



AUDITION PACK BRONTË

Tue 25 – Sat 29 October 2022, Seligman Theatre, Chapter

POLLY TEALE BRONTË

Polly Teale’s literary reimagining of the turbulent lives of the Brontë sisters portrays the women from childhood to death, weaving back and forth in time. In 1845, their brother, Branwell, returned home to Haworth, West Yorkshire, in disgrace, having been dismissed from his employment following an affair with the mistress of the house.

As their brother descends into alcoholism and insanity, his sisters, Anne, Charlotte and Emily, attempt to keep the household together and protect their father, Patrick. In the midst of chaos, they write more furiously than ever before.

*Focusing on their creation of *The Tenant of Wildfell Hall*, *Jane Eyre*, and *Wuthering Heights* respectively, their journeys and engagement with their characters offers a glimpse into the states of mind of the sisters during this time. Each feels tortured and ill-at-ease in their own way, as they struggle to align their literary creations with real life.*

With a certain amount of mystery surrounding the artistic legacy of the Brontë sisters, Polly Teale’s interpretation of their fractious relationship and tortured ambition presents a fascinating glimpse into the lives of three of Yorkshire’s most famous authors.

Director
Pamela Chappell Wiener

Performance Dates	Tuesday 25 October – Saturday 29 October 2022 N.B. There will be a matinee on the Saturday
Performance Venue	Seligman Theatre, Chapter
Rehearsal Dates	Likely from mid-August but booked holidays will be taken into account <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Tuesdays & Thursdays 19:00 – 21:00 - Saturdays 10:00 – 13:00 & 14:00 – 17:00 - <i>These days are provisional and subject to confirmation as the rehearsal period overlaps with that of Road.</i> Get-in: Sunday 23 October Dress rehearsal: Monday 24 October (evening)
Auditions	Fri 6 May, 18:00 – 22:00 (First Space, Chapter) Sat 7 & Sun 8 May, 10:00 – 17:00 (Stiwdio Seligman, Chapter)
Book your audition:	CONTACT PAM WIENER Email: pamsash@virginmedia.com <i>Please state your preferred audition date.</i>
Preparation:	Please include as much information as possible on the accompanying form and send it when booking your audition . You do not need to prepare anything in advance. Auditions will be held in group slots and will involve some movement / physicality.

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DIRECTOR'S NOTES

This is a play that looks at the drab, restricted and constrained lives of these three celibate women, whose fertile, rich and unfettered imaginations are responsible for writing some of the most-read novels and best-loved characters in the English language. It explores their relationships, internal and external struggles and offers an insight as to who they might have been. It is, above all, a piece of theatre, so while there is biographical detail, there is make-believe and imagination.

The style will be a fusion of Naturalism / Realism and a more emotive Expressionism in performance and design elements. What does this mean? Well, there will be a requirement for emotional depth and physical expression that moves beyond a Naturalistic characterisation, so the actors should be prepared for this, as well as for doubling of roles (see character breakdown) and playing characters at different ages truthfully. Above all, I'd like the cast to be open to ideas and creative with expressing emotion with their whole being!

There are many moments where the timelines cross one another on stage and where a character's internal truth is externalised alongside the façade they show the world. My vision includes the use of projected images/film and a music soundscape, alongside the acting performances to layer the audience experience of the play.

CHARACTER BREAKDOWN

Playing ages of the characters will be relative to each other, though the actor cast as Patrick Brontë will look old enough to be their father.

- CHARLOTTE BRONTË** (Female) The eldest of the siblings, who wrote *Jane Eyre*. Charlotte struggles with reconciling her passions and societal expectations. She is 31, though also seen in the play as a child, as a teenager and at her death, aged 48. She "becomes" Jane (Eyre) in Act 2, casting herself as the "good angel".
- EMILY BRONTË** (Female) The writer of *Wuthering Heights*, Emily struggles with the lack of freedoms forced upon Victorian women and loves the outdoors. She is 29, though also seen as a child and teenager.
- ANNE BRONTË** (Female) The youngest sister and writer of *Agnes Grey* and *The Tenant of Wildfell Hall*. Anne has a social conscience, seeing the world around her. She is 27, though also seen as a child and teenager.
- CATHY / BERTHA** (Female) Catherine Earnshaw and Bertha Rochester are characters from *Jane Eyre* and *Wuthering Heights* that haunt their creators, to whom they are similar in age. A physical and expressive performance is required, with different qualities for each role: Cathy represents Emily's longing for freedom and is portrayed when the character is going insane; Bertha represents the sexuality that Charlotte (and Victorian society) represses.
- BRANWELL BRONTË / HEATHCLIFF** (Male) The second-eldest sibling, Branwell is afforded all the rights of men in the 19th Century. Perhaps the most tragic figure of the play, ruined by the weight of other people's expectations, by fear of failure, and the pressure to succeed. He is 30, though also seen as a child and a teenager. The same actor will play Heathcliff, the anti-hero character from *Wuthering Heights*.
- PATRICK BRONTË / EDWARD ROCHESTER / BELL NICHOLLS / HEGER** (Male) Patrick is the widowed patriarch of the family. The same actor will play Rochester (the hero of *Jane Eyre*), Charlotte's husband Bell Nicholls, and a teacher named Heger.