

Audition Information for *Les Liaisons Dangereuses*

by Christopher Hampton, from the novel by Choderlos de Laclos

Please read all of these details carefully. Please do not audition if you are unavailable for any of the production dates. If you have significant clashes or regular unavailability within the rehearsal period, please let us know on your registration form. If you are unsure whether your unavailability will be an issue please check first by emailing the Stage Manager at J.Sterling.Hair@gmail.com

*****Please be sure to understand this production contains mature themes, including sexual innuendo and physical intimacy as well as sword fight scenes and death. We will be working with an intimacy coordinator and fight coordinator to manage the impacts of these themes.*****

Production Dates:

February 7th - February 23rd (11 performances – 7:30pm with a 6:00pm call time Thursday, Friday, & Saturday. 2:30pm with a 1:00pm call time on Sundays) YES, we will be performing on Valentine's Day.

Location: Cottage Theatre
700 Village Dr.
Cottage Grove, OR 97424

Director: Leslie Murray
Assistant Director & Stage Manager: J. Sterling
Assistant Stage Manager: Shelby Chasen

Rehearsal Dates:

Commencing mid-November. Rehearsals will predominantly be Monday through Thursday beginning between 6:30pm and 7pm, however dates and times are subject to change while trying to accommodate everyone's needs. As we will be rehearsing through the holiday season, there will be time scheduled off for those.

This should also give cast members ample time to work on their character development and line load. Times and dates are subject to change based on the needs of the production. Not all roles will be called for every rehearsal; an exact schedule will be devised following casting.

There will be some weekend dates that the cast and crew are expected to participate in building, construction, and other preparations as needed. These will be organized with the creative team and you will be informed of those dates.

PLEASE NOTE: ALL CAST AND CREW ARE EXPECTED TO PARTICIPATE IN STRIKE FOLLOWING THE FINAL SUNDAY MATINEE PERFORMANCE, AS WELL AS ASSIST WITH STRIKE OF THE PREVIOUS SHOW-39 STEPS, on Sunday, December 22.

Audition Information:

All auditions will be held at Cottage Theatre. Simply enter through the lobby doors. Initial auditions will be conducted in a "closed" environment, meaning we will call you in individually, in

pairs, or in small groups to read selections from the script. If you are NOT reading at that time, you will be waiting in the theatre lobby. We will be as diligent as possible to make this process move quickly and smoothly.

Due to the content of this production and the demands of certain roles, all auditionees must be at least 18 years of age. There will be no exceptions made. This is also true for all members of the production team and stage crew. Younger participants are welcome to come to paint and construction calls.

Audition Dates:

Saturday, November 9th at Noon

***If you want to be a part of this show but are unavailable for this date, PLEASE contact us ahead of time to schedule another time. Whenever possible, we do NOT want to miss an opportunity to work with you. Email J.Sterling.Hair@gmail.com to arrange accommodations.

Callbacks (if needed) : Sunday, November 10th at **2:00 PM**

Should there be a need for callback auditions, you will be notified ASAP. If you are not called back that DOES NOT MEAN that you weren't cast.

You do not need to have learned a specific part or any of the extracts before the auditions, but a familiarity with the roles and synopsis of the show are beneficial.

Cottage Theatre is committed to making its audition process as accessible as possible. Auditionees may request that reasonable accommodations are made to the audition process in order for them to attend and participate. Please contact the Stage Manager j.sterling.hair@gmail.com to request accommodation.

That said, all auditionees who are over the age of 18 are welcome to audition. We strive to approach casting with a progressive and flexible mind-set at all times. We are committed to working with all body shapes, gender expressions, sexual orientations, races/ethnicities, abilities and disabilities, and so on. Cottage Theatre is committed to ensuring its volunteer community — both onstage and off — reflects and celebrates the diversity of the world of which it is a part.

How to sign-up:

Please pre-register by filling out the Audition Registration Form on the Cottage Theatre website.

Should you not be able to use the online portal, please arrive approximately 15 minutes before auditions are slated to begin to fill out a paper copy.

Please note that all auditionees must complete an Audition Registration Form prior to auditioning, even if they have had existing contact with or made informal arrangements with any of the production team.

About the Play & Production:

Set on the eve of the French Revolution, the Marquise de Merteuil and the Vicomte de Valmont play a dangerous game of seduction, corrupting the innocent and the virtuous for their own gratification. Once lovers, they are now engaged in a dark rivalry born from jealousy and pride. They entertain themselves and ward off the ennui of their privileged lives by setting each other on devious challenges involving other members of the aristocracy.

