

# THE HANDLEBARDS

## Cycling Shakespeare Tour 2023

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### Call for Designers

The HandleBards are a four-strong troupe of cycling actors, who have performed their unique brand of irreverent, energetic and environmentally sustainable Shakespeare in venues across the world. In the summer of 2023 we will be celebrating our tenth anniversary. From May - September, a troupe will cycle from London to Edinburgh, stopping every 30 miles or so for nightly performances of **A Midsummer Night's Dream** in castles, gardens, theatres, bicycle shops and stately homes throughout the UK.

**We are seeking a Designer for the HandleBards' 2023 Summer season.**

- The designer will be expected to design and make the set, props and costumes for the production.
- Almost all performances will be outdoors for one-night stints, for up to six performances a week. Therefore, the design must be durable and practical, able to withstand the elements, and fit inside an electric caddy van.
- Experience of working with recycled and repurposed materials is a plus, as is a focus on environmentally sustainable working practices.
- There are four actors in the production, each playing multiple characters. Experience of working on comedy productions is desirable, as is experience of quick-release costuming.
- A stage for the production has already been built, therefore any set elements will need to fit into this with guidance and support from the producers and stage builder.
- We want our workforce to be representative of all sections of society and welcome applications from everyone. If you require the information in this document in a different format, or would like to discuss any access requirements for the role, please contact us at [info@handlebards.com](mailto:info@handlebards.com).

**The fee for the post is £3000, including all production meetings and attendance at rehearsals and performances. The details of audition dates, contract length and key tour dates can be found on the next page.**

Please direct all questions about the positions to the producer, Paul Moss, at [info@handlebards.com](mailto:info@handlebards.com).

**To apply, please submit a short personal statement, CV and portfolio of your previous work by 12pm on Tuesday 31 January to [info@handlebards.com](mailto:info@handlebards.com), with 'Designer Application' followed by your name in the subject. Statements can be submitted in written or video format, and portfolios can be provided as documents or web links.**

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## **The HandleBards:** *A Midsummer Night's Dream*

A four-actor production of Shakespeare's original, slightly abridged.

Director: **Nel Crouch**

Producers: **Paul Moss and Tom Dixon**

### **Key dates:**

Application deadline **31 January**

Application Meetings **1 February**

Decision made by **6 February**

First production meeting **w/c 20 February**

then minimum of monthly thereafter

Rehearsal period **24 April - 19 May**

First performance **22 May**

Last performance **10 September**

We would expect some props, costume and set to be ready for the start of the rehearsal period, with additional updates and finishing to take place during rehearsals. A workshop space can be made available adjacent to the rehearsal room (in Battersea, London) if required.