

## **‘The Suppliant Women’**

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ An epic, feminist protest song

— Mark Fisher, [The Guardian](#)

### **Information for Participants**

Ever fancied performing on the stage of the Gaiety at Dublin Theatre Festival?

***Err... yes.***

Are you interested in:

- Working with critically-acclaimed theatre makers?
- Learning and developing your singing, dance and performance skills?
- Sinking your teeth into some gritty themes such as immigration, feminism and democracy?
- Performing on stage with a professional cast of actors?
- Having a hell of a lot of fun?

***Tell me more.***

Dublin Theatre Festival and Actors Touring Company are embarking on an exciting new production and need your help.

In *The Suppliant Women*, written by the Greek playwright Aeschylus, fifty young women escape forced marriages in Egypt and seek asylum in Greece. One of the oldest surviving plays in existence – it’s 2,500 years old! - this is a story for our time.

***Am I supposed to know what “suppliant” means?***

It’s the act of “making or expressing a plea, especially to someone in power or authority” ...  
(I just Googled it.)

***And how’s this going to get me on stage at Dublin Theatre Festival?***

We’d like you to join a chorus who will rehearse and perform alongside a professional cast at the Gaiety Theatre as part of Dublin Theatre Festival. There will be three groups;

**The Suppliant Women** – 40 women aged between 16 and 26

The young women have the main role in the play; they enter at the very beginning seeking refuge, and don’t leave the stage until the end of the play when they are welcomed into the city.

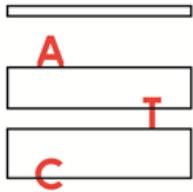
**The Soldiers** – 8 men aged between 18 and 40

The Young Men take two roles; the Kings Soldiers and the Egyptian sailors, come to claim the Suppliant Women as their brides. There is some movement and singing involved.

**The Citizens** – Men and women aged 20 – 60+

This group features at the end of the play, to welcome the young women into the city. Their music is challenging, so strong singers are required here, preferably possessing the ability to sing without a leader.

**ACTORS TOURING COMPANY**



You will work with Ramin Gray, John Browne and Sasha Milavic Davies to develop the acting, singing and choreography that will be performed on stage.

***Wait a sec, I'm tone deaf and have two left feet. Problem?***

You don't have to be Beyoncé, but an ability to hold a tune and move to a beat is essential. This won't be "ancient" music. We're not attempting to reconstruct the music of 2,500 years ago. The music in our production will be based on chants of various kinds (protest, sacred, football, tribal etc) and this means that some of the music will be closer to rhythmic speaking. Other bits will be half-sung plus, of course, lots of singing – in parts.

The sung passages will shift between earthy folk and plainchant styles with hints of various contemporary pop styles. There will be about 30 minutes of choral singing, some solos, and another 10 or 15 minutes of spoken text so there's a lot to learn. All off by heart!

***Dancing, though...***

"Dance" is an overstatement. You will work on developing loosely choreographed sequences with the creative team. These will be led by the emotions of the chorus you're playing, and not by complicated, intricate routines. Footloose this is not. That said, it will look fantastic on stage.

***Will there be X-factor style auditions?***

Don't worry there won't be a red button in sight. There will be an introductory session to give you a feel for the show; you can see if you like the project and we can make sure we get a wide range of talent and enthusiasm.

For a chance of being in the show, simply fill out the questionnaire below. Deadline for entries is Monday July 3<sup>rd</sup>. We won't necessarily be able to see everybody, but we will let you know if you have secured a place by Monday July 10<sup>th</sup>.

***Sounds great. What's the commitment?***

**Saturday July 15<sup>th</sup> and Sunday July 16<sup>th</sup>** is the introductory Session. You will be given a workshop slot on Saturday or Sunday where you can meet the team and see what the show is about.

**Sunday August 13<sup>th</sup>** there will be one big rehearsal for all three Chorus.

From **Friday August 18<sup>th</sup>** your involvement requires you to be available for **every Friday evening** and all day every **Saturday**. The Soldiers and Citizen's Chorus will not be required at every rehearsal.

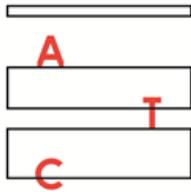
From **Friday September 22<sup>nd</sup>** participants must commit to rehearsals every evening and all day **Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> and Sunday 24<sup>th</sup>**. This is for technical rehearsals.

The performances will take place at the following times

**Wednesday September 27<sup>th</sup> – Friday September 29<sup>th</sup> at 7.30pm**

**Saturday September 30<sup>th</sup> at 2.30pm and at 7.30pm.**

**Sunday October 1<sup>st</sup> at 2.30pm.**



Participants must be able to commit to at least 5 of the 6 performances.

Hurry, places are limited! ***Sign me up!***

*'This is a life changing experience. The play is amazing, the music is so beautiful and the theme is so relevant and modern! You will make friends for life, maybe share pizza and get the opportunity to work and learn from incredibly talented people'*

**Noëmie Colin, Edinburgh**

*'Don't hold back, just go for it. You will have an amazing, transforming experience'*

**Margaret Crisp, Edinburgh**

*'Being part of this chorus is such a privilege. I've met amazing people and I'm so proud to have been part of producing such an inspiring and thought provoking play. I LOVE IT'*

**Hannah Lomas, Edinburgh**

*'It's fascinating, inspiring, challenging and thoroughly wonderful.'*

**Shirley Wilson, Belfast**