



Audition Notice – Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street

2 – 6 May 2018

Stockwell Playhouse

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 sweeney@geoidsmt.co.uk

Geoids Musical Theatre is pleased to announce auditions for our upcoming musical *Sweeney Todd*.

About the Show

Summary

An infamous tale, *Sweeney Todd*, an unjustly exiled barber, returns to nineteenth century London, seeking vengeance against the lecherous judge who framed him and ravaged his young wife. The road to revenge leads Todd to Mrs. Lovett, a resourceful proprietress of a failing pie shop, above which, he opens a new barber practice. Mrs. Lovett's luck sharply shifts when Todd's thirst for blood inspires the integration of an ingredient into her meat pies that has the people of London lining up... and the carnage has only just begun.

Sweeney Todd opened on Broadway in 1979 and in the West End in 1980. It won the Tony Award for Best Musical and Olivier Award for Best New Musical. It has since had numerous revivals as well as a film adaptation.

Concept

This new production of *Sweeney Todd* will evoke the spirit and feel of the original play on which it is based and the source material which inspired it. Written in the 1840s, the characters of Sweeney Todd and Mrs Lovett first appeared in the Penny Dreadful 'The String of Pearls'. Written at the height of Fleet Street's influence on the print industry the paper was produced cheaply for the working classes as 'sensationalist media' that would often inspire acts of crime and violence. Christopher Bond's play and Sondheim's musical capture the melodrama of the original source and in its original production, evoked the wider 'Beehive' structure of Victorian society. In a contemporary world once again ruled by sensationalist media, the idea of 'Fleet Street' as a political influencer and oppressor is all the more relevant. The mechanics of the print industry in the 1860s and Sweeney Todd's legacy as a creation of terror moulded by the social structure will be explored in a physical and relevant manner.

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

Performances

2 May – 5 May 7:30pm with matinees on 5 AND 6 May at 2:30pm at the Stockwell Playhouse.

Auditions

There will be 2 first round auditions dates. Please note each session will **START** at the time listed below. Please therefore arrive at least 15 minutes early to register. We will be conducting auditions in small groups, in which you will perform on your own in front of the production team and audition panel. There will be a short time at the start of each session to sing the material with the accompaniment and hear from the Musical Director.

- 1) Friday, 19 January at St Gabriel's Hall, Pimlico, Churchill Gardens Rd, London SW1V 3AA.
 - a) 7:00 pm
 - b) 8:00 pm
 - c) 9:00 pm

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

- 2) Saturday, 20 January at the Union Theatre, Old Union Arches, 229 Union Street, London, SE1 0LR. The nearest tube station is Southwark, served by the Jubilee Line. The Union Theatre is a 2-minute walk from Southwark Tube. We will be conducting auditions in small groups, which will begin at the following times:
 - a) 10:00am
 - b) 11:00am
 - c) 12:00pm
 - d) 1:00pm
 - e) 2:00pm
 - f) 3:00pm
 - g) 4:00pm

If you are unable to make these auditions, please email sweeney@geoidsmt.co.uk as an additional audition date may be scheduled.

YOU MUST EMAIL TO REQUEST AN AUDITION SLOT.

Please email Sweeney@geoidsmt.co.uk with your first and second choice of first round audition. You will be assigned an individual slot for your singing audition. Once your slot is confirmed, you will be emailed the audition materials to prepare.

The initial round audition will involve an individual singing audition and certain script reading. There will be no dance audition

The individual singing audition will be in front of the audition panel. We will ask men to prepare an extract from “Johanna”, “My Friends” OR “Epiphany”, and women to prepare an extract from “Green Finch and Linnet Bird”, “Worst Pies in London” OR “Wait”. The exact songs will be distributed upon audition sign up. As we have limited time in the auditions, it is requested that you come to the audition familiar with the singing materials. Please pick one song that best shows off your range and vocal type. Please don’t worry about limiting yourself to only one or two parts based on your selection – these songs have been suggested as they best suit the wider material required by the production.

If you are only interested in a specific role, *please* be honest in noting so on your audition form. It will not affect whether you are considered for that role, but it will avoid other potential performers being disappointed if we cast you and you drop out.

