



## Casting Call

### Introduction

We'd like to announce the casting of Off Book's latest project *Treasure Island*. An adaptation of the classic novel, we're looking for three performers to take part in our production. You'll find details of the show and the individual roles we are casting for below.

### The Show

Our adaptation is a one-hour production written especially for a family audience. The piece has been commissioned by the Wirral Festival of Firsts 2016. As a charity the festival do not have a large budget, so our pay reflects the amount of funding we have available to our production. We are hoping to supplement this funding with further shows and bookings, however this is not guaranteed at the time of writing.

### Audition Date

We will be holding auditions on:

At: **Melrose Hall, 6 Melrose Ave, Hoylake, CH47 3BU**

On: **Monday, 23rd May 2016 between 1pm and 7pm**

To apply for an audition slot please submit your headshot and acting CV (spotlight is okay) by e-mail to [martin@offbook.co.uk](mailto:martin@offbook.co.uk)

**If you cannot make either of these dates then please get in touch, we may be able to arrange an alternative date or a video/skype audition.**

You can call Martin Williams on 07751 324896 for more information.

### Rehearsals

Rehearsals will be one week long only and will therefore require actors who can attend the first rehearsal having learnt their lines. The rehearsals are currently scheduled to take place between **June 29th and July 8th**. Please do not apply if you do not have good availability between these dates. We're currently seeking to rehearse for a minimum of twenty-five hours, but depending on budget we may be able to increase this. We are aiming for a



minimum of five hours rehearsal per day with a one-hour lunch break in addition to dress rehearsal at the venue on the 9th of July.

### **The Show(s)**

The show will run at around an hour with no interval. We'll have the spaces for a couple of hours prior to our show so there is the opportunities for warm-ups and getting to know the space. We will be working in some audience participation, fast changes and a lot of multi-roling. It will be fast paced, high energy and with the right team a lot of fun.

Currently the festival has booked us for two shows of roughly an hour, **Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> July at 2:30pm and Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> July at 2:30pm**. These shows will be part of a larger day of activities and at last year's festival there was a warmed up audience for our show.

We are also in the process of trying to book additional shows for the production, but as yet no further dates have been agreed. If any further dates have been confirmed then all actors auditioning will be informed as soon as possible.

### **Pay**

At present we have the budget to pay our actors for their rehearsal time and the show time. This will be at the rate of £7.20 per hour for the rehearsals and the show. Actors will be expected to self-employed and so Off Book are not liable for tax or other similar provisions. We are hoping to supplement the pay with the sale of further shows. In the event of further shows our aim would be to pay actors a minimum of £8 per hour for their time (with a minimum call time of two and a half hours). This production will be using the **Equity Fringe Agreement** which you can check out on Equity's website.

### **Audition Process**

We are asking actors to learn one monologue of their choosing that is no more than two minutes long. We will be asking each actor to perform their chosen monologue first and then we will be asking them to perform one of the pieces from the script which will be provided once an audition slot has been booked. We will be directing them on the piece we have selected, therefore actors should **not** learn this piece. We're looking for physically energetic and active people. Actors should be able to show us that they can create **BIG** characters who are engaging, as this is what children's theatre requires. We're not looking to trip anyone up or catch them out with our directions, we're just looking to see how the actors respond to the direction.



We should also point out that we do **not** have a fixed view of the characters' appearance and are looking for actors who can create the most vibrant and engaging characters possible. It is for this reason that we haven't included a more detailed breakdown of the characters. We welcome applications from any actor regardless of their background, education, gender or any other factors. All we are interested in is how capable an actor someone is. To view our equal opportunities policy visit our website: <http://offbook.co.uk> and click on the 'policies' link.

### **Role Details – Jim Hawkins**

Jim is the anchor that will tie the whole production together. We are looking for a particularly good storyteller with this role. Your performance should bring together the vocal and physical aspects that will draw an audience in. Jim has been written as a young person who is naïve, but eager for adventure. Our advice would be to pick an audition piece for yourself that will demonstrate your abilities as a storyteller. You will need to engage with the audience and have no problem looking audiences directly in the eye when addressing them.

### **Role Details – Long John Silver & Others**

The actor who plays Long John will also be required to multi-role as other characters. The character of Long John will require the actor to be able to work with the audience, as he shares asides and interacts with them on a number of occasions. As the actor will be required to play Long John most of the play, we'll want to see an actor who is capable of portraying a character as complex as this one. Long John is the villain but his position as a parental figure to Jim is just as important a character trait. We would advise picking a monologue that portrays a vibrant character, or a complex villain - show yourself at your best as an actor.

### **Role Details - Billy Bones & Others**

The actor playing Bones will have to be perhaps the most flexible of all as an actor. We will be using this actor to present a huge array of characters. It would be of benefit if you have experience with puppetry, but is not necessary as we can provide training and guidance. For the audition, we'd be asking that you pick a piece that shows a character different to Bones (a drunken, yet powerful former pirate). As the actor cast in the role will have to portray a range of different characters we need to see a hint of this in the audition process.