part, do consider it. It shows your efforts were recognised by the panel and they want you to stay involved.
- Trust & respect the decisions that are made by the panel, even if you don't agree.

If you are offered a part, there is also a show fee of £40 which will contribute to the costuming and staging of the show.

The relative low cost of our show fee is deliberately set up to be inclusive to all – however if fees are an issue, we do have Reserved Funds to allow access to theatre for all – please contact the Treasurer to discuss in confidence. Email philip.rae@yahoo.com



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Audition Tips

- Come along to the pre-audition show launch nights to ensure you've heard from the directorial team about their vision for the show and what they're hoping to see in your audition.
- If you are 'off book' you will do a better audition. You will look well prepared and be better able to concentrate on the character.
- Video auditions are almost never as good as being there in person. We highly recommend you make an effort to attend the audition day. If this really isn't possible, please contact the team to audition ahead of the main audition day. You will not be able to audition afterwards.
- Nerves may get the better of you but remember, everyone is in the same boat, and you have as good a chance as everyone else. Deep breaths!
- Audition for parts that are realistic for you and feel free to discuss this with the directorial team. They will help guide you to parts that might suit you.
- Ask for extra help in the pre-audition rehearsals to get yourself as prepared as you can be. The team will run through things until you are comfortable.
- Be prepared to tick the 'any other role' box. The audition panel may well see something in you that you don't see yourself.
- You will be given the chance to show all the material you've prepared for your main audition. If something goes wrong, just ask if you can start again. The panel want you to be able to do your best and are rooting for you.

Post Auditions

The cast list will be published by email. Congratulations if you made it!

The decision of the panel is final.

If you did not get the role you wanted, you may ask for feedback. Please send requests to hello@rickyplayers.co.uk. Feedback is given to help you develop. It is not a discussion, and the outcome will not change. Please understand the directors have a job to get on with as soon as the show is cast.

Ricky Players is so much more than just the actors on the stage. Hopefully you ticked the box to remain in the cast in some capacity but if not, there are many other ways for you to get involved which we strongly encourage you to do. There is a whole community of like-minded people for you to work alongside and many roles to be filled from costumes, props, lighting, sound, front of house, stage crew and publicity. To find out more, click 'Join our Community' on the website homepage.