



Audition Notice

Sunset Boulevard

PLEASE NOTE: If you would like to be in the show in any capacity, ensemble, lead role or backstage/crew, please register your interest as soon as possible by emailing geoids.sunset@gmail.com

Geoids Musical Theatre is delighted to announce the audition dates for our upcoming musical *Sunset Boulevard* on the 16 July at 6:30 pm, 18 July at 10:00 am and 20 July at 6:30 pm.

About the Show

Sunset Boulevard weaves a magnificent tale of faded glory and unfulfilled ambition. Silent movie star Norma Desmond longs for a return to the big screen, having been discarded by tinsel town with the advent of "talkies." Her glamour has faded in all but her mind. When she meets struggling Hollywood screen-writer Joe Gillis in dramatic circumstances, their subsequent passionate and volatile relationship leads to a tragic conclusion.

The lush score features such haunting classics as "With One Look", "The Greatest Star of All", "As if We Never Said Goodbye", "The Perfect Year", and the emotionally charged title song "Sunset Boulevard".

The musical originally premiered in London in 1994 in an iconic production starring Patti LuPone and Kevin Anderson, before opening in LA and Broadway starring Glenn Close. The original production was famed for its extravagant sets as well as its backstage dramas, and it became the hottest ticket of the year, if not the most talked about new musical of the decade.

There has always been a great interest in the show, yet it is rarely performed. The last London production at the Comedy Theatre in 2008 used actor-musicians and presented a scaled down production, which proved the strength of the material and the possibility of a smaller production.

Geoids' production will mark the London amateur premier of this iconic Andrew Lloyd Webber show.

Register your interest in the show and book your audition space by emailing geoids.sunset@gmail.com. In order to ensure we are able to best allocate attention of the audition panel, please let us know your audition date preference.

Performances

6 October - 10 October 7:30pm with a matinee on Saturday 10 October at 2:30pm at the Bridewell Theatre.

Pre-Audition Workshop

An optional audition workshop will be held at St Gabriel's Hall, Pimlico, Churchill Gardens Rd, London SW1V 3AA at **7:00pm on Wednesday, 24 June**. The purpose of this workshop is to allow potential auditionees to meet the production team and become more familiar with both the show and the audition process. We will also go through the dance and musical numbers that will be used in the initial audition round. Please know that attendance is not required at the audition workshop. Materials shared at the workshop will also be available upon request for those who cannot attend.

PLEASE NOTE St Gabriel's Hall is **NOT** located at St. Gabriel's Church but a short distance away.

Auditions

There will be 3 first round auditions. Please note each session will **START** at the time listed below.

1. Thursday, 16 July at 6:30 pm at Lillington Gardens Community Hall, Pimlico SW1V 2LF, which is a short walk from Pimlico Station.
2. Saturday, 18 July 10:00 at Lillington Gardens Community Centre
3. Monday, 20 July at 6:30 pm at Bishopsgate Institute, 230 Bishopsgate London EC2M 4QH, which is a short walk from Liverpool Street Station

YOU MUST EMAIL TO REQUEST AN AUDITION SLOT.

Please email geoids.sunset@gmail.com with your first and second choice of first round audition. You will be assigned an individual slot for your singing audition, but please note that all auditions begin with a dance call, which begins at the time listed above. Once your slot is confirmed, you will be emailed the audition materials to prepare.

If you are unable to make these audition dates, please contact us as we may hold one supplemental audition if required, however, we can give no assurances that we will be able to accommodate such supplemental audition.

The initial round audition will involve a group dance audition and an individual singing audition.

Each session will begin with a warm up led by the choreographer, followed by a short dance call, where a routine will be taught to the whole group and performed together in front of the panel. Please note, the show commands different levels of dance requirements from different cast members, and the routine will have an extended section for those who are wanting to display additional dance skills. Due to the flexibility of the ensemble, we are looking for dancers with a range of skills and are looking to shape numbers around the skills of the company rather than commanding a set dance level that we expect everyone to start out with. While this is not primarily a dance based production, we are looking for a core ensemble that move well, as well as dancers who we can work with to showcase their abilities throughout each of the numbers.

The individual singing audition will involve a five-minute audition in front of the audition panel. Exact songs will be given out before the audition, and we will be asking the men to prepare an extract from "Sunset Boulevard" OR "The Greatest Star of All" and women will have the option of preparing extracts from "With One Look" OR "Too Much in Love to Care". The exact songs

will be distributed upon audition sign up and will also be distributed at the audition workshop. These will be the exact extracts that we will hear in full during the audition.

For those looking for a recording of the score for reference, please note the **American Premiere Cast recording** (i.e. the Glenn Close version) most closely follows the version of the show we will be doing and the keys used within the licensed score.

Recalls

Recalls will be held on **Friday 24 July at 7:00 pm** and will focus on principal characters. Please note recalls will involve singing and script reading depending on the character.

