

AUDITION INFORMATION - *Underdog : The Other Other Bronte* by Sarah Gordon

The Play

An irreverent retelling of the life and legend of the Brontë sisters, and the sibling power dynamics that shaped their uneven rise to fame. A familiar story told with a modern voice which makes these three exceptional women very accessible for an audience of today. The play brushes aside the view of three tiny women holed up in a gloomy parsonage in Yorkshire and presents them as passionate forward-thinking women, wanting to be successful. You don't have to know or like the Brontës to enjoy this play. The gritty and controversial plot lines and characters mirror those in *Jane Eyre*, *Agnes Grey* and *Wuthering Heights*.

If you are familiar with the Brontës you may recognise scenes and references. If not, you will enjoy the theatrical approach employed in the storytelling and the three-dimensional characters drawn in the dialogue.

The production will feature a range of styles of music, unconventional costume and projection and lighting to enhance the visual effect. Mobile staging elements will reinforce the sense of time and place as the story moves between Yorkshire, London and Europe.

Roles

- Charlotte Brontë – elder sister, narrator, seeker of fame and fortune
- Emily Brontë – middle sister, fiery, most poetic of the sisters, Anne's Guardian
- Anne Brontë – younger sister, mild-mannered, gentle soul (or is she?)
- Five-actor ensemble, gender neutral, playing 30+ characters (eg Elizabeth Gaskell, Branwell Brontë, Literary Critics, Publishers, Servants, Children, Coachman, Aristocrats)

What we are looking for

- How you work with others, vocal range, imagination, creativity, listening and comprehension skills, efficient movement, energy
- Ensemble - each character must be clearly defined and identifiable as - in some instances - their appearance is only brief
- Ensemble work together setting and clearing scenery and props
- Sisters must demonstrate passion and determination as well as warmth and humanity
- Give us your best performance
- Auditionees must be 18+

The Audition will include

- Warm-up - ALL
- Movement exercise - "Ladylike Tricks" AKA Critics Scene (Act 2 Sc3, p63-66) - ALL
- "Cunliffe" (Act 1 Sc 2, p19-23) – ENSEMBLE
- "There's Been a Mix Up" (p79 - 83) – SISTERS
- Solo Prepared piece - ALL

Everyone will perform the Solo Prepared piece. It is not necessary to learn unless you wish to do so. The roles of the sisters in the ALL and ENSEMBLE pieces may be allocated to those auditioning for Ensemble for the purposes of audition.

There will be an Audition panel of three – the Director and two senior members of BCP.



Performance Dates - 18 – 20 June 2026 (inc Saturday matinee)

14 Jun 2026	Get in/Rigging - Line run & Safety Brief - time/s TBC
15 Jun 2026	Tech Rehearsal - 7.30pm Curtain Up. Photo call 7pm.
16 Jun 2026	Dress Rehearsal - 7.30pm Curtain Up; *Fight Call 7pm (no audience)
17 Jun 2026	Dress Rehearsal - 7.30pm Curtain Up; *Fight Call 7pm (invited audience)
18 Jun 2026	Performance - 7.30pm; *Fight Call 7pm
19 Jun 2026	Performance - 7.30pm; *Fight Call 7pm
20 Jun 2026	Performance - 2.30pm; *Fight Call 2pm
20 Jun 2026	Performance - 7.30pm; *Fight Call 7pm

*Fight Call = warm up, run any contact/choreographed sections

Performance Venue

The Mill Arts Centre, Banbury

Rehearsal Period

8 March to 13 June 2026. One evening rehearsal during the week (M to F) and one long (4-6 hr) Sunday rehearsal. Venue to be confirmed but Banbury area.

Read Through

Thursday 5 Feb 2026, 7.30pm at The Mill Arts Centre. All welcome. This is your opportunity to find out more.

Auditions

Wednesday 11 Feb 2026 & Thursday 12 Feb 2026, 7.30pm at The Mill Arts Centre

To request Audition material or if you would like to audition but cannot attend the above dates or if you would like to read the script or if you have any other questions contact Director, Linda Shaw, lindashaw80@hotmail.com or 07802 301726.