As the play develops we see just how far their schemes will take them: deep into the realms of humiliation, sexual jealousy, and fatal revenge. Merteuil's most recent lover, Gercout, has dropped her to marry a young woman, Cecile. In revenge, Merteuil sets Valmont the challenge of seducing the virginal Cecile before her wedding. Valmont himself has his eye on conquering Madame de Tourvel, a beautiful, but pious, married woman. Merteuil doesn't think he can succeed and makes a wager, offering him one last night with her if he proves his success. Valmont cannot resist, but finds himself committing the cardinal sin of falling in love with Tourvel, which to Merteuil is the ultimate betrayal. She responds devastatingly, using her new young lover Danceny as a pawn in the plot for her revenge.

Set in a period but stylised setting, reflecting the themes of passion and decadence, the production will explore not just the cold, calculating aspects of the characters but the hot blooded passions that underlie and drive their behaviour. Revenge may be a dish best served cold but the motivation for it comes from the heat of the blood. Together we will explore the raging passions that lurk beneath the tight corsets, waistcoats, and powder wigs of an aristocratic society on the brink of collapse.

This play contains some of the most demanding, but rewarding, roles in modern British theatre. Actors will need to be prepared to work hard to meet the challenge of the text, and also develop a physical language for the characters that reflects the languid cynicism of the Era.

Casting Breakdown:

*****Ages are approximate and flexible in certain areas*****

LA MARQUISE DE MERTEUIL (Female Presenting 40+) - a woman of experience. A rich widow; ex-lover and now co-conspirator of le Vicomte de Valmont; an extremely shrewd and formidable woman with deep reservoirs of intellect, emotion, and passion, though she guards the latter two characteristics fiercely; a supremely cool and cunning manipulator with a steely resolve; impenetrable and unapologetically deceptive; she plays the game better than anyone.

LE VICOMTE DE VALMONT (Male Presenting 35+) - a man of experience. Today he might be described as a playboy. The former lover of the Marquise, he is a distinguished, wealthy, and effortlessly charming lothario; stealthy, manipulative, and determined in the extreme; a proud man, used to getting his way. But he has a fatal vulnerability: blindsided by falling genuinely in love with his latest conquest, Madame de Tourvel.

LA PRESIDENTE DE TOURVEL - (Female Presenting 20-30) - pious and chaste, she is a virtuous, and deeply religious married woman of notoriously unassailable moral character; Valmont sets out to corrupt her for sport; passionate in her faith and loyal to a fault, Tourvel is relentlessly pursued and seduced by Valmont and, after giving over, is overwhelmed by deep feeling, passion, and ultimately grief.

MADAME DE VOLANGES (Female Presenting 40+) - a wealthy widow and friend of the Marquise; mother of Cécile; respectable and spirited if parochial; very aware of her daughter's budding sexuality and mindful of making a beneficial match for her; deeply distrustful and disdainful of Valmont.

CECILE VOLANGES - (YOUNG Female Presenting 18+ but very young) - Madame de Volanges' pretty and virginal young daughter, recently released from a convent to enter into a marriage her mother arranged; girlishly exuberant yet tentative, increasingly curious about the ways of the adult world the more she is exposed to it; devoted to her music teacher, le Chevalier Danceny.

LE CHEVALIER DANCENY - (Male Presenting 20+) - a Knight of Malta, Cécile's music teacher and pet of the Marquise; a charming and eager naïf, caught between boyhood and manhood; devoted to Cécile, though not necessarily the most suave, assured, and confident suitor; ultimately, a man of honour.

MADAME DE ROSEMONDE - (Female Presenting 60+) - Valmont's aunt. Grandmotherly, in the sense of being protective, but lively, intelligent and sympathetic. She is a wise and witty woman with a waspish sense of humour, and though devoted to her nephew, far from blind to his ways.

AZOLAN (Male presenting 20+) - Valmont's valet and also his spy; dapper and droll; does most of Valmont's dirty work, and reaps the rewards--both in his pocket and in his bed. Makes the most of the status afforded to him by association to Valmont.

EMILIE (Female presenting but possibly visibly transgender/crossdressing 20-50) - an attractive courtesan, for whom Valmont is one of their "regulars". Perceptive and well aware of their role in this unequal society.

MAJOR DOMO (Male presenting 25+) - Non-speaking role that appears on stage MANY times, and will carry a huge role in scene changing

MAID (Female presenting 18+) - Non-Speaking role that appears on stage often. Will be an asset in scene changes.

FOOTMAN (Male Presenting 18+) - Non Speaking role that appears on stage often. Will be an asset in scene changes. Also serves as the "Second" to Danceny in the duel.