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DANGEROUS LIAISONS

an original dance adaptation

AUDITION NOTICE

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DANGEROUS LIAISONS

an original dance adaptation

devised, directed and choreographed by
KIMBERLY BARKER & TOM LEONARD

producer
CLARE HARDING

stage manager
LOTTIE MILLS

creative design by
ROBERT J. STANEX

lighting design by
OLLY LEVETT

sound design by
ADAM COPPARD

film production & creative consultant
OLIVIER NAMET

creative consultant
DAN SAUNDERS

SYNOPSIS

It got a facelift in the 90s with *Cruel Intentions* and now Sedos brings a fresh new take on the classic story of seduction, betrayal and exploitation. Be transported to Hollywood where beauty is expected, abuses of power lurk under the shiny surface and the rivalry of two high-powered producers set in motion a story that will create stars and destroy lives. Told through dance, experience an original adaptation that brings *Dangerous Liaisons* crashing into the gender politics of 2019.

NARRATIVE

Hollywood power producer partners, Merteuil and Gercourt have recently parted ways after Gercourt decided to channel her energies into promoting equality and opportunities for women in film. Threatened by his ex-business partner's success in going it alone and her role in undermining his own projects, Merteuil instigates a plan to discredit Gercourt through creating scandal around Cecile - the young new star of her award nominated film. The rationale being that Hollywood scandal would undermine Gercourt's feminist agenda by making her and Cecile look like hypocrites.

It's award season and Gercourt is set to sweep the boards with her first film - *Independent Woman*. Off the momentum, she has a new film in production, in which she has cast Cecile again alongside established actors, Valmont and Tourvel. The casting of Valmont has caused some controversy as he has a reputation for being a playboy, and his fellow actress, Tourvel (a feminist and activist) has shown some disdain for his lifestyle. However, Gercourt has a history of working successfully with Valmont when she was partnered with Merteuil and highly regards him as an actor.

As Valmont is Merteuil's protégée, Merteuil sees an opportunity to recruit him to his plan to discredit Gercourt. This is not in Valmont's interest, besides, he has his eyes set on seducing Tourvel who presents a challenge after her criticisms of him. To change his mind, Merteuil promises that if Valmont successfully helps him fulfil this plan, he will finally produce the passion project that Valmont has been developing for years. Valmont agrees.

There is a lot of media interest in Gercourt's films, and a journalist is doing a feature. Cecile was able to largely go unnoticed prior to the award season but she has been propelled to fame overnight and all the demands that follow. On the new film, she has an acting coach, Danceney to support her in developing her role. Danceney is very talented but in the lower rungs of Hollywood and largely removed from the power games. He and Cecile fall in love but as Cecile unknowingly gets pulled into the pressures of the industry and Merteuil's plans, tensions build and they both find themselves victim to abuses of power in the industry.

In the meantime, Valmont and Tourvel find themselves thrown by events that bring them close together. While Merteuil's plan appears to prevail it is at a great cost that leads to his eventual downfall.

CHARACTERS

MERTEUIL

MALE

PLAYING AGE 40 - 55

Powerful male Hollywood producer. We want to see his Hollywood status and charisma while catching glimpses of the vulnerability triggered by his power being threatened.

DANCE ABILITY Strong acting and expression through movement.
Strong dancing is not a necessity.

GERCOURT

FEMALE

PLAYING AGE 40 - 55

Please note this character is never seen on stage and only features in prerecorded video excerpts. Please take note of the alternate audition process for this role.

Female Hollywood producer. She is dynamic, engaging and striking. She is subtly critical of the types of projects Merteuil is interested in producing but maintains a public front of them remaining firm friends. She has won a Golden Globe and set to win an Oscar for her latest film – 'Independent Woman'. You never see her in person but she is present on screen frequently throughout. This aims to symbolise a female threat to the male world. Being a large image on a screen allows her to seem untouchable and dominant.

DANCE ABILITY None needed.

VALMONT

MALE

PLAYING AGE 28 - 35

Male privileged actor in Hollywood. He had his 'break' through Merteuil. Their relationship is one of mutual manipulation. Merteuil has power and credit through 'making' a star. Valmont has stardom as a consequence of this relationship. However, Merteuil has the real control, yet Valmont is probably not fully aware of this. He has a vacuous lifestyle, and believes this superficial way of living is satisfying and makes him feel as though he has value. He has a reputation for being a womaniser, which massages his ego. He has a personal interest in seducing Tourvel because he thinks she looks down on him. However, he doesn't bank on falling in love with her.

DANCE ABILITY Strong all rounder

TOURVEL

FEMALE

PLAYING AGE 28 - 35

An established and respected actress. She is a leading force in trying to raise awareness about Hollywood inequality. She initially has disdain for Valmont due to his reputation but starts to see a different side to him when they work together. She needs to be confident, but with glimpses of self-doubt and vulnerability.

DANCE ABILITY Strong all rounder.

CECILE

FEMALE

PLAYING AGE 18 - 21

The newbie to Hollywood. Young, largely naïve but also very talented. Gercourt has taken her under her wing and she has been propelled to stardom overnight. Over the course of the piece, you see how Hollywood changes her through the pressure of being in the spotlight, expectations of the Hollywood image, exposure to drug use - which leaves her vulnerable and puts pressure on her relationship with Danceny.

