

AUDITION NOTICE

THE MERRY WIVES OF WINDSOR

William Shakespeare

Director: Cath Hardy

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Play Reading Monday 23rd March at 7.30pm at the Mary Wallace Theatre

Auditions Sunday 29th March at 11am in the Fountain Gardens, York House, Twickenham for Mistress Ford, Mistress Page, Mistress Quickly, Falstaff, Page and Ford

Monday 30th March at 7.30pm at the Mary Wallace Theatre for all other characters

Playing Dates: Monday 13th to Saturday 18th July 2026 in the Fountain Gardens, York House, Twickenham

Rehearsals Rehearsals from Sunday 3 May 2026 (and then Tuesday, Thursday, Friday evenings and Sunday afternoons) in the Fountain Gardens with set build/final dress rehearsals from Friday 10th to Sunday 12th July, get out Sunday 19th July

SYNOPSIS

Shakespeare's classic comedy returns to the gardens again, in full Elizabethan finery featuring such favourite characters as Falstaff & Mistress Quickly. There are no lords or ladies, just Falstaff who's trying to sort out his money problems by wooing Mistress Ford & Mistress Page to convince them to 'splash the cash' although it will result in him splashing about.....

CHARACTERS:

Mistress Ford - married to Ford, and best friends with Mistress Page

Mistress Page - married to Page and mother to Anne. Best friends with Mistress Ford

Falstaff - The unruly knight is down on his luck and hopes by wooing both Mistress Ford & Mistress Page to turn his fortunes around

Ford - the jealous husband of Mistress Ford, he disguises himself as Brook to persuade Falstaff to test his wife's chastity

Page - the husband to Mistress Page and father to Anne. His plans to marry Anne to Slender go awry

Mistress Quickly - the famous Cheapside hostess is currently working as house-keeper to Doctor Caius and acting as a go between for several other characters

Bardolph - one of Falstaff's henchmen who ends up working for the Host of The Garter Inn

Pistol & Nym - the other henchmen to Falstaff. It is my intention that these two will act like a 'Greek chorus' and observe the happenings of the play so will be much larger parts than written

Robert(a) Shallow - visiting from Gloucestershire in the hopes of getting revenge on Falstaff and also to marry off Slender to Anne Page

Slender - a hapless young man who is going along with the plan to marry Anne

Simple - servant to Slender

Parson Hugh Evans - the local Welsh priest who ends up fighting the comic duel with the good doctor. Must be able to do a Welsh accent

Doctor Caius - the local physician who happens to be French. He has agreed with Mistress Ford that he will marry Anne and fights a comic duel. Must be able to do a French accent

John Rugby - servant to Doctor Caius and will also double as one of Ford's servants

Host of The Garter Inn - runs the local hostelry where Falstaff is staying and is key in making sure the duel doesn't actually happen

Anne Page - Daughter to Page & Mistress Page. Despite her parents' best intentions, will she end up with her lover, Fenton?

Fenton - Young man in love with Anne Page and will also double as one of Ford's servants

Non-speaking parts (e.g. servants, onlookers) may be available. If interested in a role of that nature, please contact the director.

AUDITION PIECES

Audition pieces will be available on the RSS website or from the director from Monday 2nd March 2026. If you're interested in receiving a copy of the edited script ahead of the reading on 23rd March, please contact the director, Cath Hardy via email 8messca@gmail.com

RSS is committed to inclusive casting and providing fair and equal access to all. Casting will not be constrained by any perceived characteristic of a role, e.g. gender or ethnicity, unless specified by the playwright or a condition of the licence. Our auditions are conducted in the presence of a panel of members of the RSS General Committee; the role of the panel includes ensuring that auditions conform with the Society's Code of Conduct for Members

While auditions are open to all, any offer of a part is conditional. You must be a member of RSS before the offer can be confirmed

Audition Application forms are available in the theatre, can be downloaded from the auditions page of the RSS website, or online: www.richmondshakespeare.org.uk/acting. Please return completed forms to the Hon. Secretary at the theatre or by e-mail to secretary@rss-mwt.org.uk

Dogs: please note that dogs (except trained and insured service animals) are not permitted in any part of the theatre at play readings, auditions or performances, or other events