

# THE HANDLEBARDS

## Cycling Shakespeare Tour 2024

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### Call for Directors

The HandleBards are seeking a **Director** for their 2024 touring production of **The Comedy of Errors**, which will be visiting (mostly) outdoor venues from May - September 2024.

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 Summer 2024, a troupe will cycle from London to Edinburgh, stopping every 30 miles or so for nightly performances of *The Comedy of Errors* in castles, gardens, theatres, bicycle shops and stately homes throughout the UK.

- The Director will work with the HandleBards producing team to recruit a cast and creative team for the production, and will work with the team during production meetings, casting and rehearsals to build the production.
- The Director will be responsible for any abridgements to the play, using Shakespeare's original text as source material.
- Almost all performances will be outdoors for one-night stints, for up to six performances a week, and the set, props and costumes will be cycled between venues. Therefore, the Director will work with the creative team to build a show that can be safely carried between venues by five company members.
- There are four actors in the production, each playing multiple characters. Experience of working on comedy productions is desirable, as is experience of working with Shakespearean texts.
- 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 £4505.96 (£1780.96 prep fee, plus £545 p/week for 5 weeks of rehearsal, in accordance with ITC Rates of Pay), including all production meetings and attendance at castings, 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, Will Orton, at [info@handlebards.com](mailto:info@handlebards.com).

**To apply**, Please submit a short personal statement and CV by **10am on Monday 13th November** to [info@handlebards.com](mailto:info@handlebards.com), with 'Director Application' followed by your name in the subject, and complete the equal opportunities form [here](#). The form will be kept separate from your application and will not form any part of the assessment of your application. This data will be stored securely and anonymously and will only be used for internal monitoring.

Statements can be submitted in written or video format. We are also open to submissions in any other format that allows you to show off your work in the best way, and if you have any questions or want to discuss access needs for the application process or working with us, then please get in touch. We encourage applications from candidates of all backgrounds and welcome different experiences, skills and stories.

**Initial interviews will take place w/c 20th November, after which we will ask final-round applicants to lead a paid workshop with actors w/c 27th November.**

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## **The HandleBards:** *The Comedy of Errors*

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

### **Key dates and information:**

Application deadline **10am, Monday 13th November**

First-round Interviews **w/c 20th November**

Second-round workshops **w/c 27th November**, subject to Director availability

Decision made by **8th December**

*We will acknowledge all applications by email, and will let both successful and unsuccessful applicants know of their application's progress at each stage.*

First production meeting **w/c 18 December**

then minimum of monthly thereafter

Rehearsal period **15 April - 19 May**

First performance **21 May**

Last performance **14 September**

*Rehearsals will take place in London, on a five-day-per-week schedule. It is expected that the director will visit the production at least twice during the tour for note sessions, for which travel and accommodation expenses will be reimbursed.*