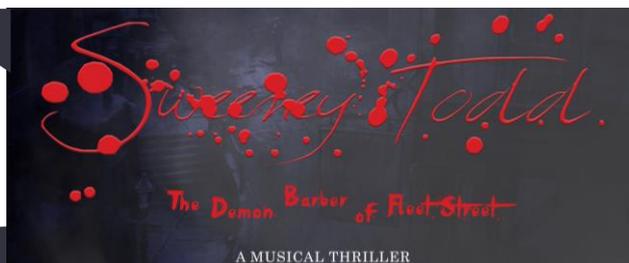




## **Sweeney Todd** **everything you need** **to know... so far**



### **Introduction**

This information sheet is to tell you everything you need to know about our plans for our next major production, which will be Stephen Sondheim's Sweeney Todd. We hope that there will be lots of interest in what we are sure will be a fantastic production. This information sheet is aimed at both current and potential new members.

If you are not currently a member and would be interested in joining us for Sweeney Todd please email [committee@leedsgands.org.uk](mailto:committee@leedsgands.org.uk) and we will send you more information, starting with the joining details for the meeting in April (see below).

### **Sweeney Todd? That doesn't sound like a Gilbert and Sullivan Operetta!**

Although our society has Gilbert and Sullivan as our solid foundation we do branch out into other productions reasonably regularly. Recent forays have included: *Guys and Dolls*, *Kiss Me Kate* and Sondheim's *Into the Woods*.

### **Where and when will the show be on?**

We are planning to stage the show in Spring 2022 (likely to be late April / early May) at the Carriageworks Theatre, Leeds.

### **When will rehearsals start?**

We aim to resume 'normal' ensemble rehearsals in early September 2021.

After so long apart as a group, we are really keen to get started as soon as possible, so we'll begin to plan

early for the production over the coming months. It's likely that we'll try to have some meetings and rehearsals virtually as is feasible so that we can make a start.

### **September seems early to start rehearsing for a show that won't take place until April or May the following year.**

We will start early as this will allow us time to build in time for rehearsals for an Autumn or Christmas concert – dates and plans for this will be shared in due course.

### **Who will be the Artistic Director and Musical Director for the production?**

We are delighted to confirm that Anita Adams will be the Artistic Director and Adam Boniface will be the Musical Director. We are very excited to see what they will bring to this exciting and popular (and deliciously dark) show.

### **How do I easily find out more?**

We will kick things off with a meeting held virtually on Zoom led by Anita and Adam for anyone who is interested in taking part in the production to discuss the plans for the production, the concept, how the principal roles will be cast and what we will be asking from cast members in terms of commitment.

We hope to see as many existing members as possible at this meeting, even if you are not planning to be involved in Sweeney Todd.

The meeting will take place on **Monday 19<sup>th</sup> April at 7.30pm** via Zoom (joining details will be circulated closer to the time)

## How will auditions work?

We would prefer to hold auditions for principal roles in person rather than virtually. However this is dependent on restrictions and we would need to be sure that all participants – including the panel – were COVID-secure. We will discuss this with you at the meeting in April.

## How can I get help learning the music?

Learning the music from Sondheim's shows can, at first, feel a definite challenge. We want everyone to feel excited and supported for this challenge.

For those wanting to audition for a principal role, we are exploring how to offer audition tuition with Adam.

We are starting rehearsals with plenty of time to get back into the swing of singing and learning music.

In addition, we are looking to source suitable rehearsal tracks so that the everyone can begin to learn the music as soon as possible.

## What will you expect from me?

- We will be asking for the availability of those wanting to take part and will ask for commitment to attend all rehearsals where you are called.
- Everyone should be ready to get into character. Our streets of London will be full of vibrant and varied personalities.
- Principals will be expected to attend rehearsals more than once a week from early September, including some Sundays. And there may be a few more rehearsals than usual for the whole cast so please be prepared for this.
- An annual membership fee is payable to join the society. This is currently £40. There is also a performance fee for all cast members to appear in the show, the amount and due date for this payment will be confirmed in due course.
- Marketing the show is everyone's job and all members are expected to help us to spread the

word about the show and to sell tickets to friends and family.

## When and where will we rehearse?

Our usual rehearsal days are Monday and Wednesday evening (Wednesdays usually for principals) and four or five Sunday afternoons.

We are working to confirm where we will hold rehearsals. As things stand our normal venues of (The Carriageworks Theatre, Leeds Trinity University and Braime's on Hunslet Road) are unavailable.

## How will you make sure that the production is COVID-secure?

Rehearsals and performances will all be risk-assessed and conducted in line with the relevant guidance applicable at the time. We take the safety of our members and audiences with the utmost seriousness and ensuring that we are COVID-secure will be our top priority.

## How can we help by learning the music at home?

We are looking into sourcing suitable rehearsal tracks so that the cast can begin to learn the music as soon as possible.

## I am not currently a member, how can I contact you for further information?

We welcome new members both to be part of our chorus or to audition for a principal role. You don't need to be a member to audition for a role but you will be expected to join as a member if you accept a role and take part in a production. If you are interested in joining us and/or would like to join our information meeting on 19<sup>th</sup> April please email [committee@leedsgands.org.uk](mailto:committee@leedsgands.org.uk) and we will get in touch with you to let you know how to get involved.