



## **AUDITION NOTICE**

for The Premiere Playhouse's 2025 productions of

Local theatre by local artists:

William Shakespeare's

## ***THE PREMIERE PREMIERES + A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM***

**Auditions:** Tuesday, November 12th | 6:00pm–10:00pm

Wednesday, November 13th | 6:00pm–10:00pm

**Callbacks:** By invitation on Friday, November 15th from 6:00–10:00pm (*Premieres*)

By invitation on Tuesday, November 19th from 6:00–10:00pm (*Midsummer*)

**Location:** Orpheum Theater Center | 315 N. Phillips Ave.

## **CASTING TEAM**

***Producer & Casting Director:*** *Oliver Mayes, TPP's Managing Artistic Director*

### ***The Premiere Premieres***

**Stage Director:** Jen Luke | **Playwright:** Mikennah Oleson (*Aftermath*)

**Stage Director:** Casey Paradies | **Playwright:** Sigue Sueños (*Battle Cry*)

### ***A Midsummer Night's Dream***

**Stage Director:** Jeff Larsen | **Composer + Music Director:** Janice Gilbert

**Choreographer:** Leigh Spencer | **Assistant Director:** Joseph Karnof

## **NOTE ABOUT PARTICIPATION IN THESE PRODUCTIONS**

This season, for the first time, The Premiere Playhouse is offering travel honorariums (\$25 for *Premieres* & \$50 for *Midsummer*) to adult performers (ages 18+) who successfully complete their performer responsibilities and abide by the newly implemented attendance guidelines through completion of the production. Details for these actor guidelines and agreements will be disclosed upon the start of rehearsals. While working to maintain the volunteer spirit of being a community-based theatre & education organization, we also want to honor the work of our adult volunteer performers who may need assistance in transportation to and from rehearsals/performances or who would benefit from having extra food money to make up for their time spent in the theatre. Our volunteer appreciation activities most certainly have continued this season, so be ready for celebrations and food!

### **REHEARSAL & PERFORMANCE INFORMATION (THE PREMIERE PREMIERES)**

- **Rehearsals begin** on Sunday, January 5th & continue through Wednesday, February 12th.
- **Staging rehearsals run** Sundays from 1:00pm-5:00pm & Mondays through Wednesdays from 6:30-10:00pm. *Aftermath* will typically rehearse on Mondays & Wednesdays; *Battle Cry* will typically rehearse on Sundays & Tuesdays.
- **Cast Creation Day** for both shows (where performers participate in technical execution via paint, props, costumes, set, etc.) is scheduled for Sunday, January 26th from 4:00pm-7:00pm (interrupting rehearsal and finishing later than usual). Actors are expected to be in attendance on this day unless they have a previously approved conflict.
- **Theatre Load-in** is from Sunday, February 9th (daytime hours) through Tuesday, September 11th (business hours). Volunteering at this time is not required of actors but we encourage help if you are available since this is the largest challenge of our production process.
  - **Spacing & Technical rehearsals** are Sunday, February 9th (evening).
- **Dress rehearsals** are Monday, February 10th through Wednesday, February 12th (evenings).
  - **Actors are not called to every rehearsal**; an estimated schedule will be released with weekly/daily updates for accurate call times. We do our best to avoid conflicts but sometimes are unable to accommodate, in which case an actor must learn the material they missed on their own time via resources from stage management.
  - **Performances** are February 13th, 14th & 15th @ 7:00pm & 16th @ 2:00pm (4 total).
- **Strike/load-out** is on Sunday, February 16th following our final performance. Performers are expected to assist in this process & will be assigned according to their comfort/skill levels.
- **Actors are requested to be in attendance at every spacing/technical and dress rehearsal and performance** from September 9th to 16th (i.e. no conflicts allowed).
  - **Cast & Crew Party** will take place following our strike on Sunday, September 16th from approximately 7:30-10:00pm
- **Outreach Performances** will possibly be scheduled for this production. We are interested in working with actors who are excited about programming such as this.

### **REHEARSAL & PERFORMANCE INFORMATION (A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM)**

- **Rehearsals begin** on Monday, January 20th & continue through Wednesday, March 19th.
  - **Rehearsals run** Sundays from 12:00-4:00pm & Mondays through Thursdays from 6:00-9:30pm.
- **Cast Creation Day** (where performers participate in technical execution via paint, props, costumes, set, etc.) is scheduled for Sunday, March 2nd from 3:00pm-7:00pm (interrupting rehearsal and finishing later than usual). Actors are expected to be in attendance on this day unless they have a previously approved conflict.
- **Theatre Load-in** is from Wednesday, March 12th through Friday, March 14th (business hours). Volunteering at this time is not required of actors but we encourage help if you are available since this is the largest challenge of our production process.
- **Spacing & Technical rehearsals** are Saturday, March 15th & Sunday, March 16th (daytime).