DANCE ABILITY Strong all rounder.

DANCENY

MALE

PLAYING AGE 20 - 25

Acting coach for Cecile. He needs to come across as a genuine and decent person, who falls in love with Cecile deeply. However, he is also quite vulnerable to being used...

DANCE ABILITY Strong all rounder.

VOLANGE

FEMALE

ANY AGE

A journalist doing an exclusive feature in the lead up to the Oscars. As 'Independent Woman' is the favourite to win, she is particularly interested in following Cecile. She represents a media perspective on the character's affairs. She is also the person that interviews Gercourt in the opening scene and is the person who does the exposé on Merteuil at the end.

DANCE ABILITY Good movement and physical theatre.
This part can be adapted to the dance proficiency of the person cast.

MULTI-ROLERS

We are looking for up to 8 additional cast members to adopt multiple roles throughout the piece. These include directors, production team members, journalists, celebrities, waiters, photographers etc. Each person will be heavily utilised throughout the piece and will be required to dance a number of different styles.

DANCE ABILITY Solid dance ability, adaptable, good characterisations.

STYLE

This is a story told through physical theatre and dance. However, this will be built on acting and characterisation as the foundation to the movement. We are looking for people who are open, creative, explorative, inventive and are up for taking a few risks. This is a devised piece so while some plot points and scenes will be choreographed in advance, others will be workshopped and devised collaboratively. We intend to use a number of dance styles to capture different sides of Hollywood (on camera, in front of the media, behind closed doors) and we will be looking to work with the strengths of the people we cast. We will do everything we can to help people feel safe to try new things and push out of their comfort zones to hopefully create a very rewarding process for everyone involved!

SOUNDTRACK

We will be using a collection of film music, prerecorded spoken word and soundscapes to create the soundtrack of the piece.

KEY DATES

Workshop	16 April
Auditions	26 - 27 April
Recalls	28 April
Rehearsals	Tuesdays, Thursdays and a weekend day
Tech Rehearsal	13 October
Dress Rehearsal	14 October
Show Week	15 - 19 October including Saturday matinee

The workshop, auditions, recalls and most rehearsals will be held at
1 Brewers' Hall Garden, EC2V 5DX

The Tech and Dress rehearsal and Performances will be at
Bridewell Theatre, Bride Lane, EC4Y 8EQ

WORKSHOP

This will be the perfect opportunity to come along to meet the team and hear all about the exciting vision for the show. If you have any questions, this would be the ideal time to get them answered. It's your opportunity to audition us to see if this is a production you would like to be involved in. We will also be going over the format of the audition, teaching some choreo and giving a sneak preview into our approach. The evening will end in a local drinking establishment for a well earned beverage.

If you are intending to attend the workshop please sign up at membership.sedos.co.uk.

AUDITIONS

The audition will be split into two parts: a choreographed dance and a movement workshop. We will teach the choreographed dance at the workshop but will also share videos of this dance prior to the audition so people can prepare should they wish to. The link to this will be shared in your confirmation email once you have signed up to audition.

GERCOURT AUDITIONS

As this part does not feature outside of film, please email dangerousliaisons@sedos.co.uk to request the audition material. We will provide auditionees with a script excerpt of an interview with a journalist and ask them to send us a video. We will not be judging the quality of the filming, we are interested in how people come across on screen. Please email your video to dangerousliaisons@sedos.co.uk by 25 April. All videos submitted will be deleted immediately after casting.

RECALLS

If you are asked to attend a recall then further details will be sent to you on the evening of 27 April, once initial auditions are completed.

BOOKING AN AUDITION

Auditions will be held at **1 Brewers' Hall Garden, EC2V 5DX**

The audition slots available are	Friday 26 April	7:00 - 9:00 ^{PM}
	Saturday 27 April	10:00 ^{AM} - 12:00 ^{MD}
	Saturday 27 April	1:00 - 3:00 ^{PM}
	Saturday 27 April	3:30 - 5:30 ^{PM}

You can sign up for an audition slot at membership.sedos.co.uk. You will then be sent a link by email to confirm the booking – your slot is not booked until you have confirmed via this link (and paid your £5 audition fee if you are a non-member). Please check your junk mail if the email does not arrive. If you can no longer make your audition, please use the cancellation link in the email so we can free up the spot for someone else. If you have any problems, please email dangerousliaisons@sedos.co.uk.

FEES

In the nature of amateur theatre performers are not paid – not even expenses. To perform in Dangerous Liaisons you must be a member of Sedos (membership is currently £35 per year; £30 if paid by Direct Debit) and pay a participation fee of £30. There is a non-refundable £5 audition fee for non- Sedos members.

REHEARSALS

During May and June, we will be calling people to get some of the marketing materials completed (photoshoots, video etc). Rehearsals will commence on the last weekend of June, and will be held on Tuesdays, Thursdays and a weekend day.

We are looking forward to seeing you all at the workshop and auditions. If you have any questions before then please do not hesitate to email us at dangerousliaisons@sedos.co.uk.

BACKSTAGE

Sedos is always looking for volunteers to help with set building, sewing costumes, working Front of House or backstage. If you are interested in getting involved in any capacity please contact the Producer on dangerousliaisons@sedos.co.uk.