Recalls

Recalls will be held on 23 and 25 January. Recalls for different characters will be held on different days and you will unlikely be recalled for both days. Please note recalls will involve singing and script reading depending on the character. Recalls will be held at Lillington Gardens Community Centre, near Pimlico. Recalls will start from 7:00pm, however, specific call times will be scheduled.

Rehearsals

Full cast weekday rehearsals will be held on Tuesday evenings from 7:00 pm - 10:00 pm commencing 6 February. This rehearsal will generally be held at Lillington Gardens Community Centre. Weekend rehearsals will be held on Sundays commencing 11 February. This rehearsal will be held at either London Bubble Theatre Company, Bermondsey or Lillington Gardens Community Centre.

Please note that it is not envisioned that all cast members will be called for every rehearsal.

There will be an additional rehearsal on Thursday evenings with lead characters. Please note that it is not envisioned that all lead characters will be called for every Thursday rehearsal.

You will be required to notify us of any unavailability for Tuesday, Thursday and Sunday 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 £15. 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 *Sweeney Todd* will be £85, which helps cover production related expenses.

Required Availability

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

Saturday 28 April (All day)

Sunday 29 April (All day)

Monday 30 April from 6pm – Technical Rehearsal

Tuesday 1 May from 6pm – Dress Rehearsal

Cast

Casting remains incredibly open within this specific vision for the production. The aim is to build the show in many parts around the cast selected, so our minds are incredibly open to lead roles of differing types and ages. No 'ideal' type exists for any role; we're excited to see what you choose to bring within the suggested remit.

Sweeney Todd: A wrongly convicted master barber. He has returned to London seeking to right the wrongs committed against him, Johanna's father. He is powerful, vengeful, hot-tempered, intelligent, forceful, terrifying, brooding and morose with a certain cynical charm. Vocal range: Baritone - F2 - Gb4

Mrs. Lovett: An entrepreneurial and unscrupulous meat pie shop owner. She falls in love with Todd and turns his desire for revenge into a profitable business venture for herself. She is talkative, cheerful, manipulative, devious and ambitious with a sexual prowess. Vocal range: Mezzo w/belt - G3 - E5

Anthony: A naive and youthful sailor returning to London. He rescues Todd and unexpectedly falls in love with Johanna. Strong, brave and full of the joys of the world. Vocal range: Tenor - Bb2-F4.

Johanna: A high-spirited girl, full of innocence with a flirtatious demeanour. She is constantly yearning for freedom. Todd's long-lost daughter and Judge Turpin's ward. Vocal range: Soprano - Bb3-A5

Tobias: A poor simpleton youngster apprenticed to Pirelli and who finds a surrogate mother in Lovett. He is loyal, truthful and innocent to a fault with a heart of gold and a sharp eye. He does not trust Todd. Vocal range: Tenor - Bb2-Ab4.

Beggar Woman: An eerie, poor soul living on the streets of London making her living prostituting herself to sailors at London docks. She is a deranged and schizophrenic woman who harbors a dark secret. Vocal range: Mezzo - Ab3 - F5

Judge Turpin: A lecherous, corrupt and evil public official who portrays himself as sanctimonious. He takes advantage of his position in the city and is responsible for imprisoning Todd. He lusts after Joanna. Vocal range Bass - E2-Gb4.

Beadle Bamford: A pompous public official, deeply loyal to Judge Turpin. He is eager, violent, unscrupulous and terrorizing. Vocal range: High Tenor - D3-D5

Adolfo Pirelli: An charlatan and former employee of Todd's who has since developed a public persona as a flashy and flamboyant Italian barber. He is crooked, calculating and conniving with a hot temper. Vocal range: High Tenor - B2-C5

Male & Female Ensemble: A strong ensemble needed for this show. They act as a Greek Chorus commenting on the action and augmenting the story. Some of the roles they will portray include; Storytellers, Townspeople, Police, Lunatics and Customers. The Ensemble gets ample opportunity for vocal challenges and is showcased throughout. Vocal range: Soprano, Alto, Tenor and Bass Audition Song: The Ballad of Sweeney Todd

Ideally, we would like to cast 18-20 actors for this production. We are looking for strong singer/actors who love the challenge of playing multiple roles.

