

## **Jane Eyre audition notes**

By Willis Hall

Adapted from the novel by Charlotte Bronte

Directed by Christine Rayment

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### **Audition date**

Thursday 2 November 2017, 7.45pm at the Little Theatre

### **Performance dates**

Friday 19 to Saturday 27 January 2018

### **About the play**

After a wretched childhood, Jane Eyre yearns for new experiences. Accepting a governess position at Thornfield Hall, she soon finds herself falling in love with the dark and impassioned Mr Rochester. As Jane wins his heart, they seem set to become man and wife, only for a shocking secret to be revealed.

Retaining all the familiar passionate qualities of Charlotte Bronte's novel, Willis Hall has beautifully transposed the nineteenth century world of Jane Eyre to the stage.

### **Roles**

This is a company production with more than 40 speaking roles.

All ages are given as an indication and are mostly flexible. All children will be played by adults.

Apart from Jane and Rochester all roles will be doubled with people playing multiple parts. We are looking for a cast of around 12 to 16 people.

#### **Jane Eyre (18-22)**

A young governess who has had a wretched childhood with little love or attention. She has learnt to rely on herself. A passionate character with a fire inside her.

#### **Edward Rochester (35-45)**

The wealthy owner of Thornfield Hall and Jane's employer. He has travelled the world and has dark secrets in his past. A somewhat tortured soul searching for peace.

#### **Mrs Reed (40-50)**

Jane's aunt, a cold, hard woman, with no love for Jane.

#### **Bessie (20-40)**

Servant in Mrs Reed's house, firm but kind to Jane.

#### **Miss Abbot (30-50)**

Servant in Mrs Reed's house

#### **Mr Brocklehurst (30-45)**

Cruel and puritanical proprietor of Lowood School.

#### **Helen Burns (schoolgirl)**

Jane's friend at Lowood school

#### **Miss Temple (25-35)**

Headteacher at Lowood, kind but unable to improve the conditions in the school

**Mrs Fairfax** (40-60)

Housekeeper at Thornfield, grateful for Jane's company in an otherwise lonely house

**Adele Varens** (schoolgirl)

A French child in Rochester's care, Jane's pupil at Thornfield

**Leah** (20-30)

Housemaid at Thornfield

**Grace Poole** (30-50)

Mysterious servant at Thornfield, later revealed to be Bertha's carer

**Blanche Ingram** (20-30)

Attractive young woman of high birth, a potential match for Rochester

**Lady Ingram** (45-60)

Blanche's mother (widowed)

**Lord Ingram** (20-30)

**Mary Ingram** (20-30)

Blanche's siblings

**Richard Mason** (25-40)

Bertha's brother who arrives uninvited one evening, bringing trouble for Rochester

**Reverend Wood** (30-50)

**Briggs** (25-50)

A solicitor

**Bertha Rochester** (25-40)

Rochester's mad first wife, cared for by Grace Poole in an attic room

**St John Rivers** (25-35)

Clergyman who takes Jane in to his home later hoping to make her his wife

**Diana Rivers** (20-30)

**Mary Rivers** (20-30)

St John's sisters who take care of Jane and become like family

Various other speaking parts including narrators, servants, schoolchildren and others.