

CARDIFF OPEN AIR THEATRE FESTIVAL: EVERYMAN 19

Sophia Gardens
Cathedral Road
Cardiff CF11 9SQ



AUDITION NOTICE



by
JIMMY PERRY & DAVID CROFT

From adaptations by the original authors and by
IAN GOWER & PAUL CARPENTER

Director
Simon H West

Welcome to Maplins – Britain's favourite holiday camp – where the sun-drenched summer never ends. It's the start of a new season and Joe Maplin announces that he is setting up a camp in the Bahamas and needs female Yellowcoats to go and work there; the annual "Miss Yellowcoat" competition will decide who.

Based on the highly successful television series, *Hi-de-Hi* is an uproarious comedy taking place in Maplins Holiday Camp in Crimpton-On-Sea during the 1959 Summer Holiday Season. Featuring the original characters, this Festival version will be based on adaptations written by the original authors and Ian Gower & Paul Carpenter.

The original series ran for 58 episodes on BBC Television between 1980 and 1988.

Performance Dates: Thursday 27th June to Saturday 6th July 2019

11 performances over 10 days at the Cardiff Open Air Festival Theatre, Sophia Gardens, Cardiff

Performances every evening at **8pm** with **matinees on Saturdays 29th June & 6th July.**

No performances on Sunday 30th June

Technical & Dress Rehearsals: Sunday 23rd June to Wednesday 26th July

The first rehearsal will take place late April.

Rehearsal days: Tuesday and Thursday evenings, some Saturday afternoons and Sundays all day.

Rehearsals will be carefully scheduled and not everyone will be called to every session.

Additional rehearsal days may be called nearer production period.

Please note that all performances take place in the open-air.

Character Breakdown

All parts are available, casting is open and newcomers to the Festival are welcome and encouraged. It is the Director's intention that the audience will be our 'holidaymakers', so this production will contain some 'Camp Entertainment' scenes: songs, sketches, dance routines etc. Most cast members should therefore have some singing and movement ability (e.g. the whole cast will be required to sing 'Holiday Rock') and be comfortable relating energetically to our 'campers'!

ROLES FOR FEMALE ACTORS

GLADYS PUGH	Chief Yellowcoat: Sports Organiser & Radio Maplin Announcer: <i>Dedicated to her job and has won the Award for 'most popular girl Yellowcoat' every year since joining Maplins. She is passionately – yet unrequitedly – in love with Jeffrey Fairbrother, disapproves of Ted's scams and dislikes all the other Yellowcoats! Required to sing and move. Strong Welsh accent is a must.</i>
PEGGY OLLERENSHAW	Chalet Maid: <i>On the housekeeping staff and responsible for staff chalets but desperately aspires to be a Yellowcoat and tries to be involved in as much as the Entertainment as she can. She loves every minute and her reliability and kindly nature endear her to the entertainments staff. Naïve, eccentric and a vivid imagination. Will be required to sing and dance. Lancashire accent.</i>
YVONNE STUART HARGREAVES	Dance Instructor: <i>Dances with her husband, Barry. They have a tempestuous relationship on and off the dance floor. Well-spoken (though accent likely false as she was born in Southport). Very supercilious and believes she is socially above all others. Tries to keep her dignity and values but it's not easy when she is forced to participate in 'demeaning' or 'humiliating' camp entertainment. Some Ballroom Dance ability/ experience preferred.</i>
SYLVIA GARNSEY	Yellowcoat: <i>The flirty, sexy blonde Yellowcoat who is very much a thorn in Gladys's side. Known by the campers for her long legs and short shorts. Gladys deems her lazy, loose and inclined to have her hands in her pockets.</i>
BETTY WHISTLER	Yellowcoat: <i>Drama school graduate and qualified swimming instructor. Feisty and sexy.</i>
TRACY BENTWOOD	Yellowcoat: <i>Former club champion in tennis. Sporty and flirty</i>