Rehearsals

Rehearsals will commence from **31 July**. Full cast rehearsals will be held on Friday evenings from 7:00 pm - 10:00 pm at Lillington Gardens Community Centre. There will be an additional rehearsal on Thursdays from 7:00 pm - 10:00 pm with lead characters at the Bonnington Centre in Vauxhall. There will also be a certain number of weekend rehearsals on either a Saturday or Sunday, and you will be advised of these in advance.

You will be required to notify us of any unavailability for Thursday, Friday and predetermined weekend rehearsals on your audition form. Availability for rehearsals is a key factor that will be considered by the audition panel. Unfortunately, if there are a number of N/As that cannot be reconciled against the proposed rehearsal schedule, you may be unable to be in the show. While it is understood that people's busy lives may result in certain unavailability developing after we start work on the show, you are required to promptly notify the production team of any changes in your availability. In the event of changes in availability from what is notified on your audition form, your participation in the show may be revisited.

Fees

If you are not already a member of Geoids, there is a suggested donation of £5 to audition for the show. If you are successful and cast then you must become a member of Geoids, which will cost a further £10. You can otherwise become a full member now for a total cost of £15. As well as covering your insurance as a performer, this entitles you to audition for free at any future Geoids show within that year.

Show fees for *Sunset Boulevard* will be £85, which help cover production related costs.

Rehearsal Venues

We will generally be holding Friday rehearsals at Lillington Gardens Community Centre, Pimlico, which is a short walk from Pimlico Tube Station. Thursday rehearsals will generally be held at the Bonnington Centre, which is a short walk from Vauxhall Station.

Required Availability

Aside from the rehearsals previously stated, cast will be required on the below dates:

Saturday 3 October (All day)

Sunday 4 October (All day) - Get in and Technical rehearsal

Monday 4 October from 6pm – Dress Rehearsal

Cast

The musical is unique in terms of the roles it offers for casting. The show has strong lead roles but relies just as much on the strength of the supporting characters and tight ensemble.

We wish to offer this production as a mid-sized show, looking for 20 cast members. There is a great deal of flexibility within the ensemble, as there are a many smaller speaking/singing roles that can be separated or doubled up where necessary. Furthermore, we are interested in having a core set of dancers who can be used in featured dance sections of the show.

We wish to stress that we are looking for a diverse company with a mix of ages and casting types. As much as the production is set, we are also planning on shaping the show around the company, in order to highlight specific skills and abilities, within the overall framework of the show.

It is important to note that we will be casting ages relative to the entire production. Rather than specify exact playing ages, we wish to encourage an open casting and will cast around actors rather than to specific ages. While achieving a sense of realism is obviously important, we are more interested in actors who have the ability to carry the role rather than committing ourselves to exact age brackets.

Leading Cast

Character Name	Sex	Vocal Range/Type	Description
Norma Desmond	F	ALTO: (Belt) F natural (below middle C) to E natural (top of staff)	Old time silent movie star. Looks younger than her actual age of around 50. Striking looking, once was a great beauty. Commanding, strong presence. Ability to hold a room.
Joe Gillis	M	BARITONE: A flat (below middle C) G natural (high - sustained)	A handsome disillusioned and opportunistic writer with a cynical attitude to Hollywood. A gigolo. Strong leading man – narrator of the entire show.
Max von Mayerling	M	BARITONE: G natural (below middle C) to G flat (high). Richer, classical voice.	Norma's butler and former husband with a "mitteleuropaisch" accent. Once a successful director, he is now a man servant to his former wife. Must have a striking, almost haunting presence.
Betty Schaeffer	F	ALTO (Bright): G natural (below middle C) to F (top of staff)	A clean-cut bright looking enthusiastic Hollywood girl. Falls in love with Joe. Romantic, optimistic lead – the opposite of Norma.
Artie Green	M	BARITONE: Lyrical	A fresh faced assistant director, friend to Joe and boyfriend of Betty. Good comic timing.
Cecil B DeMille	M	BARITONE: (A Flat to D natural)	Acclaimed Hollywood director. Older.

Featured Roles:

1. **Sheldrake:** a mournful and dyspeptic movie producer on the lot.
2. **Manfred:** an imposing men's outfitter (Baritone)

Supporting Roles:

We would be looking for an ensemble of approximately 5 men and 6 women to play the following named roles from the script and score.

Myron, Mary, Joanna, First And Second Finance Men, Sammy, Morino, Wunderkind, Secretary, Cliff, Katherine, Lisa, John, Anita, Adam, Waitress, Actor, Sandy, Larissa, Jane, Glenn, Danielle, Dawn, Barman, First through Seventh Salesmen, Richard, Jean, Actor #4, Guard, Jones, Heather, Hog-Eye, Astrologer, Masseur #1 And #2, Beautician #1, #2, #3 Analyst, Doctor, Journalist.

