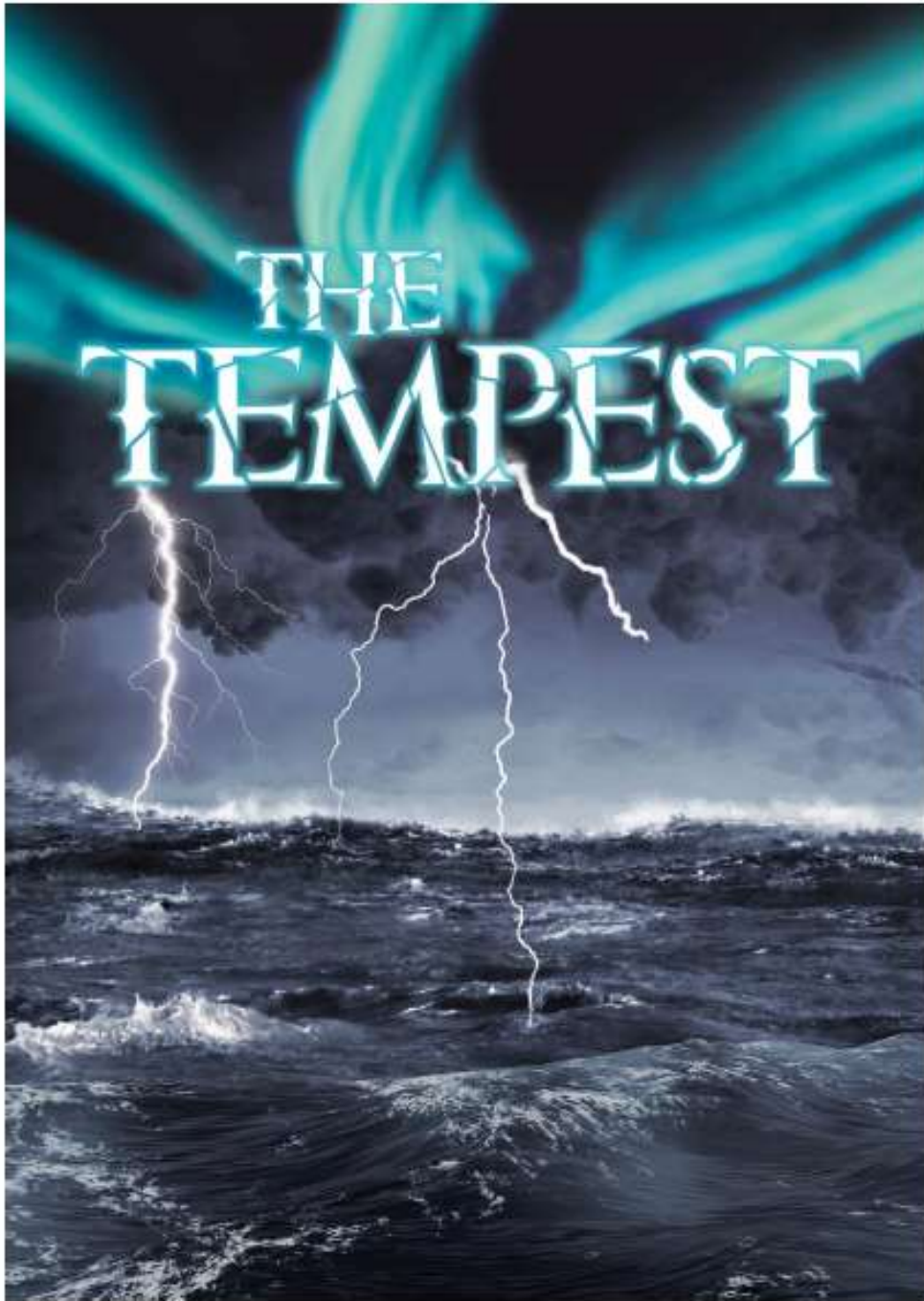


Hillbark Players



About this audition pack...

In this pack you should find all the information you will need before booking an audition and getting involved in this exciting production of 'The Tempest'.

It contains:

General information about Hillbark Players and this production.

Instructions on how to book an audition.

The form we will ask you to complete as part of the audition process.

A copy of the statement of expectations and obligations of the Hillbark Players.

Thank you for taking the time to read through all of this. Please get in touch if you have any questions.

HILLBARK PLAYERS

Hillbark Players Hillbark Players is the longest running presenter of open-air Shakespeare in the North West. The Company was founded in 1964 to celebrate the 400th anniversary of Shakespeare's birth and apart from a short break in the early 1970's, Hillbark Players has presented a production every other year, culminating in our 27th production, the highly acclaimed version of 'A Midsummer Night's Dream' in 2019.