Production Team

Dominic O'Hanlon – Director

Dom O'Hanlon: Graduate of RADA, Birkbeck, UCL. Previous directing credits for Geoids include *A Chorus Line* (Bridewell); *Sunset Boulevard* (Bridewell); *The Fix* (Winterflood). Professional credits include: The European Premiere of *Vote For Me: A Musical Debate* (London Theatre Workshop); *john & jen* (Drayton); *Damn Yankees* (Jack Studio); *I Love You Because* (Technis); as Assistant, London revival of *Assassins* (Pleasance); *Just Another Love Story* (Brighton Fringe, London). He has worked for a number of London based amateur theatre companies including *The Wild Party* (Stockwell Playhouse); *How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying* (Bridewell); *Parts I'll Never Play* (Barge). Credits whilst training include *Into the Woods* (Bloomsbury Theatre); *The Importance of Being Earnest* (Site Specific); *A Chorus Line* (Garage); *West Side Story* (Bloomsbury Theatre) and *Into the Woods* (Sunday Times NSDF) which was personally supported by Stephen Sondheim. He is currently the commissioning editor of plays at Methuen Drama.

Erika Gundesen – Musical Director

Erika Gundesen is a distinguished graduate of the University of British Columbia in Canada as well as the Guildhall School of Music & Drama in London, where she was awarded a Masters in Performance as well as an Artist Diploma as an Opera Répétiteur. She recently completed an Assistant Conductor fellowship at the Guildhall, and joined the National Opera Studio in September as a Young Artist. Erika has worked as a freelance pianist, coach and conductor in Vancouver and London, including recitals, opera, and theatre productions. Recent credits

include *Carrie* (Vivo d'Arte), *Parade* (Vivo d'Arte), *Oliver!* (Vivo d'Arte), *Pirates of Penzance* (St. Monica's Players), *My Fair Lady* (Geoids Musical Theatre), *The Tale of Januarie* (GSMD), *RENT* (Vivo d'Arte), *Urinetown* (St. Monica's Players), *Ariane* (GSMD), *Side by Side by Sondheim* (GSMD), *Sweeney Todd* (Vivo d'Arte), *The Rape of Lucretia* (GSMD), *Parade* (London Theatre Workshop), *Our American Cousin* (Finborough Theatre), *Songs for a New World* (Jazzhands Optional), *Titanic* and *The Music Man* (Theatre Under the Stars Vancouver).

Blake Klein – Producer

Blake has produced, designed and directed shows that include *A Chorus Line* (Bridewell Theatre, Producer), *My Fair Lady* (Bridewell Theatre, Producer), *On the Twentieth Century* (Bridewell Theatre, Producer), *Sunset Boulevard* (Bridewell Theatre, Producer), *42nd Street* (Bridewell, Technical Producer), *Americana* (Bridewell Theatre, Producer), *Reefer Madness* (Bridewell Theatre, Assistant Producer), *Sweet Charity* (Cockpit, Producer), *Cabaret* (Creative Producer, Set and Lighting Design), *1776* (Creative Producer, Set and Lighting Design), *Jesus Christ Superstar* (Creative Producer, Set and Lighting Design), *Guys and Dolls* (Set and Lighting Design) and *Steel Magnolias* (Director/Creative Producer).

John Winters – Producer

John has worked on multiple play, musicals, and events including: *Pinocchio* (National Theatre, Draughtsperson), *Network* (National Theatre, Draughtsperson); *My Fair Lady* (Bridewell Theatre, Set Designer & Master Carpenter); *On The Twentieth Century* (Bridewell Theatre, Assistant Designer & Master Carpenter), *Sunset Boulevard* (Bridewell Theatre, Production Design & Assistant Producer), *The Producers* (Set Designer & Master Carpenter), *Earthquakes in London* (Producer), *TEDx Imperial College* (Technical Director & Set Design), *Guys And Dolls* (Set Designer), *Noises Off!* (Set Designer), *Wyrld Sisters* (Set Designer & Master Carpenter), *Sweet Charity* (Set Designer), *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum* (Set Designer). Now working as a Project Draughtsperson at the National Theatre.

For further information and to register your interest and preferred audition date please email: sweeney@geoidsmt.co.uk

You can also find us in the following places:

Online: <http://www.geoidsmt.co.uk/>

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/geoids>

Twitter: @GeoidsMusicalT