

## CASTING CALL- TWO NOBLE KINSMEN

York Shakespeare Project seek a community cast and production team for their production of The Two Noble Kinsmen, a rarely performed work by William Shakespeare and John Fletcher. Tom Straszewski (Bronzehead Theatre and the York Mystery Plays) will direct. This isn't a play about love. It's about obsession, possession, toxic masculinity, unrequited desire, and how this heady, noxious brew ruins lives.

Our setting is the early 19th century in the immediate aftermath of the Napoleonic wars. Think Jane Austen, William Blake, and savage Gillray cartoons. Think the revolutionary fervour and excess of Lord Byron, and the proto-feminism of Wollstonecraft and Mary Shelley. Think clashes between lusty, brutal rustics and an inhuman industrial revolution. Think prison-hulks, chamber music, maypoles and morris dancing. We are looking for a cast of 15-20 actors of all ages, races and genders, playing everything from shining knights and stubborn queens to ignoble baboons and rustic Morris dancers. We seek actors of all levels of experience for all roles. We embrace cross-gender casting.

### PRINCIPAL ROLES (100-250 lines) INCLUDE:

- \* PALAMON and ARCITE, two noble cousins who, imprisoned, fight over the same love-interest;
  - \* The GAOLER'S CHILD, who falls madly love with Palamon;
  - \* THESEUS, a mighty warrior and a stubborn ruler;
  - \* EMILIA and HIPPOLITA, two Amazons, torn from their homes and seeking shelter.
- We would welcome interest from BAME actors in these two roles.

### MID-SIZED ROLES (c.50-100 lines) INCLUDE:

- \* A devoted WOOER, a comical GAOLER, a sleazy DOCTOR, and a priggish SCHOOLTEACHER.

### SMALLER ROLES INCLUDE:

- \* Six morris-dancing RUSTICS, three bereaved QUEENS, and a DANCING BABOON.

Rehearsals will commence in early February and will take place in York, no more than two evenings a week as well as Sunday afternoons.

Performances will be in late April or the first week of May, depending on the venue. A matinee performance at the Dell in Stratford-Upon-Avon is planned for the early summer.

If you want to be a part of this, we invite you to audition in the week commencing 29th January (details to be confirmed). You will be asked to perform a short (10-20 line) Shakespeare monologue of your choice, prepared in advance, and then to work with Tom and another actor on a short section of dialogue from the play.

To arrange an audition, please e-mail [tom.straszewski@gmail.com](mailto:tom.straszewski@gmail.com) with a brief outline of your experience or a theatre resume, no later than **Thursday 25th January**.

We are also currently recruiting for an assistant director, stage management, a costume designer, and a music director with experience in chamber music. If you are interested in any of these then please e-mail Tom to arrange a meeting.