We aspire to professional standards and values and our major productions are always of the highest quality and the best talent from across the region is sought, both to perform and to provide technical support. A purpose-built 490-seat theatre is created in Royden Park, Frankby - a public park just outside West Kirby on the Wirral. Theatre quality lighting is installed and all seats are under cover - it is only the actors who get wet - occasionally! On alternate years we sometimes present a smaller scale revue-style production where the audience need to bring a seat, a picnic and maybe an umbrella. The most frequently used adjective to describe the full Hillbark experience is 'magical'

In 2021 the decision was taken to postpone the anticipated production of 'The Tempest' because of the COVID pandemic. However, we are expecting a curtain up on what we are sure will be a splendid and impressive production in June 2022.

The Director

Martin Riley has been honoured to be asked to direct 'The Tempest'. He has been member of Hillbark Players since 2007 and has appeared in several plays since then, including appearing as Macduff in 'The Scottish Play' and most recently as Theseus Duke of Athens in 'A Midsummer Night's Dream'. He was Assistant Director to Nick Sample in 'The Merchant of Venice' in 2013 and subsequently directed 'Much Ado About Nothing' in 2015 and devised and directed the interim small-scale production of 'Shakespeare in War and Peace' in 2018.

The Concept

In contrast to the beautifully bucolic setting of 1950s rural England in the last production 'The Tempest' will attempt to set the play 'outside time' and draw on the colours, angularity and sounds of an island somewhere in the sub arctic. To add to the strangeness and mystery of the concept the costumes will be 'Steampunk'.

For the purposes of COVID security and because the play neatly lends itself to it, the cast is divided into 5 cohorts. These are:

Alonso's Court

Alonso (m)
Sebastian (m/f)
Antonio (m/f)
Ferdinand (m)
Gonzalo (m)
Adrian(a) (m/f)
Francisco(a) (m/f)

Prospero's Cell

Prospero (m)
Miranda (f)
Ariel (m/f)

The Plotting Servants

Caliban (m/f)
Trinculo (m/f)
Stephano (m/f)

The Mariners

Master of the Ship (m/f) (Doubles as Adrian(a))
Boatswain (m/f) (Doubles as Francisco(a))
Mariners (Double as Nymphs and reapers) x 6

The Spirit World

Iris (m/f)
Ceres (m/f)
Juno (m/f)
Nymphs x 3 (m/f)
Reapers x 3 (m/f)

Audition Dates and Details

Auditions will be held in the church hall of:

St John the Divine, Frankby Rd, Greasby, Wirral CH49 3PE

The dates for the auditions are:

DATE	TIME	COHORT
Tuesday 18 th January 2022	1930 to 2100	Prospero's Cell
	2100 to 2200	The Spirit World
Thursday 20 th January 2022	1930 to 2100	Plotting Servants
	2100 to 2200	Mariners
Friday 21 st January 2022	1930 to 2100	Alonso's Court
	2100 to 2200	Recalls

Audition Process

The auditions will follow the traditional format in front of a panel of three people. Audition Pieces are in a separate document to this and include a brief characterisation for each part so you can prepare in advance. If you choose to audition for more than one part, you will need to prepare audition pieces for each character, but do not need to book more than one appointment.

You will need to book your audition date and time, according to the schedule above, by completing the google form here: <https://forms.gle/rdto7Lddy8Ahjth18>

You can use the QR code to take you straight to the form.

Once you have completed this form, you will receive an email giving you a 10 minute appointment within the time slot you have selected. You will also receive some information about what to do on the night. We will be asking auditionees to arrive 10 minutes before their appointment and make themselves known to the Hillbark Players committee members who will be in the entrance hall to St John the Divine. You may then be asked to wait in your car (if you have one) to limit the number of people in the church hall. You will be asked to complete an audition form (attached to this pack – feel free to print and bring with you) so make sure you leave enough time for that.



During the audition, you will be expected to perform the audition pieces and may be given some direction while doing this. Your performance does not need to be the finished article but show us that you have thought about the character(s) and understand the text you are reading.

Social distancing will be observed throughout the auditions.

We look forward to seeing you at the auditions – please email hillbarkplayers@gmail.com if you have any questions.

Hillbark Players - 2022

'The Tempest'

Please complete all sections of the form.

Name:			
Email:			
Address:	Phone:		
<i>Please give details of any acting experience you have, including any roles in Shakespeare plays:</i>			
Title	Role	Company	Date
.....			
.....			
.....			
.....			
.....			
.....			
.....			
<i>Please list the roles you are auditioning for:</i>			
1.			
2.			
<i>If unsuccessful, would you be willing to:</i>			
<i>Accept a different role?</i>	YES	NO	
<i>Accept a non-speaking role?</i>	YES	NO	
<i>Participate in the production in another way?</i>	YES	NO	
<i>Please list any dates you will be unavailable for rehearsals between Sunday 27th February and the production week (Monday 20th June - Saturday 25th June). Rehearsals will be on Tuesdays and Thursdays (1915 - 2200 hrs) and Sunday afternoons (1315 - 1600 hrs).</i>			
<i>N.B. We expect to hold a Schools' Performance during the day on Wednesday 22nd June.</i>			
<i>Please indicate if you believe you will be available for this:</i>			
	YES	NO	
.....			
.....			
.....			
.....			
.....			

