



**\*ALL AUDITIONS AND SOME INTERVIEW QUESTIONS WILL BE FILMED \***

Jordan Morris will be involved as both Production Designer and Producer. Jordan most recently directed and designed "The Last Days of Judas Iscariot" (Iglesias Productions) which was considered a particular standout of the London regions 2009 theatre season and it was his work in that production which attracted the attention of Mr. Hopkins. Jordan's oft-creative partner, producer John Iglesias, will produce the film component and support his efforts with the stage production.

**ABOUT THE SCRIPT:**

The Duchess of Malfi (Originally published as The Tragedy of the Dutchesse of Malfy) was written by English dramatist John Webster in 1612-13. It was originally performed at the Blackfriars Theatre, and then moved to The Globe to be enjoyed by a broader audience. The play is based loosely on true events that occurred between 1508 and 1513 recounted in William Painter's "The Palace of Pleasure" (1567). The Duchess was Giovanna d' Aragona who was married at age 12 and widowed at age 20. Her father, Arrigo d' Aragona, Marquis of Gerace was an illegitimate son of Ferdinand I of Naples. Her husbands were Alfonso Piccolomini, Duke of Amalfi, and (as in the play) Antonio Bologna.

The play begins a love story, with a Duchess who marries beneath her class against the wishes of her controlling brothers, and ends as a tragedy as the brothers exact their revenge, destroying themselves in the process.

The script has been adapted by Mr. Hopkins himself and reduced from five acts to three.

The play is sometimes criticized for the excessive violence and horror of its later scenes, but the complexity of its characters, poetic language and timeless themes continue to make it of interest to theatre companies and audiences to this day.

**AUDITIONS:** One on one Auditions will be by appointment only. Appointment times are July 9 - 10 - 11, 2010. Please contact Jordan Morris for an appointment. [thesighthound@gmail.com](mailto:thesighthound@gmail.com)

**PRODUCTION DATES:** February 16-26, 2011

**THE ROLES AVAILABLE FOR AUDITION:**

**ANTONIO** (Male, 20-30 years old)

Antonio is the steward of the Duchess of Malfi's estate and later her secret husband. His honesty and good judge of character are characteristics well known to the other characters in the play. He accepts the Duchess' proposal of marriage because of her disposition, rather than her beauty. His status, being lower than that of the Duchess, complicates their relationship even further. Their marriage has to remain a secret, leaving him without the title or money of the Duchess.

**BOSOLA** (Male, appox. 40 years old)

A killer for hire well aware of his lot in life and the heavy guilt inherent to it. He has recently served 7 hard years in the galleys for a murder commissioned by the Cardinal and believes the Duke and the Cardinal owe him for this. Bosola, installed in the court of the Duchess as a spy, eventually discovers her secret. Although not upper class, he is not without education. Bosola can be considered the most complex character in the play and being the malcontent of the piece, tends to view things cynically. He is frequently characterized by his melancholy.

**THE CARDINAL** (Male, 30-40 years old)

Older brother to the Duchess and Duke Ferdinand. In his teens he was an expert in fencing for which he was famous. At that time he married a niece of the Pope who died just a few years later. Bored with his life and inherited title, he surrendered it to his younger brother (Ferdinand) and bought the new title of Cardinal. He is a partly responsible for the plot to spy upon and eventually destroy the Duchess; however, he remains cold and removed from its drama. He shows little to no remorse or feelings of love or loyalty. His motivations for the abuse of his sister are never clear, as he has no interest in her love or money.

**CARIOLA** (Female, 50-60 years old)

Lifelong devoted handmaiden who raised the young Duchess and who now secretly raises her children.

She is fierce in her loyalty and was a willing witness to the Duchess' marriage of Antonio.

**DELIO** (Male, 20-35 years old)

A friend of Antonio, traveler, scholar and past lover of Julia (who would still be so if he could). Within the play, he is often employed as the "voice of reason" and is even assigned the scripts final line of dialogue.

**THE DUCHESS** (Female, 25-30 years old)

The chief tragic protagonist, a young widow, and sister to Ferdinand and the Cardinal. At the beginning of the play, she is a new widow in the prime of her life. Though her controlling brothers openly demand she never re-marrying and even secretly conspire to prevent it, she secretly marries Antonio anyway. She is described as having a sweet countenance and noble virtue. She is witty, clever, and although capable of matching her brothers' rapier banter, she has a tenderness and warmth that is beyond them.