ROLES FOR MALE ACTORS

JEFFREY FAIRBROTHER	Entertainments Manager. <i>Anxious, nervous and harassed; the epitome of upper-class embarrassment. Left academia for Maplins in order to 'see life'. He is totally unsuited for the position and to add to his awkwardness, he is being passionately pursued by Chief Yellowcoat, Gladys Pugh. Deadpan delivery yet excellent comic timing. Standard English accent. Will sing with others in the finale but no dancing required!</i>
TED BOVIS	Camp Host: <i>Runs every event at the camp. Still believes he can make it big in showbusiness and won't accept that Maplins is the best that he will do. Always scamming the campers but is lively, warm and well-liked. Must have great comic timing, an ability to sing and develop excellent rapport with the audience but also able to bring pathos to the role. Yorkshire accent.</i>
SPIKE DIXON	Camp Comic: <i>Willing to wear the most ridiculous costumes and be the butt of any stage business as long as it makes the campers laugh. An aspiring comic at the optimistic beginnings of his career. Looks up to Ted and is willing to be mentored by him but often shocked at Ted's scams. Naïve but kind-hearted and honest. Will be required to sing. Basic movement ability preferred.</i>
FRED QUILLEY	Riding Instructor: <i>Disgraced jockey hoping to win back his license. A bit coarse and vulgar. Can be bad tempered. Passionate about his horses but willing to take part in other camp entertainments so will be involved in the comedy sketches/routines and musical numbers. London accent possible but not essential.</i>

BARRY STUART-HARGREAVES	Dance Instructor: <i>Dances with his wife, Yvonne, and is always ready to bring her down a peg or two with a raised eyebrow and pithy put-down. He is also regularly chosen – against his will – to be the ‘victim’ of the camp entertainment events. Standard English Accent. Some Ballroom Dance ability/experience preferred.</i>
WILLIAM PARTRIDGE	Children’s Entertainer: <i>Ex Music-Hall Act in the twilight of an illustrious career eking out a living performing as a reluctant Punch and Judy man or doing magic tricks as Willie the Wizard. He is always referred to as ‘Mr Partridge’ out of respect. Despite being a children’s entertainer, he dislikes children intensely and spends most of the season in a grumpy, alcoholic haze.</i>
MR PRITCHARD	Holidaymaker: (Cameo role). A camper so obsessed with Gladys that he holidays at Maplins every year just to hear her voice!
GARY BOLTON	Yellowcoat: (Cameo role). Vain. Obsessed with his appearance. May double with Mr Pritchard.

NOTES

- As the ‘front-line’ staff at Maplins, the **Yellowcoats** will feature in scenes, sketches and songs during the show. Will be involved in lots of audience participation. All must be able to sing and dance. Girl Yellowcoats may be required to appear on stage in a bikini, swimsuit or underwear.
- We may also require non-speaking **Extras** to appear on stage. These may include other **Yellowcoats, Campers and Bar Staff** plus **‘Ramona’** at the Poolside Organ. These roles may be combined with Assistant Stage Manager / Crew duties.
- Whilst the aim is to build our own show rather than seeking to mimic the TV version, we must respect the characterisations with which audiences are familiar. It is strongly recommended that anyone intending to audition should try to view some of the TV performances – although extracts on YouTube are few.

From The Director

“It is 1959, the end of a decade and a time when the popularity of domestic holidays was in decline as the package holiday lured families abroad. Many of the characters in Hi-de-Hi are also in the autumn of their careers looking back at their days at the ‘top of the Bill’ – whilst Peggy achieves her dream of becoming a Yellowcoat just at the point at which the holiday camps begin to close. The series was based on Jimmy Perry’s experiences as a Butlins Redcoat and include many character types, situations and acts that he saw during his time there. It developed a huge following and won a BAFTA award in 1984. Just like Perry & Croft’s ‘Dad’s Army’, ‘Hi-de-Hi’ is truthful, nostalgic, heart-warming and funny.

As well as featuring the characters from the first few seasons of the TV series and some familiar storylines, I also intend including some of the entertainment – songs and sketches – that were familiar to campers of the period drawn as they were from the days of Variety and the ‘End-of-the-Pier’ shows. It promises to be a great evening’s entertainment for our Festival audiences.

So ... I am looking for a company of strong, uninhibited comedy players that excel in character roles. There will be plenty of opportunity for casting if you can offer the strengths of acting, with some vocal and movement skills, the ability to bring truth and pathos to a role plus the technical requirements of being heard in the open-air!