Production Team

Dom O'Hanlon – Director

Dom is a London based theatre director and writer originally from the North East of England. Training: RADA, Birkbeck, University College London. He has worked in the theatre extensively in both the USA and London and has a wide range of producing, directing and musical directing experience. Recent directing credits include: *John & Jen* (Drayton Theatre); *Damn Yankees* (Jack Studio Theatre); *I Love You Because* (Technis); *Parts We'll Never Play*, *The Wild Party* (Lost Theatre), *How to Succeed...*(Bridewell); *The Fix* (Winterflood); *West Side Story* (The Bloomsbury), *A Chorus Line* (Garage London) and *The Importance of Being Earnest* (Site specific). His production of *Into the Woods* (Bloomsbury) was selected as a finalist for the Sunday Times NSDF in Scarborough was personally supported by Stephen Sondheim. He recently directed the UK premiere of *Vote For Me: a Musical Debate* at the London Theatre Workshop. He is the resident Musical Director of the arts charity 'Dream Arts' and an Editor for the London and New York Theatre Guides.

Sarah Burrell – Musical Director

Sarah is a London based musical director and pianist. She is a co-founder of Pinot Productions, for whom she has musically directed professional productions of *John & Jen*, *I Love You Because* and *Songs for a New Word*. She was recently MD/Arranger of *Damn Yankees* at the Jack Studio Theatre as well as MD/Arranger of *Parts I'll Never Play* at the Battersea Barge. She has played Keys for a wide range of London fringe productions including *Moby Dick the Musical*, *The Wild Party*, *The Fix* and *Lend Me a Tenor*.

Honor Roche – Choreographer

Honor is a professional actor and dancer with a degree from Central School of Speech & Drama in Acting Musical Theatre. With over twenty years' experience in commercial, street dance and Ballroom & Latin American, Honor has competed and taught all over the UK, choreographing for theatre at the Edinburgh Fringe, regional theatre and music artists. Previous musical theatre choreography credits also include *Sweet Charity*, *Songs for A New World*, Andrew Lipka's *The Wild Party*, and *Return to the Forbidden Planet*.

Honor is an Associate-Level qualified IDTA Latin American & Ballroom instructor, teaching and choreographing for Karen Hardy of 'Strictly Come Dancing' fame in London, and has competed internationally for her in Europe and the United States.

Honor recently appeared as a professional on the Iranian 'Strictly Come Dancing' for Manoto One's television special, and she together with her professional 10-dance partner Adam Kent perform corporate shows in the UK and internationally.

Lizzy Rosser – Repetiteur

Lizzy is a London based pianist whose credits include: *Sweet Charity*, *Ghost the Musical*, *High Society*, *How to Succeed...*, *West Side Story*, *Into the Woods*, *Jekyll and Hyde*, *Jesus Christ Superstar*, *Cabaret*, *Honk!*, *I Love You*, *You're Perfect*, *Now Change* and numerous galas and concerts.

Blake Klein – Producer

Blake has produced, designed and directed shows that include *42nd Street* (Bridewell, Technical Producer), *Sweet Charity* (Cockpit, Producer), *Cabaret* (Creative Producer, Set and Lighting Design), *1776* (Creative Producer), *Jesus Christ Superstar* (Creative Producer, Set and Lighting Design), *Guys and Dolls* (Set and Lighting Design) and *Steel Magnolias* (Director/Creative Producer). He is also producing the upcoming play *Americana* (Bridewell).

Technical Director – Adrian Jeakins

Adrian is an all-round technician with extensive experience in theatre, events and conferences. Mainly specialising in sound and video, he is also a fully trained rigger and an experienced set builder. As a sound designer and engineer, Adrian has worked with a variety of groups of all genres. His main focus is musical theatre sound design but he also engineers for blues/funk band James and the Rabbit Hole. As a team lead at Imperial College Conference Office he delivered complex client led AV and IT services and was also house rigger, supervising and interfacing with external companies on behalf of the college. Adrian has also designed, built and operated a wide range of rigging systems including for scenery and performer flying. When not actually in a theatre Adrian works in the entertainment industry designing and developing control systems for LED video walls.

Production Design – John Winters

John is an avid set designer, with a strong focus on mechanisms and theatrical engineering in his past work. Previous set designs include, *The Producers*, *Noises Off*, *Guys and Dolls*, *Sweet Charity*, *Return to the Forbidden Planet*, *The Boyfriend*, *TEDx* and more. As well as acting as a staging consultant for a variety of productions such as *The Tempest*, *Road*, *Enron*, *Parade* and more, and producing *Earthquakes In London*. Since competing A level theatre studies, his formal training has been predominantly in science and engineering, however his creative drive has been continuously nurtured and developed through university theatre groups and others in London (SEDOS, Putney Arts). As a day job John is a freelance project manager for theatre redevelopment, and completing a PhD in applied physics at Imperial College London. Balanced in his spare time with being a trustee of a medium sized charity (£7m turnover).

For further information and to register your interest and preferred audition date please email:
geoids.sunset@gmail.com

You can also find us in the following places:

Online: www.geoidsmt.co.uk

Facebook: www.facebook.com/geoids

Twitter: [@GeoidsMusical](https://twitter.com/GeoidsMusical)