- **Dress rehearsals** are Monday, March 17th through Wednesday, March 19th (evenings).
- **Actors are not called to every staging, choreography, and music rehearsal**; an estimated schedule will be released with weekly/daily updates for accurate call times. We do our best to avoid conflicts but sometimes are unable to accommodate, in which case an actor must learn the material they missed on their own time via resources from stage management.
- **Performances** are March 20th, 21st, 22nd, 27th, 28th, & 29th @ 7:00pm & 23rd & 30th @ 2:00pm (8 total).
- **Strike/load-out** is on Sunday, March 30th following our final performance. Performers are expected to assist in this process and will be assigned according to their comfort and skill levels.
  - **Actors are required to be in attendance at every technical & dress rehearsal and performance** from March 15th through 30th (i.e. *no conflicts allowed*).
- **Cast & Crew Party** will take place following our Sunday, March 23rd matinee performance.
- **Outreach Performances** will possibly be scheduled for this production. We are interested in working with actors who are excited about programming such as this.

### **ABOUT THE PREMIERE PREMIERES**

The Premiere Playhouse's three phase new play development initiative, *The Premiere Playwriting Program*, serves as a platform and development lab for local artists creating original theatrical works. In this program, we strive to nurture and further develop the skills of local writers and provide them with the tools necessary to bring their vision to life on stage. **Phase 1: Education & Submissions** – We host an annual Playwriting course in June. Through an open submission and blind review process, we seek out new, original one-act plays generated by talent residing in and around Sioux Falls, South Dakota. Submissions take place from April – June and the review process is from July – August. **Phase 2: Festival of New Plays** – Semi-finalist submissions are invited to produce concert readings in front of our esteemed panel of scholarly adjudicators consisting of theatre educators, directors, producers, writers, and adaptors where writers receive practical guidance and critical feedback on further developing their work, in addition to participating in a structured, open dialogue about the play with a moderator and audience members of the Festival. **Phase 3: The Premiere Premieres** – From these reading presentations, two finalist plays are chosen for full production treatment and further play development opportunities in our 3rd annual production of *The Premiere Premieres*. *This season's finalist selections are described below, and copies of the plays will be available for reading at the invited callback auditions:*

**AFTERMATH by Mikennah Oleson** – *Aftermath* centers on five normal people on a normal day. The catch? The world is ending... in an hour. A play about the lengths and extremes of who we love and what we'll do to get there.

**BATTLE CRY by Sigue Sueños** – *Battle Cry* is a play on the complexities and navigation of the intersectionality of being Indigenous and queer.

## **CHARACTER BREAKDOWN**

### **AFTERMATH by Mikennah Oleson**

*Looking for six (6) adult actors, no doubling of roles will occur.*

**Daphne** (25) – Sister of Jackie, Henry’s girlfriend.

**Henry** (25) – Elementary school teacher, son of Frank.

**Nick** (28) – Stand-up comedian, “unbothered”.

**Jackie** (31) – Pregnant, a little nervous.

**Frank** (Late 60s) – A father.

**Newscaster** (Offstage voice) – A newscaster.

### **BATTLE CRY by Sigue Sueños**

*Looking for two (2) adult actors & possible additional walk-on roles that are currently not listed.*

**QT** (thirty-something) – male, biracial (indigenous/white - more white passing), queer.

**Puff** (thirty-something) – male, white, straight.

## **ABOUT A MIDSUMMER NIGHT’S DREAM**

*A Midsummer Night’s Dream* is a comedy play written by William Shakespeare in about 1595 or 1596. The play is set in Athens, and consists of several subplots that revolve around the marriage of Theseus and Hippolyta. One subplot involves a conflict among four Athenian lovers. Another follows a group of six amateur actors rehearsing the play which they are to perform before the wedding. Both groups find themselves in a forest inhabited by fairies who manipulate the humans and are engaged in their own domestic intrigue. *A Midsummer Night’s Dream* is one of Shakespeare’s most popular and widely performed plays; The Premiere Playhouse’s production’s script for this play is adapted by its stage director Jeff Larsen and includes original music by Janice Gilbert, as well as movement choreography by Leigh Spencer.

