

WEST MIDLANDS OPEN AUDITION FAQs

Belgrade Theatre, Coventry

20 May 2025

1. What are you casting for?

We're not casting for anything specific. These open auditions are a way for us to meet actors previously unknown to the company, and to give you the chance to introduce yourself to us so we can have you in mind for future productions.

2. How do I apply?

Fill out this form: <https://forms.office.com/e/FjubhXEmPe> by 12pm (midday) on Monday 5 May.

We will be in contact whatever the outcome, by the end of the day on Monday 12 May.

3. I didn't get an audition slot this time, when will the next opportunity be?

Don't worry if you don't get a slot this time, there will be more chances to attend later in the year. Keep an eye on our social media and sign up to our mailing list and check the 'Open Auditions' box for updates:

www.painesplough.com/mailling-list

4. Do I have to audition with a partner?

No. This time we'll be seeing people in pairs or individually.

5. How long should the monologue or duologue be?

No longer than 3 minutes, please.

6. What kind of audition piece should we choose?

Your monologue or duologue must be from a play written in the **last 15 years**. This is because we're a new writing company so we want to hear you perform contemporary plays.

7. Is there anything else I should prepare?

The panel may ask you how or why you chose this extract, or why this character appealed to you, so bear this in mind when preparing your extract. This is just to understand how you work and approach new writing – not to test you or put you on the spot.

8. I'm under 18, can I audition?

This round of auditions is for actors who are 18 and over.

9. What do you mean by 'access needs'?

We'd like to remove as many barriers as we can, to make the audition as smooth and enjoyable as possible. Access needs are anything that would help to remove these barriers for you. They might be about the physical

environment of the audition room, the logistics of the day, or anything you'd like the panel to know about you ahead of time. We may not be able to meet every access need, but we will always try to where we can. If it would be easier to discuss these over the phone, please contact Hannah on hannah@painesplough.com.

10. How long is each audition?

Each audition slot will last ten minutes, during which you will meet the panel, perform your three minute monologue or duologue and get to ask any questions you have for the panel.

11. Who will I be meeting at my audition?

You will be meeting:

- Charlotte Bennett – Joint Artistic Director of Paines Plough
- Katie Posner – Joint Artistic Director of Paines Plough
- Jay Zorenti-Nakhid – Associate Director at the Belgrade, Coventry
- Madeleine Kludjev – Deputy Artistic Director at Birmingham Rep
- Anna Himali Howard – New Work Manager at Birmingham Hippodrome
- Beccy D'Souza – Artist Development Producer at Nottingham Playhouse

12. I auditioned at your last open day, can I audition again?

No, sorry. We would like to maintain a fair system and meet as many new people as we can each year, so unfortunately we won't meet actors who we've seen at an open audition before. We hope you understand.

13. Can my agent apply for me?

No, sorry. We don't accept applications from agents. If you have an agent, you must still apply yourself using your own email address. That's because we want to maintain a fair system for everyone, including those actors who are unrepresented.

14. Should my partner and I apply separately if we're auditioning as a pair?

No. One person should apply on behalf of a pair, entering the details of both applicants when signing up.

15. Should I send you my CV and headshot?

There is a section in the form to add your spotlight link. We tend to use Spotlight CVs in our casting processes and therefore encourage people to join. Don't worry if you don't have a Spotlight though, if you are selected to audition we will be in touch if there's anything else we need from you.

16. When will I hear back from you after the audition?

After the auditions, we will keep your names on file and if we think you will be suitable for any future roles, we will be in touch to invite you to a casting.