



Punk Rock by Simon Stephens - Audition Information

Age: This production is open to ages 15+ and by audition only.

When: Auditions will be held on Monday 21 September, 7:30pm-9pm.

Trigger Warnings: Due to the raw and intense nature of the play, performers should be aware that the script includes:

- **Intense Psychological Themes:** Deep explorations of severe mental health struggles, psychological distress, and references to self-harm and suicide.
- **Violence & Trauma:** Depictions of extreme physical violence (including murder) and discussions of childhood bereavement, specifically the death of a sibling.
- **Strong Language & Prejudice:** Frequent use of explicit, extreme language, alongside instances of racism and ableism used by characters.
- **Sexual References:** sexual references and adolescent sexual themes throughout.

A note for auditionees: *Punk Rock* is a highly charged play that tackles the intense pressures of young adulthood. We are committed to a safe, supportive rehearsal room and will approach all sensitive scenes with strict care, open communication, and appropriate staging practices.

Classes and Price: Classes will be on Mondays from 7:30pm until 9pm for £8 per session.

Performance dates and additional rehearsals:

Extra Rehearsal 1 - Sunday 10 November, 10am - 1pm (£5, half day)

Extra rehearsal 2 - Sunday 10 January, 10am - 4pm (£10, full day)

Dress Rehearsal - Thursday 14 January - 5pm

Performances - Friday 15 & Saturday 16 January - 7pm

Commitment: By auditioning, you confirm that you can attend weekly rehearsals, any scheduled extra rehearsals, the dress rehearsal, and the performance dates listed above. Consistent attendance will be essential due to the ensemble nature of the piece.

What to Wear: Please wear comfortable clothing suitable for movement and physical work. Avoid restrictive clothing or footwear.

Performance Description:

Punk Rock by Simon Stephens

What if the pressure to succeed pushed you past the breaking point?

What if the greatest danger you faced was inside the walls of your own school?

In the claustrophobic library of a Stockport grammar school, seven high-achieving teenagers prepare for their mock A-Levels. Dreaming of university and escape, their mundane reality quickly gives way to a toxic ecosystem of unrequited love, agonising insecurity, and sadistic bullying.

What begins as typical adolescent banter soon spirals into something far more dangerous. As personal demons are exposed and cruel power games escalate, the fragile veneer of success is stripped away, hurtling the students towards an explosive climax.

This raw, unflinching drama explores the intense pressures of youth, the devastating impact of untreated mental illness, and the tragic consequences of looking the other way.

Audition Materials:

Please learn both parts of both provided duologues and come prepared to perform either of them, as everyone will be asked to perform at least one on the day. Additionally, some auditionees will be asked to sight-read short monologues provided during the audition. Please be aware that the audition material includes strong language, directly reflecting the script of the wider play.

Duologue 1

- 1: I'm not a machine. I'm an animal.
2: What kind of animal are you?
1: A wolf. A leopard. A rhinoceros. A gazelle. A cheetah. An eagle. A snake.
2: I feel like I've known you for years.
1: You haven't.
2: When we were little did we go on holiday together or something like that?
1: I don't think so, William.
2: I think we did. Did we go camping together?
1: No.
2: What school did you go to when you were little?
1: St Michael's in Tunbridge Wells.
2: It can't have been that then... Would you like to go out with me?
1: Go out with you?
2: On a date. We could go to the theatre. Or I could take you out for a meal.
1: A meal?
2: Even though I hate restaurants.
1: You hate them?
2: They scare the life out of me.
1: Why?
2: All these people watching you eat.
1: Why would you take me there then?
2: We could go to the cinema then. Or bowling. Swimming.
1: Swimming?
2: Would you like to? Would you like to go out with me at all?
1: I don't think so.
2: Right.

Duologue 2

- 1: Chadwick, have you got any money on you?
2: I'm sorry?
1: Have you, Chadwick?
2: What do you mean?
1: I mean have you got any money in your wallet or in your pocket or up your arse that you could spare for William? William's lost a hundred pounds and I think you should try and get it back to him, don't you?
2: It's nothing to do with me.
1: I'm sorry?
2: I said it's nothing to do with me.
1: Ha!
2: William, I'm terribly sorry that you've lost some money but I don't really think it was my fault.
1: Chadwick. Get your wallet out... Get your wallet out now or I will beat you with my bare fists while everybody else watches and sings little fucking songs, so help me God I will.