Please tick to confirm that you are happy for Hillbark Players to hold this information on paper and digitally and that you are happy to be contacted by Hillbark Players via mail, email and phone

Hillbark Players
STATEMENT OF EXPECTATIONS AND OBLIGATIONS

Hillbark Players is the longest-established Open-Air Shakespeare company in England's North West, staging Shakespeare plays every two years in Royden Park, Wirral since 1964. These plays are entirely undertaken by unpaid volunteers, but we aim to maintain professional production values both on stage and backstage. This aspiration to professional values brings certain expectations of everyone involved, so these notes are a guide as to what is expected of you. We are conscious that you will be juggling a busy social, family and working life together with your commitments to the theatre. However, as a cast member you will be expected to:

- **Turn up to every rehearsal you are called for.**

Rehearsals are held 3 times a week (normally Tuesday evenings, Thursday evenings and Sunday afternoons) starting in late February of the production year, with extra rehearsals possible being added nearer to the production. Whilst you won't be called for all early rehearsals you should be prepared to make yourself available for every date if necessary.

- **Arrive on time.**

If a rehearsal starts at a particular time, then we expect you to be there ready to start at that time. Some Directors encourage you to arrive 15 minutes before the rehearsal starts, to have a social chat and warm up beforehand. We need you to make every effort to be punctual.

- **Keep in touch and up-to-date.**

We do realise that occasionally unavoidable engagements or emergencies crop up which may prevent attendance. In this case we need you to let us know as soon as possible. How you do this is up to you, but there are various methods for communication between the cast, the crew, the production team and committee members, including mobiles, e-mails, text messaging, social media, and regular meetings before rehearsals, to pass on any information. You are expected to engage with at least one of these in order to stay up-to-date with any late changes to the schedules, and to let the company manager and production team know if you have a problem with attending a rehearsal. Please note that any issues regarding your personal circumstances and any personal data that you provide to Hillbark Players will not be disclosed to any third parties without your permission.

- **Commit to Hillbark Players**

It is expected that you will show loyalty to Hillbark Players by not committing to appear in any other production where their rehearsals or performances would conflict with those of the Hillbark production.

We recognise that you may have prior commitments to other shows or companies, but you will have an opportunity at the auditions to disclose these and discuss any conflicts of interest with the Directorial team. Where this is the case the Director will make every effort to accommodate conflicts with other companies' needs.

- **Take direction**, and work as part of the team
- **Share your knowledge**, skills and experience with your colleagues.
- **Learn your lines** as soon as possible and certainly by the agreed point in rehearsals. Set yourself a challenge to be the first person 'off book'.
- **Help:**
 - to promote and publicize the production.
 - to source and, where necessary, create props.
 - to both construct and dismantle the set onsite (*preferably after the end of the run*).

- **Be disciplined:**

Being disciplined both on and off the set means not taking any unnecessary risks either during rehearsals or the week of the show. Also, we expect that during rehearsals and performances you'll be ready to go onstage on cue, and not have a frantic stage manager rushing around trying to find you. Your fellow cast members will also appreciate that! Where things do go wrong or need to be worked on, please have patience.

- **Handle weaponry with care.**

Weaponry and stage fighting are increasingly a part of some Hillbark shows. Where weapons are required you will be expected to undertake specific training in their safe storage and use. There will always be an armourer from whom you will get your weapon and to whom you will be expected to return it after the scene in which it is required. Given that we perform in an outdoor arena to which members of the audience and occasionally members of the public have access, the careless use or storage of weapons is viewed as a very serious matter.

- **Make a cast contribution**

A Cast Contribution fee of £30, which helps towards covering the costs scripts and producing your costume(s) will be requested from every member. There is also a kitty for tea and biscuits at rehearsals. If you consume, please contribute.

Please note that where a member of the company regularly breaches these expectations in such a way as to seriously disrupt the production, then the Committee will fully support the Director in addressing those breaches and taking whatever action that is deemed necessary up to and including dismissal.

What else to expect...

Performing in the Open Air:

Rehearsals in the weeks before the production are likely to take place outdoors. Being an open-air production, it is possible that you will get rained on at some point, and bitten, too (usually by insects). We can't specifically promise that but would advise that you take precautions like umbrella (but not on stage) and insect repellent just in case.

Insurance:

We will endeavour to ensure that all cast and crew in any Hillbark production will be insured against most accidents and mishaps - but, unfortunately, not Acts of God.

Social Events:

You will be kept abreast of any Social Gatherings / Garden Parties / Trips etc. which we occasionally organise.

Being asked to join Hillbark Players is a huge compliment to your talents. It is a privilege which pays itself back in terms of the high quality of the productions and the camaraderie of a very special theatre group. This privilege comes at the cost of the above obligations and expectations, to which you are asked to adhere during your time with Hillbark Players.

Welcome!

***Nigel Cooper
Chairman***

For and on behalf of Hillbark Players Committee