



The War in Heaven casting call

CASTING CALL



HIDden Theatre is bringing together anyone who wants to be involved in The York Mystery Plays who has not found a home with any other group, to form “The Guild of Waifs & Strays” to bring forth *The War in Heaven* for the 2026 Festival. Our Artistic Director, Laura-Elizabeth Rice, will be taking the creative helm.

The War in Heaven (traditionally known as *The Fall of Angels*) is the first play in the York Mystery Play cycle. It’s the story of God creating Heaven and the angels, and how Lucifer pridefully tries to usurp God’s place. For his pride he is cast into Hell, along with the angels who follow his lead.

Performance dates:

**Sunday 28th June & Sunday 5th July 2026 (each group performs 4 times throughout the day)
with possible evening performances Tuesday 30th June & Wednesday 1st July**

Casting for:

Lead roles

- **God**
Omniscient, benevolent, sincere; God has the ego of being all-powerful but manages not to be prideful. He's devastated by Lucifer's betrayal. Lots of complexity in this part!
- **Lucifer**
Starts as an angel who worships God, but gets proud to the point of thinking he is God's equal, or better. Very upset to be demoted to Hell, but still unwilling to see his own culpability. The most changeable character in the play.

Supporting roles

- **Good Angels**
at least 3 speaking roles
- **Fallen Angels**
at least 2 speaking roles
- **Additional non-speaking parts also available**

Time commitment (the schedule will be built around cast availability):

- 1 rehearsal per week throughout May 2026
- 2-3 rehearsals per week throughout June 2026
- Additional rehearsals in the final weeks before production

All roles are unpaid volunteer opportunities open to those aged 18+, of any appearance and identity. We aim to be inclusive so if you have any accessibility requirements (including needing this information in a different format), for either auditioning or performing, please get in touch with us via auditions@hiddentheatre.com and we will do our best to make accommodations.

Read on for details of how to join our cast...



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AUDITIONS INFORMATION

We are holding virtual auditions (via Google Meet) during the week commencing 13th April 2026.

How to sign up:

Please book a ½ hour time slot [here](#).

This will give you a chance to read for, and talk to, our directing team.

Please sign up by 4pm on Saturday 11th April 2026.

If none of the available slots are suitable, please feel free to get in touch and we will try to make alternative arrangements to see you and get you involved.

What to prepare

Please familiarise yourself with the two pieces below (but we are not expecting you to learn them by heart). As medieval drama writes “type” rather than individual characters, we’re only asking for one each from the “good” and “evil” camps- but it’s also your chance to make them as unique as you can!

We’d also like it, if you have a piece that you’ve performed before, or are really comfortable with, to present that as well. This is optional so if you don’t, please don’t worry about learning something new! The intention is to get a feeling for what you can do once something is already familiar.

Because the Mystery Plays are translated from Middle English, there are some words and phrases that may be challenging. Please do your best with them, but if you get really stuck, send us an email and we’ll try to provide clarity!

If you have *not* previously been in contact with us and would like a copy of the full script, send an email and we’ll make sure you have one.

Mostly we just want to have the chance to get to know you, to welcome you to the show, and to figure out which role you might fit best. Please keep in mind that you’ll have the opportunity to be in the production no matter what- bring your best acting, but nerves really aren’t necessary!

If you have any queries or need anything to help you take part more comfortably, please contact auditions@hiddentheatre.com.



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Lucifer Reading

Lucifer is asserting his pride and superiority to God to the other angels, some of whom agree with him and some who argue against this. In the midst of his preening, he is cast down into hell.

O! Certes! What! I am worthily wrought with worship of me
For in a glorious glee my glittering, it gleams!
I am so mightily made, my mirth may not flee
Ay shall I bide in this bliss through brightness of beams.
Me needs no annoyance to name
For all wealth at my will is my wielding.
Above all shall I be building
On high in the highest of heaven.
There shall I set myself, full seemly to sight
To receive my reverence through right of renown.
I shall be like unto him that is highest on height.
O what! I am noble and wise –
O! God! All goes down!
My might and my main are all fading
Help, fellows! In faith! I am falling!



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God Reading

This is after Lucifer and the Fallen Angels have been cast into hell, and God is contemplating both their demise and what he should create to take their place.

These fools from their fairness in fantasies fell
They made moan at the might that marked them and made them.
So, as their works were, in woe shall they dwell:
For they are fallen into filth that evermore shall fade them,
And never have my grace to go with them.
Surpassing in power they thought them.
They would not me worship that made them,
Therefore shall my wrath ever go with them.
All that worship me shall live here, I wis
While more of my work, work now I will.
Now is their might marred, those who meant me amiss,
In my own figure this bliss to fill
Mankind out of my mould will I make.
But first will I for him prepare
All things that shall him find fair
And which his wishes will take.
And in my first making, to muster my might
Since Earth is vacant and void and dark as well
I bid in my blessing the angels give light,
For Earth was faded when the fiends fell.
In hell shall never darkness missing be.
The murk thus name I as 'night'.
The day, that call I this 'light'.
My afterworks soon shall you see.
And now, in my blessing, I twin them in two
The night from the day, so that they meet never
But each in their courses, to their places they go.
Both night and day do their duties forever.
For all I shall work, without ceasing.
This day's work is done, that is all,
And all this work likes me right well.
Now then: I give it my blessing.