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**MIDSUMMER**
CASTING BREAKDOWN

We are looking for four charismatic actor-musicians to help us reimagine this hilarious, folk-influenced play with songs. The Mercury will produce this riotously funny, touchingly romantic 95-minute tour d’amour in all its drunken, horny, heartfelt glory in May 2024. It will be directed by the Mercury’s Creative Director, Ryan McBryde.

The Mercury is committed to a policy of equal employment opportunity designed to promote a positive model of inclusion. As such, we encourage performers of all ethnicities, gender identities, as well as disabled, D/deaf and neurodiverse performers, to submit.

Director: Ryan McBryde

Musical Director: Paul Herbert

**SYNOPSIS**

One Midsummer night in Edinburgh, two ill-matched thirty-somethings – a high-powered, hard-drinking lawyer called Helena, who’s stuck in a dead-end affair with a married man, and a small time crook called Bob – collide with one another for one short night of wild abandon. It’s an unlikely coupling as both are all too aware, but it’s Midsummer and anything can happen . . .

Penned by award winning playwright David Grieg and composed by songwriter Gordon McIntyre, Midsummer is a rose-tinted musical rom-com, a fast-paced, funny look at love, life, and the ache of aging.

**CHARACTERS**

**Bob** 30s
Would-be poet turned petty criminal, Bob is a scruffy, broke, opportunist with an undeniable awkward charm. He acquires a large sum of money as a result of some shady dealings involving a stolen car, and during his weekend with Helena, is able to put words to his anxieties about loneliness, being a slightly distant father, and the lost energy of his youth. We often hear Bob’s innermost thoughts through song or monologue and a heartfelt narration of his attempts to connect with his son at a football match. Ultimately Bob’s lust-for-life wins over, as he and Helena let go of inhibitions and catch a last-minute ferry out of town together.

We are looking for a skilled actor-musician, with a high proficiency in guitar playing and excellent singing voice. No specific vocal range required as we will work around the actor cast.

Good movement skills required and excellent ability to handle direct address to an audience.

This role is open to all male identifying / presenting performers. All ethnicities will be considered. Bob speaks with an Edinburgh accent.

NOTE: There is a certain amount of intimacy with the roles of Bob and Helena throughout the musical. This will be handled with extreme care by our choreographer to allow both actors to feel comfortable during the rehearsals and the run.

**Helena** 30s
Helena is a high-powered heavy-drinking Lawyer in a dead-end affair with a married man. From the outside she is put-together and brazenly career-driven but during the weekend of the play she has to embrace the fact she is excellent at organizing other people's lives, but not necessarily her own. During the tumultuous weekend, Helena rides the wave of a pregnancy scare as well as ending her toxic affair. With Bob, she allows herself to voice her innermost longings, let go of formalities, and is re-reminded that she is in control of her own future.

We are looking for a skilled actor-musician, with a high proficiency in guitar playing and excellent singing voice. No specific vocal range required as we will work around the actor cast.

Good movement skills required and excellent ability to handle direct address to an audience.

This role is open to all female identifying / presenting performers. All ethnicities will be considered. Helena speaks with an Edinburgh accent.

NOTE:There is a certain amount of intimacy with the roles of Bob and Helena throughout the musical. This will be handled with extreme care by our choreographer to allow both actors to feel comfortable during the rehearsals and the run.

**Narrator 1**
This is a multi-rolling actor-musician part that we are excited to shape around a performers’ unique skills. Providing musical accompaniment to Helena and Bob’s story, Actors 1 & 2 will also play the wide variety of Scottish characters who populate the idiosyncratic Edinburgh cityscape; goth teenagers, weather reporters, local thug ‘Big Tiny Tam Callaghan’, Helen’s married-man hookup or her sister— to name a few.

We are looking for an experienced, skilled actor-musician, preferably with a high proficiency in multiple instruments especially keyboard and piano. Loop pedal experience would also be useful. Excellent singing voice required. No specific vocal range required as we will work around the actor cast.

Good movement skills required and excellent ability to handle direct address to an audience.

This role is open to both female and male identifying / presenting performers. All ethnicities will be considered.

**Narrator 2**
This is a multi-rolling actor-musician part that we are excited to shape around a performers’ unique skills. Providing musical accompaniment to Helena and Bob’s story, Actors 1 & 2 will also play the wide variety of Scottish characters who populate the idiosyncratic Edinburgh cityscape; goth teenagers, weather reporters, local thug ‘Big Tiny Tam Callaghan’, Helen’s married-man hookup or her sister— to name a few.

We are looking for an experienced, skilled actor-musician, preferably with a high proficiency in multiple instruments especially drums. Loop pedal experience would also be useful. Excellent singing voice required. No specific vocal range required as we will work around the actor cast.

Good movement skills required and excellent ability to handle direct address to an audience.

This role is open to both female and male identifying / presenting performers. All ethnicities will be considered.