**Dear Director**

Thank you for showing an interest in the Sterts Summer Season 2020 director positions. Below you will find some basic information on Sterts and how we operate, as well as a profile sheet for each of the in house productions for next year.

If you would like to apply for one of the director roles, please email Mark on office4@stertsarts.org including your Curriculum Vitae and a brief description (no more than 500 words) of your vision for the piece.

**Sterts Summer Season In House Productions**

As a registered charity Sterts is committed to providing opportunities for community theatre as part of the summer season. Below is a brief description of the 2020 community theatre programme, including any relevant information that you will need to know when considering your application, so please read carefully.

**Directors Fee**

Each director will receive a modest fixed fee (depending on the production) which will be paid in two installments as set out in the directors contract.

**Budget:**

Each production will receive its own budget which the director will be responsible for.

**Rehearsals:**

Rehearsal days and times are negotiable but they will take place either in one of the two spaces at Sterts or in the surrounding venues nearby. Depending on how the directors wish to work, rehearsals could start as early as February 2020.

**Performances:**

Each of the summer in house shows (excluding The Birds) has 8 or 10 performances scheduled across the summer. Directors will not be contractually obliged to attend each performance, although we advise that they do attend a selection of the performances to ensure that their vision is maintained throughout the season.

**Resources and Support:**

Volunteers

Sterts has a network of skilled volunteers some of whom have specific roles within the charity- costume department, props, stage management, chaperones etc. Directors are welcome to bring in their own volunteers as part of your production team.

Theatre Technicians

Sterts employs two professional lighting and sound technicians who will support the directors on the technical aspects of your production.

**The Productions**

Please see below for the Production Profiles

**Wendy and Peter Pan by Ella Hickson**

Script: <https://www.nickhernbooks.co.uk/wendy-peter-pan-1>

Cast restrictions: All characters in this adaptation are played by adults and so **actors must be over the age of 16 to audition**

Audience: Whilst the play retains many of the ingredients to enthral children, Ella Hickson’s adaptation delves deeper, with more adult themes including sexual awakening and grief. These themes are tackled skilfully so as not to compromise the suitability for children in the audience. The adaptation is arguably more sophisticated than versions which have come before it and certainly more suitable for a contemporary audience with an emphasis on strong female characters.

Description: Ella Hickson's superb adaptation of J.M. Barrie's much-loved story puts the character of Wendy firmly centre stage in a clever and contemporary retelling which skilfully retains all the fun from the original play whilst presenting the tale from Wendy’s point of view. The play was originally performed by the Royal Shakespeare Company in 2013 and was revived in 2015. Sterts have been given special permission by the RSC to perform this work. Hickson suggests that behind the swashbuckling, the ticking crocodile and the kidnapping to Neverland, the real dramatic action lies not with Peter but with Wendy. On the cusp of adolescence, she is the one being pulled between the freedom of childhood and the responsibilities of adulthood. Directors with experience in physical theatre/movement would be preferable.

Auditions: Audition dates can be negotiated but should take place between **Saturday 1st and Sunday 9th February**

Rehearsals: Can be negotiated, although rehearsals should take place **evenings and/or weekends** only to accommodate cast members who work or are in full time education.

Opening Night: Wednesday 24th June

 Eight shows across the summer season

**THE BFG Adaptation by David Wood:**

Script: <https://www.samuelfrench.co.uk/s/6407/the-bfg-big-friendly-giant>

Cast restrictions: As the Sterts Family Show, the casting for this production is fully inclusive. All auditionees will be accepted into the cast. Auditions for the principal roles will take place as normal.

Audience: The family show is suitable for all ages.

Description: Roald Dahl’s most outlandishly vulgar stories about a ‘whiz-popping’ Big Friendly Giant who teams up with the little girl Sophie to save the children of England from the child-eating Fleshlumpeater, Bonecruncher and Gizzardgulper.

Directors with experience in children’s theatre, working with children, physical theatre and puppetry would be advantageous for this production. You will be working with a musical director on this production.

Auditions: Audition dates can be negotiated but should take place between **Saturday 1st and Sunday 9th February**

Rehearsals: Can be negotiated, although rehearsals should take place **evenings and/or weekends** only to accommodate cast members who work or are in full time education.

Opening Night: School Matinees -Thursday 2nd July and Friday 3rd July at 10am.

Opening Night -Friday 3rd July 7.30pm

There are ten performances across the summer season.

**Guys and Dolls by Frank Loesser:**

Script: <http://guysdolls.weebly.com/uploads/5/7/4/7/5747752/full_script__1_.pdf>

Cast restrictions: Negotiable

Audience: Suitable for all ages

Description: Hailed as the perfect musical comedy, Frank Loesser’s classic tale of gangsters, nightclub singers and Salvationists features hit songs including Luck Be a Lady, Adelaide’s Lament and the show stopping Sit Down, You’re Rocking the Boat! You will be working with a Musical Director on this production. Choreography skills would be preferable but not essential.

Auditions: Audition dates can be negotiated but should take place between **Saturday 1st and Sunday 9th February**

Rehearsals: Can be negotiated, although rehearsals should take place **evenings and/or weekends** only to accommodate cast members who work or are in full time education.

Opening Night: Thursday 23rd July

There are eight performances across the summer season.

**Shakespeare Play:**

Cast restrictions: Flexible depending on your vision for your production

Audience: As above

Description: Sterts is opening up the Shakespeare choice to directors who are invited to submit a pitch for their preferred Shakespeare play.

Unfortunately we are unable to consider Macbeth, Midsummer Night’s Dream, Hamlet or Much Ado About Nothing this year.

Auditions: Audition dates can be negotiated but should take place between **Saturday 1st and Sunday 9th February**

Rehearsals: Can be negotiated, although rehearsals should take place **evenings and/or weekends** only to accommodate cast members who work or are in full time education.

Opening Night: Thursday 30th July

There are eight performances across the season.

**The Birds by Conor Mcpherson:**

Script: <https://www.hive.co.uk/Product/Conor-McPherson/McPherson-Plays-Three/15361295?gclid=EAIaIQobChMI8fjvhp_Y5QIVAuDtCh1Anw_WEAkYAiABEgIlrPD_BwE>

Cast restrictions: 18+

Audience: 16+

Description: Intense, menacing and claustrophobic, Conor Mcpherson’s adaptation of the Daphne Du Maurier short story comes to Sterts Studio this Autumn. Three strangers seek shelter in an abandoned farmhouse from the supernatural events unfolding outside the boarded up windows. But is it the outside world that the three should really be afraid of? This play is an intimate small scale production with 4 cast members (3 main plus 1 cameo)

Auditions: Audition dates can be negotiated

Rehearsals: Can be negotiated, although rehearsals should take place **evenings and/or weekends** only to accommodate cast members who work or are in full time education.

Performances: Wednesday 21st -Saturday 24th October

There are four performances which will take place in the Studio.