



**Brentwood THEATRE Company**

**Actors' Information Pack – Christmas 2016**

for

**JAMES DEVITA's**

# Through the Looking Glass

**MUSIC AND LYRICS BY BILL FRANCOEUR**

**Welcome.....**and thank you for taking time to find out about us and our next professional production.

At Brentwood Theatre, we like to think that we are a little different. Whilst the absence of any regular arts funding makes our budgets very tight, we aim to make the audition process and, for the successful actors, their employed time with us as professional yet as fun as possible.

Casting is a two-way process: not only do we need to find out about your performing skills AND off-stage personality, it's equally important that you find out about us.

The following information about the Theatre and the show has been put together for all those who have expressed an interest in performing at Brentwood Theatre. We sincerely hope that it will help you to decide to come and audition for us.

Please take the time to read this pack and, if there are ANY questions please do not hesitate to get in touch – we will do our best to give as full an answer as possible.

**David Zelly**  
**Production Manager**  
**Brentwood Theatre Company**

## **Brentwood THEATRE**

**A brief history.....** Brentwood Theatre is owned and maintained by Brentwood Theatre Trust, a registered charity, and is the centre of our local community. The first performance took place on 3 December 1993.

As a charity, the Theatre pays neither rent (due to a special arrangement with Essex County Council) nor all of its rates (thanks to the generosity of Brentwood Borough Council). Similarly, we do not receive any regular funding and can only run self-funding projects; therefore we rely upon an entire Company (both on-stage and off) receiving less than market rates, as well as the support from a huge team of unpaid volunteers.

In 2008 a major rebuild of backstage facilities added proper dressing rooms, a new production office, workshop and, most exciting of all, a new multi-use space - The Audrey Longman Studio which has been each Company's home throughout the Christmas productions. You can look at our facilities and pictures of past shows in the extensive gallery section of our website at [www.brentwood-theatre.org](http://www.brentwood-theatre.org) - click on the tab at the top of the Welcome page marked 'Brentwood THEATRE Company'.

**Previous productions.....**Brentwood THEATRE Company is the trading name under which our in house professional shows are produced. The first, in December 2002, was David Wood's MEG AND MOG SHOW and following its success a children's show with music has been staged every year. These have included five further David Wood adaptations; THE NUTCRACKER SWEET, THE GINGERBREAD MAN, JAMES AND THE GIANT PEACH, FANTASTIC MR FOX and THE TWITS, two beautifully crafted Beatrix Potter shows - JEMIMA PUDDLE-DUCK AND HER FRIENDS and PETER RABBIT AND HIS FRIENDS, and the Brothers Grimm fairy tale HANSEL & GRETEL. In 2014 there was a return to David Wood and Roald Dahl with DANNY THE CHAMPION OF THE WORLD, and last year saw a very well received production of THE WIND IN THE WILLOWS.

Over the years we have worked with a number of Directors including David Toltek, Vernon Keeble Watson, Ray Howes and Joseph Walsh. We are delighted to announce that Ray Howes will return to direct 'Looking Glass' for us this coming Christmas.

**Christmas 2016**

**AUDITION FOR OUR 2016 PRODUCTION**

**JAMES DEVITA'S**

# Through the Looking Glass

**MUSIC AND LYRICS BY BILL FRANCOEUR**

**Produced by special arrangement with Pioneer Drama Service, Inc., Denver, Colorado**

*Join us on this fantastic journey with Alice & the White Rabbit into the realms of Wonderland, which transports children into a zany world of mixed-up nursery rhymes. Meet old friends and new, enjoy this new world experience with interactive catchy songs.*

## **Auditions**

We care about how we treat actors who are good enough to give up their time and pay their own travel expenses, therefore we strive to make the audition process as open as possible. We like to put you at your ease so that we see your best performance. We are an ideal training ground for those who are new to the profession, but also like to see experienced actors. We pride ourselves in the support given to company members and in the close theatre 'family' which inevitably develops.

## **Interested?**

If, after reading the detailed information below, you would like to audition for this production then please contact our cast co-ordinator - Peter Taylor ([peter@brentwood-theatre.org](mailto:peter@brentwood-theatre.org)) as soon as possible.

## **Who?**

We are casting the following roles using 8 actors - 4 male, 4 female – with the ability to sing and dance. Experience in children’s shows and ability to communicate with a young audience is preferable. Being able to work on a fast-paced, multi-character production is essential. Some experience with puppetry would be valuable.

