

Red Velvet

Written by Lolita Chakrabarti | Directed by Brad Myers | Acting Coach, Leslie Martin

WHO MAY AUDITION?

- Auditions are open to all Fresno State students and to community members.

HOW DO I GET AN AUDITION FORM?

- Audition forms can be found at the Theatre & Dance website (fresnostate.edu/theatrearts).
- Audition forms will also be available at the Preliminary Audition and you can fill out the form when you arrive.

WHAT SHOULD I PREPARE?

- Prepare a monologue (preferably memorized) no longer than 2 minutes long.
- Performers without a prepared monologue will be given a monologue to read at the audition.

WHEN AND WHERE ARE THE AUDITIONS?**PRELIMINARY AUDITIONS**

Wednesday, August 21st | 6:00 – 9:00 p.m.
John Wright Theatre, Speech Arts Building

CALLBACK AUDITIONS

Thursday, August 22nd, 4:00-7:00 p.m., John Wright Theatre
Friday, August 23rd, 7:00-10:00 p.m., John Wright Theatre

Callbacks will consist of readings of scenes and monologues from the play.

Performers can obtain callback material on the Theatre and Dance website (fresnostate.edu/theatrearts); or by emailing the director, Brad Myers, bradley@csufresno.edu. Sides will also be available at the Preliminary Auditions.

Performers with conflicts with the Preliminary or Callback Auditions may be able to be seen at a different time.

Contact the director:

Brad Myers | bradley@csufresno.edu or 559-285-5686.

HOW WILL I KNOW IF I AM CALLED BACK?

A Callback list will be posted the evening of Wednesday, August 21st or Thursday morning on the Theatre & Dance website (fresnostate.edu/theatrearts)

HOW WILL I KNOW IF I AM CAST?

A cast list will be posted on the Theatre & Dance website by Saturday afternoon, August 24th.

WHEN ARE REHEARSALS?

- Rehearsals will begin Sunday, October 13th @ 6:00 p.m., John Wright Theatre

- Rehearsal times are 6:00-10:00 p.m., Sundays; 7:00-10:00 p.m., Mondays-Thursdays;
- Tech Week Rehearsals: Sunday, December 1st, 1:00-10:00 p.m.
Dress/Techs, Mon., Dec. 2nd - Wed., Dec. 4th, 6:00-10:30 p.m.
Preview Performance, Thursday, Dec. 5th, 6:30 call; 7:30 curtain
- Some conflicts with rehearsals may be accommodated – Contact Brad Myers
- Please be sure to be specific with conflicts on your audition form.

ONCE I AM CAST, WHAT WILL BE EXPECTED OF ME?

- Performers must provide their own makeup kits and hair products

WHEN ARE PERFORMANCES:

Dec 6, 7, 9 – 14, 6:30 call, 7:30 curtain; Sunday, Dec. 8, 1:00 call, 2:00 curtain.

ARE THERE ANY OTHER TIME COMMITMENTS?

- A photo shoot will be scheduled. This typically happens after the Sunday matinee and lasts approximately two hours.
- Certain actors may be called for publicity photo shoots and publicity events.
- Performers must be available for costume fittings Mon. – Fri. between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. The costume shop staff will work to accommodate your daily schedule.

DOES RED VELVET CONFLICT WITH ANY OTHER UNIVERSITY THEATRE PRODUCTIONS?

RED VELVET conflicts with *Chicken & Biscuits*. It is unlikely that a student cast in *Red Velvet* can act in or crew *CHICKEN & BISCUITS*. *RED VELT* does not conflict with *DRACULA: A FEMINIST REVENGE FANTASY* nor with the *ETC Show*. However, it may be inadvisable for actors with major roles in *RED VELVET* to take on any other show commitments during our rehearsal/performance period.

CAN I OBTAIN A PERUSAL COPY OF THE SCRIPT?

It is highly advisable to familiarize yourself with the play before auditions. A PDF of the script is available, by request, on the Theatre & Dance website (fresnostate.edu/theatrearts). You may also email Brad Myers at bradley@mcsufresno.edu

WHAT IS THE PLAY ABOUT?

A Fresno Premiere!

It's like being at a crossroads – a point of absolute, unequivocal change. It makes the blood rush.

Theatre Royal, Covent Garden, 1833. Edmund Kean, the greatest actor of his generation, has collapsed on stage whilst playing Othello. A young black American actor has been asked to take over the role. But as the public riot in the streets over the abolition of slavery, how will the cast, critics and audience react to the revolution taking place in the theatre?

Lolita Chakrabarti's play creates imagined experiences based on the little-known, but true, story of Ira Aldridge, an African-American actor who, in the nineteenth century, built an incredible reputation on the stages of London and Europe.

Red Velvet received its world premiere at the Tricycle Theatre, London, on 11 October 2012, starring Adrian Lester as Ira Aldridge. It was revived at the Tricycle Theatre on 23 January 2014, before transferring to St Ann's Warehouse, New York, on 25 March 2014.

WHAT THE CRITICS WROTE:

"Shock waves rarely travel across centuries. But at St. Ann's Warehouse in Brooklyn, where Lolita Chakrabarti's Red Velvet opened on Monday night, you can experience first-hand what it must have felt like to be part of one seriously rattled London theater audience in 1833." - *The New York Times*

"Red Velvet is the play to see. A superb ensemble . . . Lolita Chakrabarti's excellent script. The audience was clearly awestruck." - *The Huffington Post*

"Frankly, thrilling. [Red Velvet] burns the place down." - *Time Out New York*

"It's a cracker of a play: gripping, intelligent and passionate." - *Financial Times*

WHAT ARE THE ROLES?

- **IRA ALDRIDGE** - Black male, American, a leading actor. 26 & 60, Grand, Ambitious, keen, passionate, and optimistic.
- **CASIMIR** - White male, 20's, German speaking Polish stagehand. Inexperienced, low status and likes Halina.
- **HALINA WOZNIAK** - White female, 20's. Polish journalist. Bright, ambitious, frustrated with her life. Speaks both English and German.
- **TERENCE** - White male, 50's, English. Ira Aldridge's valet and dresser. Loyal, hard working.
- **CONNIE** - Jamaican female, any age, experienced, servant. Older than her years and the voice of truth.
- **BETTY LOVELL** - White female, 20's, English, actress. Self-concerned, not clever but pleasant.
- **HENRY FORESTER** - White male, 20's, English actor. Political, self-interested, ambitious, and earnest.
- **BERNARD WARDE** - White male, 50's, English, actor. Old school, a bit lazy, opinionated, and insecure.
- **CHARLES KEAN** - White male, 20's. English, actor (son of Edmund Kean). Grand but without the talent to support it. Suffers from being Edmund's son.
- **ELLEN TREE** - White female, late 20's, English, a leading actress. Talented, motivated, classical but progressive.
- **PIERRE LAPORTE** - White male, mid 30's, French, manager of the theatre. Gay, revolutionary, entrepreneurial.
- **MARGARET ALDRIDGE** - White female, 30's, English, wife of Ira Aldridge. Plain, solid, trustworthy, Ira's rock.

ANY CAST MEMBER MAY RECEIVE 2 UNITS OF CREDIT

WHAT IF I HAVE ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS?

Contact Brad Myers (Director) | Email: bradley@csufresno.edu; Cell Phone: 559-285-5686