**DUKE FERDINAND** (Male, 25-30 years)

Duke of Calabria, and twin brother to the Duchess. Unlike his rational brother, Ferdinand is given to fits of rage and emotionally violent outbursts. He is victim to what Freud in the nineteenth century called "family romance". During the play, an obsession with his sister quickly becomes a perverse disease that destroys him. As the play unfolds he surrenders to madness and his condition broadens to include all manner of delusion.

**JULIA** (Female, 25-30 years old)

Like the Duchess she was married off at a very early age. Her husbands name is Castriccio (a play on the word "castrated") and despite her husbands suggested impotence; she has become well versed in sexual practices by way of The Cardinal. She is his submissive pet and instrument of political machinations. It is her dangerous and barely-bridled sexual confidence that fuels her tragic downfall.

**8 SUPPORTING PERFORMERS** (Male and Female, 18 to 40 years old)

The supporting performers will play a critical role in creating our world as both human characters (including "the madmen" and the "doctors") and also as non-human environmental elements (details of which will only be made available to those who are selected) representing the world outside the court. Experience or interest in mask work, puppetry, choral speaking and movement will be an advantage. Additional individual parts will also be allotted to these players subject to our final choices and their available skills:

**Warning: This production may contain content or actions that may be offensive to some audiences, including violence, nudity and coarse language.**

Further information available at <http://malfi.wetpaint.com/>



**PICNIC** by William Inge

**SYNOPSIS:** The play takes place on Labor Day Weekend in the joint backyards of two middle-aged widows. The one house belongs to Flo Owens, who lives there with her two maturing daughters, Madge and Millie, and a boarder who is a spinster school teacher. The other house belongs to Helen Potts, who lives with her elderly and invalid mother. Into this female atmosphere comes a young man named Hal Carter, whose animal vitality seriously upsets the entire group. Hal is a most interesting character, a child of parents who ignored him, self-conscious of his failings and his position behind the eight ball. Flo is sensitively wary of temptations for her daughters. Madge, bored with being only a beauty, sacrifices her chances for a wealthy marriage for the excitement Hal promises. Her sister, Millie, finds her balance for the first time through the stranger's brief attention. And the spinster is stirred to make an issue out of the dangling courtship that has brightened her life in a dreary, minor way.

**DIRECTOR:** Don Fleckser

**PRODUCER:** TBA

**AUDITIONS:** TBA

**PRODUCTION DATES:** May 4 - 14, 2011

**CAST REQUIREMENTS:** 4 men, 7 women



**THE SOLID GOLD CADILLAC** by Howard Teichmann and George S. Kaufman.

**SYNOPSIS:** According to Chapman in the New York News, "begins with the annual stockholders' meeting and election of officers of a colossal manufacturing empire called General Products. Some new officers (old ones being moved up a notch) must be elected because the president of the corporation has taken a big government post in Washington and has been forced to sell his stock at a profit of three million dollars. The election is going smoothly and the meeting is about over when a timid old lady who owns 10 shares... asks if she can ask a question. She has read every page of the annual report and she wants to know why the chairman of the board is being paid \$170,000 a year, and how many hours he works to earn this money... She puts one mild query after another, and pretty soon the new officers hush her up by giving her a phony job at \$150 a week." She is to be a kind of liaison officer for the other minority stockholders. She takes her job seriously and writes chatty, friendly letters to the other minority stockholders—asking about their health, their children, and the weather, and makes solid friendships with the small stockholders. The officers of the corporation become a bit uneasy at this, and they're all set to fire her when she discovers that a small firm that General Products has just forced into bankruptcy is its own subsidiary firm! Using this as gentle means of prodding the directors, the little old lady keeps her own job. When the former president learns what a mess the current directors are making of his business, however, he resigns from his government job, and the big fight is on to regain control of his own business. Things look dark indeed, the wicked directors are about to triumph, and our nice old lady is fired, when the proxies of all the small stockholders start pouring in, and thanks to them the little old lady and former president foil the wicked Board of Directors

**DIRECTOR:** Bill Meaden

**PRODUCER:** Terry Todd

**AUDITIONS:** TBA

**PRODUCTION DATES:** June 8 – 18/11

**CAST REQUIREMENTS:** 11 men, 7 women

**GENERAL:**

**Scripts are available for the 2010/2011 season to read in advance - and must be returned no later than the first audition date. Please contact the Palace Theatre Box Office at 519-432-1029 to make arrangements. A \$20.00 REFUNDABLE deposit is required.**

For more information on any of the plays and/or auditions, please contact  
[info@londoncommunityplayers.com](mailto:info@londoncommunityplayers.com)

*June 24, 2010*