**Female 1** – Alice. Strong lead, single role on stage throughout the production.

**Female 2** – White Queen (Defender of the crown), Vendor (At the American Ball Game), Tourist 2 (Part of group), Dixie Chicken (Rap singing group)

**Female 3** – Red Queen (Vicious aggressor), Tourist 5, Dixie Chicken 1

**Female 4** – White Pawn 1 (Servant of White Queen), Tweedle Dee (Part of a duo), Tourist 3, Dixie Chicken 3, White Knight (Proud Defender of White Queen), Responsibility 3 (Part of gospel group)

**Male 1** – White Rabbit, A Rose (Flower), Tourist 1, Humpty Dumpty (Jovial), An MC. (All American)

**Male 2** – Red Pawn 1 (Servant of red queen), Tweedle Dum (Part of Duo), Tourist 4, Red Knight (Aggressive Defender of Red Queen), Responsibility 1

**Male 3** – Red Pawn 2 (Nervous servant of red queen), A Tiger-lily (Flower), Catcher (At the ball game), Train conductor/tour guide, Responsibility 2.

**Male 4** – White Pawn 2, A Daisy (Flower), Umpire (At ball game), Ticket Seller, Dixie Chicken 4, Responsibility 4

## **Where?**

In the main Theatre auditorium with the ‘waiting room’ being The Spotlight Bar - the main public entrance. Directions to Brentwood Theatre are provided at the end of this information pack.

## **When?**

Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> September 2016, starting around 10-00am and you should be available to attend all day. In reality, some actors will be asked to leave at lunchtime when we make a ‘cut’.

## **Audition Format**

The final audition timetable and requirements have yet to be finalised, and will be confirmed by email closer to the date, however the format laid out below is a good guide.

On arrival please check in with our Audition Co-ordinator and then relax in The Spotlight Bar until called. Should you need to change, dressing rooms will be available – ask one of our volunteer staff for access.

The audition panel will consist of 5 people with other informal observers positioned around the auditorium.

The audition process is role specific and will begin with a group movement workshop:

- You will show us how well you can move. We will assess your sense of rhythm and timing, and watch you interact with other prospective cast members. We are not only looking for dancers, but also for your true personality to come out from behind the façade of the normal audition process.

The workshop will be followed by individual singing auditions:

- You will be asked to perform privately in the Theatre's main auditorium. Please prepare a chorus and verse from a Disney-esque song, up to one and a half minutes. You will also be asked to read a prepared monologue suitable for children of up to a minute and a half.

An appropriate break for lunch will allow the panel to deliberate, during which they will make a cut. Those who remain will be given an excerpt from the script of 'Looking Glass' from which to read.

- The second part of the audition will require a 'reading in' from the 'Looking Glass' script which will be opposite an actor brought in solely for this purpose. We do not expect a perfect delivery but we are looking for an understanding of the piece, also whether you can take direction.

### **Refreshments**

One of our volunteers will be on hand to ensure refreshments are available on arrival and at breaks. You are welcome to help yourself, but please keep our facilities clean and tidy.

### **Advising you of the outcome**

Everyone deserves the courtesy of a personal call irrespective of the outcome and we promise to let you know the result within a couple of days of the audition. Should you wish to receive specific feedback on your audition, our Director will be pleased to provide this at a mutually convenient time.

### **For those who are successful**

Initial contact regarding your success is likely to be brief as there will be a lot of post-audition calls to make. We'll therefore get in touch again, after which a formal contract will be produced, the key parts of which are:

- **Rehearsals** - intensive rehearsals will take place during a 2 week period starting Monday 21<sup>st</sup> November 2016, the second week of which also sees the Technical crew setting up.
- **Performances** – a 4 week run begins on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> December 2016 and ends on 31<sup>st</sup> December 2016 – up to 40 performances in total. In the first 2 weeks these are specifically for Schools.
- **Christmas & New Year** - there are no performances on 24, 25 & 26 December 2016. (*The final performance before Christmas is at 6pm on 23<sup>rd</sup> December, the first performance after the break is 6pm on 27 December*).
- **Payment** – £250-00 per week for a six-week contract (two weeks rehearsal, four weeks of performances). Payment is made each Friday usually by cheque or BACS.
- **Comps** – An allowance for 4 complimentary tickets will be made available.

### **Accommodation & Lunches**

If you are concerned about either travelling long distances between home and the theatre, or transport reliability - particularly as our Schools' performances start at 9-45am, - you will be pleased to hear we are often able to provide free local lodgings for the duration of the show courtesy of our network of supporters. During the rehearsal period excellent hot lunches may be provided at no cost by Brentwood School by arrangement with the Headmaster.

### **Video Recording.**

Subject to license, this production will be recorded by a professional videographer. DVD copies will be available after the show's final performance.



**THANK YOU FOR TAKING THE TIME TO READ THIS  
INFORMATION PACK.**

**WE SINCERELY HOPE THAT YOU WILL WANT TO COME  
AND AUDITION FOR US.**

27/5/2016