## **CHARACTER BREAKDOWN**

*Looking for 16-22 actors, doubling of roles may or may not occur.*

### ***The Athenians***

**Theseus** (40-70) – Duke of Athens; he upholds ancient Athenian law and tells Hermia to mind her father.

**Hippolyta** (40-70) – Queen of the Amazons; she has recently been conquered by Theseus, to whom she is betrothed.

**Hermia** (18-30) – In love with Lysander; she cannot believe her eyes when Lysander suddenly dotes on Helena.

**Helena** (18-30) – In love with Demetrius; hopelessly in love with Demetrius no matter how much he tries to discourage her.

**Lysander** (18-30) – In love with Hermia; he remains faithful to Hermia until Puck accidentally causes him to dote on Helena instead.

**Demetrius** (18-30) – Suitor to Hermia; he is pursued by Helena and eventually, having been bewitched by Oberon, falls in love with her.

**Egeus** (40-70) – Hermia's father; he insists his daughter marry Demetrius, with threat of severe punishment.

**Philostrate** (any age) – Theseus' Master of Revels.

### ***The Mechanicals***

**Peter Quince** (any age) – A carpenter, their director and speaks the prologue; he proposes that the cast of *Pyramus and Thisbe* rehearse at night in the woods to avoid detection.

**Nick Bottom** (any age) – A weaver, plays 'Pyramus'; he becomes Titania's unlikely lover when Oberon casts a spell on her.

**Francis Flute** (any age) – A bellows-mender; plays 'Thisbe', opposite to Bottom

**Snug** (any age) – A joiner, plays 'Lion'; he is slow of study and finds his part hard to learn.

**Tom Snout** (any age) – A tinker, plays 'Wall'; he worries that the lion will scare the audience.

**Robin Starveling** (any age) – A tailor, plays 'Moonshine'; he confesses that he is afraid of the lion.

### ***The Fairies***

**Oberon** (40-70) – King of the Fairies; he uses magic to take revenge on his queen, Titania, when she refuses to turn over to him the Indian boy she has recently adopted.

**Titania** (40-70) – Queen of the Fairies; she is led to dote on Bottom by magic. She provides him with exotic luxuries.

**Puck** (any age) – Oberon's knavish sprite; also known as Robin Goodfellow, he is a trickster who pulls pranks and brings good luck.

**Peaseblossom, Cobweb, Moth, Mustardseed, & other fairies** (any age) – Servants to Titania; they sing, dance, and serve their queen.

## **AUDITION REQUIREMENTS**

- **REQUIREMENT for those ONLY auditioning for *A Midsummer Night's Dream* OR for BOTH productions:** Choose one of the [Shakespeare sonnets provided here](#) to perform in your audition. Memorization is welcome but not necessary, however, strong familiarity with the text is encouraged regardless of memorization level.
- **DIFFERENT OPTION for those ONLY auditioning for *The Premiere Premieres*:** If you are not comfortable speaking Shakespearean text or would like to do something different, choose one of [these provided speeches from the shows here](#) to perform in your audition. Memorization is welcome but not necessary, however, strong familiarity with the text is encouraged regardless of memorization level.

## **CASTING NOTES**

- Please arrive at the 6:00pm start time for auditions and communicate with us via email at [auditions@thepremiereplayhouse.com](mailto:auditions@thepremiereplayhouse.com) if you are not able to arrive on time. Youth actors will be prioritized in the audition order so they are released by 8:30pm. You are only required to attend one day of auditions.
- We welcome individuals age 12 and above to audition for *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and individuals age 18 and above to audition for *The Premiere Premieres*.
- Most roles in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* will be performed by adult/young adult actors but some roles may be cast as youth actors. Due to the content of both plays for *The Premiere Premieres*, all roles in this production will be played by adult actors.
- *A Midsummer Night's Dream* will host invited musician and movement calls at callback auditions; interested candidates should provide their musical and/or dance background(s) on their audition forms to be considered for these sessions.
- The pronouns or gender terms provided describe the “written” gender identity of the character in the story and may not necessarily reflect the gender identity of the actor playing them. Please feel free to express your interest or comfortability with playing roles of any gender expression. The same stands for any expressed terms of sexuality.
- The age ranges provided reflect the reasonable age range of the characters and may not necessarily reflect the actual age of the actors playing them.
- We host an inclusive audition space; we welcome performers of **all** ethnicities, gender identities, abilities/exceptionalities, and body types to audition.
- Understudies and swing performers may be cast, as possible and needed. More information on these positions will be provided at auditions and/or callbacks as necessary.

Please **complete your audition form** and register for auditions [here](#) by **Monday, November 11th at 5:00pm**. This is the deadline, however, earlier form submissions are encouraged. Requests for video auditions, questions, and updates can be directed to the casting team at [auditions@thepremiereplayhouse.com](mailto:auditions@thepremiereplayhouse.com) ***prior to the audition process beginning.***