A quick note about rehearsals: BE THERE! I can work around scheduled unavailability and you will not be called unless I intend working with you; those who have worked with me before will know that rehearsals are busy and concentrated but always fun! Looking forward to seeing both new and familiar faces at the auditions.” - SHW

Simon H West is a freelance director, performer and producer. Before he trained at the Bristol Old Vic Theatre School, Simon was a member of Everyman Theatre and appeared in many of their productions at Dyffryn Gardens and Chapter Arts Centre. Since then he has directed over fifty professional productions for the stage, appeared in theatre, television and commercials across Europe and lectures in Theatre for University of South Wales and Cardiff and Vale College. He also directs regularly for Simply Theatre Academy in Geneva, Switzerland. He directed his first production for Everyman – Shakespeare’s ‘Twelfth Night’ – at the 2001 Festival. Other Festival shows include ‘A Midsummer Night’s Dream’, ‘Comedy of Errors’, ‘The Merry Wives of Windsor’, ‘The Gondoliers’, ‘HMS Pinafore’, ‘Blackadder II’, ‘Blackadder the Third’, ‘Allo ‘Allo!’, ‘Macbeth’ and last year’s acclaimed production of ‘The Merchant of Venice’. With GO Productions, Simon has also co-produced the Festival’s Family Show since 2013 as well as productions of ‘Confusions’, ‘Flint Street Nativity’, ‘13: The Musical’, ‘Carrie’ and ‘Be More Chill’. ‘Hi-de-Hi’ will mark his twenty first year as part of the Festival and his fourteenth production as a director.

The Auditions

Before auditioning, please take a moment to consider the necessary level of commitment.
Take careful note of the rehearsal period and be honest about your availability within it.
Although the rehearsal process takes place over a number of weeks, consistent and punctual attendance is essential,
as we will be operating within a very tight schedule.
A high level of unavailability, persistent lateness and/or no-show will regrettably result in your
being asked to leave the production.

Auditions will be held at **Chapter Arts Centre (or other venue as notified)** on -

- **Tuesday 5th February, 6pm – 9pm at Llanover Hall Arts Centre**
- **Wednesday 6th February, 6pm – 9pm at Llanover Hall Arts Centre**
- **Thursday 7th February, 6pm – 9pm at Llanover Hall Arts Centre**
- **Sunday 10th February 11am – 1pm & 2pm – 5pm**
- **Recalls (if any) will be held on Sunday 17th February**

- **If you would like to audition but cannot attend on any of these days, please let us know as soon as possible.**
- Please arrive **15mins before** your audition slot and bring with you your completed audition form with photograph attached. Spare audition forms will be available on the day.
- **When booking an audition slot**, please refer to the character breakdown.
- You will be **reading** dialogue and may also be asked to work with other auditionees. Scripts will be provided. Please arrive in good time to look at them. Any singing/movement auditions will be held at recall stage.
- **Not being recalled** does not necessarily mean you are not being considered for a role.
- **Please note** that attendance at the Festival Company Meeting on Sunday 5th May – all cast expected to attend.

To reserve your place at the audition, etc
Please email Amanda Smith on: nearly50@outlook.com
Telephone: **07540434046**

We look forward to seeing you!



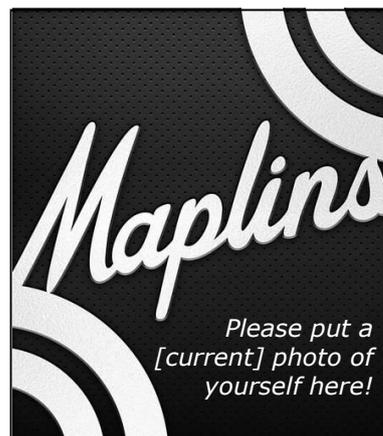
Cardiff Open Air Theatre Festival: Everyman19

Audition Form for

Hi-de-Hi [2019]

To book your audition time please contact
Amanda Smith: nearly50@outlook.com Telephone: [07540434046](tel:07540434046)

**Please write clearly and don't forget to bring this form
with photograph to your audition!**



Name.....

Date of audition.....time.....

Address.....

Postcode.....email address.....

Tel.no [home]..... [work/mobile]

Height.....

ANY SPECIAL SKILLS – e.g., dancing, singing, juggling, musical instrument playing,
etc.....

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Please state **any and all commitments** [family / work / holidays / other shows etc] that conflict with the rehearsal period!

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PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE [continue overleaf if necessary].....

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Are you auditioning for the other Festival shows? Yes / No (if yes, please state which ones)

Are you already a member of Everyman Theatre? Yes / No (please note that everyone cast must become an Everyman member)

PLEASE DO NOT WRITE BELOW THIS LINE

NOTES:

Not cast / recalled / cast as acceptance rec'd: **yes/no**