



2025 Pitch Process: Guidance Notes – Grease

Thank you very much for your interest in joining the creative team for Mayhem Theatre Company's (MTC) October 2025 musical, *Grease*. This guidance is to give you an overall idea of our aims for the show, describe how we work, and assist you with your application, whether as a Director or another part of the team. We anticipate interest will be very high with a number of very strong applicants, so please read this document thoroughly and ensure it aligns with your application.

About Mayhem

Based in Wimbledon, MTC is an award-winning theatre company who perform exceptional and memorable musicals and plays in the South London and Kingston area. Mayhem is an amateur company, but we strive for professional standards in both performance and production values. We hold open auditions throughout the year and welcome members of all performance backgrounds and experience levels.

MTC is a members-led company, run by a group of dedicated Mayhemers who form the Members Committee, and support the day to day running of the company.

Grease

We have selected *Grease* as it is a big, fun, exciting show that we believe will provide fantastic opportunities for our members, and draw a wide audience. *Grease* has great brand recognition and features many songs that are near and dear to our hearts. The characters are iconic and there is plenty of scope for ensemble members to shine. That being said, there is no hard and fast way of staging *Grease*, so any creative team will need a clear vision and a willingness to take up the challenge of making this a special show.

The production is scheduled to take place in October half-term: Weds 29 Oct - Sat 1 Nov 2025. MTC suggests at least a 12 week rehearsal period for musicals of this scale. MTC rehearsals usually take place on Monday and Wednesday evenings (7:30-10pm) at All Saints Hall (All Saints Rd, London SW19 1BU) and Sunday afternoons (2-6pm) at South Wimbledon Community Centre (78 Victory Rd, London SW19 1HN). Note that these days and times are subject to change based on venue availability, but this will be flagged as soon as possible (and well before audition packs go out).

What we are looking for

We are primarily looking for a Director with a strong vision and a wider creative team to support that vision. Musical teams will always include a Producer, Director, Choreographer, Musical Director and Stage Manager, and may also include an Assistant Director and/or any technical team members. We welcome applications for any of these roles. At this stage, we require each Director to complete a Director's application form any other confirmed team members to complete a Creative Team application form.



For Directors, previous directing experience is required, with experience performing in and/or directing musicals an advantage, but not essential. Our priority is a strong vision for this show that will entertain audiences and maintain MTC's high production standards.

What are the next steps?

For Directors, we would like to invite you to submit a Directors Application Form: <https://forms.gle/ozp612wwmEP6Dvpi7>. The form is to give us a good idea of who you are and what your vision is for this production. It asks about a range of production elements, including the following:

- Your background in theatre/directing
- Any additional team members (this is to help us determine who is already on board and where there might be gaps)
- Why you are interested in directing Grease
- Your vision and how you will achieve it. This should include any thoughts you have on:
 - Casting
 - Costume
 - Set
 - Lighting
 - Sound
- Your approach to auditions
- Your approach to rehearsals
- Your approach to diversity and inclusion
- Any special budget considerations (see below)

All other applicants to the production/creative team are invited to submit a Production/Creative Team Application Form: <https://forms.gle/PVmqMpw4cPMNgHKu9>. This is a more straightforward form about you and your goals for your part in the show.

The deadline for submitting all forms is **11am on Monday 31 March**. We will then conduct a shortlisting process and invite those successful to an interview to discuss their ideas. This will be as a team or as individuals, depending on team configurations and availability. We will be in contact in the meantime to arrange a suitable time and date for these, aiming to hold them as soon as possible.

Budget considerations

We work to disciplined budgets, which we balance with artistic excellence. This is a challenge, but one to which we expect all producers and teams to rise. We ask that any directors or producers applying share initial thoughts on what costs may be needed to fulfil your creative vision, including set and lighting, any costumes that may need to be hired etc.

The draft budget below gives guidance on what we expect from a budget for a major musical. If you have any questions about specific lines in the budget template, please contact MTC's Business Manager, Hannah McKenna-Vickerstaff, on finance@mayhemtheatre.co.uk.



[The budget template can be found here.](#)

Venue

The Arthur Cotterell Theatre (ACT) is a part of Kingston College campus, first opening in 2004. It is a flexible performance area with a capacity of 176, and the following key measurements:

General:

Height to Rig – 5m

Depth – 15m 77cm

Width – 15m

Height (Balcony to Floor) – 2m 30cm

Edge of Balcony to Wall – 2m 6cm

Depth (Tab Line to Back Wall) – 7m 7cm

Working area with raked seating (Mayhem's preferred layout):

Depth – 7m 7cm

Width – 15m

MTC has a strong working relationship with theatre management, having used the venue for numerous productions over the last 16 years, including our last four major musicals. As well as having access to the theatre's technical facilities, MTC also utilises the on-site technical theatre students to assist with everything from stage management to technical operation. This is an arrangement that benefits both the students and Mayhem.

Your pitch document should highlight any potential challenges you see with using this venue and the space, and how you would overcome them.

Members' Company

MTC is a membership company. Our members put on shows for the benefit of other members. This means that, as well as the actors not being paid and being members of the society, the core production team roles are also unpaid positions (with the exception at times of the MD who is also expected to lead/be part of the band during production week).

Diversity and Inclusion

MTC is dedicated to producing dramatic and operatic works within the local community and works to create an inclusive theatrical environment for its members. As an amateur theatre company, we maintain a strong commitment to embracing diversity and foster an inclusive rehearsal and social environment to encourage all members to be involved in any and all aspects of theatrical production. Our commitment to diversity and inclusion is reflected in the following:

Membership is open to all

We recognise that we benefit in numerous ways from differences in culture, ethnicity, national origin,



race, colour, religion, gender, gender identity, age, disability and sexual orientation. General membership to the society is, and will continue to be, open to everyone over the age of 16 and, as an amateur theatre company, we maintain a strong commitment to embracing diversity.

An inclusive environment for all members

We foster an inclusive rehearsal and social environment to encourage members to get involved. All members have equal voting rights in applicable situations, such as voting at the AGM. Roles on the committee are open to any member who wishes to apply and all members have an active voice in how we run the society. Members from any background are encouraged to join the company at any time and MTC strives to provide opportunities for its members to get involved in any and all aspects of theatrical production, regardless of experience (subject to all necessary health and safety considerations).

All auditionees are welcomed

We value the specific abilities and talents our members bring to the society and, equally, encourage members and non-members to audition for any roles in our productions, unless a specific requirement is stated and is pivotal to the plot in question.

Casting is based on talent and suitability

We are dedicated to producing dramatic and operatic productions to the highest standards and commit to casting roles based on suitability for role.

We explore diverse theatrical options

We endeavour to create a calendar of productions characterised by as much diversity as possible each year, subject of course to rights availability and company suitability.

Relaxed Performance

One way we support the above goals is the inclusion of a relaxed performance. For *Grease*, this is planned to take place during the dress rehearsal. Guidance for this performance will be given by the Committee, in consultation with the Creative Team. There may be requests to make changes to the production for that performance, or for the cast to do some slightly different things. These will be clearly communicated in advance and the Committee expects the cooperation of the Creative Team in making them happen.

Any questions?

If you have any questions about the process, about show selection, or indeed anything else, please contact us at info@mayhemtheatre.co.uk.

We look forward to hearing from you — and to receiving some fantastic, innovative and interesting pitches, to make *Grease* 2025 a huge success!

The Mayhem Members Committee