



- AUDITION NOTICE -

HOW TO **SUCCEED** IN  
**BUSINESS**  
**WITHOUT REALLY TRYING**

15-25 MAY 2019  
BRIDEWELL THEATRE

**sedos**

PRESENTS

# HOW TO SUCCEED IN BUSINESS WITHOUT REALLY TRYING

## KEY DATES AND VENUES

**Workshop** Monday 17 December 2018

**Auditions** Saturday 5 January, Sunday 6 January, & Thursday 10 January 2019

**Recalls** Saturday 12 January 2019

**Venue** 1 Brewers' Hall Garden, London EC2V 5DX

**First Rehearsal** w/c Monday 28 January

**Performances** Wednesday 15 May - Saturday 25 May 2019 (Bridewell Theatre, Bride Lane, London EC4Y 8EQ)

To book an audition, please read the full audition notice, then sign up at <https://membership.sedos.co.uk/signup>

Any questions: [howtosucceed@sedos.co.uk](mailto:howtosucceed@sedos.co.uk)

## ABOUT THE SHOW

'How to Succeed' is a witty, satirical show with an exhilarating musical score and a plethora of interesting and diverse characters. The story follows J Pierrepont Finch, a lowly window washer, who tries to use a little handbook called 'How to Succeed in Business without Really Trying' to climb the corporate ladder and become a high-powered executive at World Wide Wickets - a cricket wicket company.

Along the way he encounters various characters such as the aggressively compliant "company man," and the intimidating big boss Mr Biggley, plus various hijinks like the office party, an apocalyptic caffeine shortage and, of course, true love.

A musical which is a bit "of its time", there are a number of interesting topics to discuss and portray in this show - including sexism in the workplace, the mechanics of shrewdly rising up in corporate business and the old-school glamour of the 1960s. These are not too dissimilar from recent popular shows like *Mad Men* which have attracted a modern audience's attention and the show will be heavily influenced by this.

## MUSIC

From the mind of Frank Loesser (*Guys and Dolls* and *Baby It's Cold Outside*), *How to Succeed* is very clearly influenced by the music of the period it's set in, with bright big band style hits and lots of double bass. At the same time it is not afraid to feature other styles, from the marching band-esque *Grand Old Ivy* to the classical excerpts in *Rosemary*.

The show's music features all cast members in multiple songs, and gives them an opportunity to sing rich harmonies and go all out in large ensemble numbers, punctuated with over-the-top dance breaks.

The show also has a focus on ‘character’ style songs, so we will be looking for acting-through-song and an ability to convey the story element, just as much as solid vocals.

The band will be a ten-piece band, with a range of reeds, brass and strings alongside a traditional rhythm section.

## **DANCE**

The style of the show lends itself to both character-based movement pieces (e.g. *How To*, *Grand Old Ivy*, *Paris Original*) and large full-out dance numbers (i.e. *Brotherhood of Man* or *Company Way*). Therefore, we are looking for a mix of dancers and movers. Every character will be involved with at least one dance number, with some characters requiring a higher level of technique than others. Please see the character breakdown section for further dance level information.

The overall style of the show will be a varied mix, with heavy influences from jazz, contemporary, and general musical theatre. There will be many numbers that are focused on “telling the story” rather than having a full-stop “dance break”, while other numbers will have an opportunity for our advanced dancers to shine. We are open to creating numbers that fit the strengths of the cast — if we have a cast with strong dance technique, we aren’t afraid of challenging the group with a bit of choreography madness!

## **ABOUT SEDOS**

With a membership of over 200, a programme of around 8 to 10 challenging fringe theatre productions every year and a reputation for West End quality in every production, Sedos are proud of their claim to be the premier amateur theatre group in London.

The acting and producing membership includes an eclectic mix from all over London but maintains strong links with the City via its members from investment banks, law firms, brokers, the Exchanges and many other financial and city-based firms. We are an unincorporated association run by an executive committee and a registered charity (no. 1173896). We maintain a strong emphasis not only on member participation but also on excellence, as the reputation of the society grows within the community.

## **ABOUT THE CREATIVE TEAM**

### **DIRECTOR | PETER SHIMMIN**

Peter is an actor and director originally from the Isle of Man. Peter’s foray into directing began when he was studying Acting at the Arts University Bournemouth, with a production of *Footloose*. Since joining Sedos in 2016, Peter has performed in a number of shows including *London Road*, *Candide* and *Lucky Stiff*, and was also the Assistant Director for *Ordinary Days*. Peter co-directed *Dogfight* in 2018 and is excited to be taking on *How to Succeed* this year as his first solo-directing two week musical - it’s sure to be a thrilling challenge! By day, Peter works for a digital marketing agency focused on cryptocurrency technology.

### **MUSICAL DIRECTOR | MICHAEL CANNON**

This is Michael’s third time as a musical director for Sedos following 2017’s production of *Drowsy Chaperone*. He has been involved in a number of productions since he was first asked to MD *Little Shop of Horrors* at the University of Warwick. Since then he has worked on shows including *Cabaret*, *Spring Awakening*, *Company*, *Beauty and the Beast*, and the world premiere of *Riptide!* – a slasher musical - at the (rather fittingly named) Rosemary Branch Theatre.

### **CHOREOGRAPHER | SAMANTHA MILLER**

Sam is a classically trained dancer from California, with a focus in ballet, jazz, modern, contemporary and musical theatre. Sam directed, choreographed and danced with the University of Southern California Repertory Dance Company for many years. Since moving to London in 2015, Sam has performed in a variety of shows including *Frankenstein* (Sedos, Female Creature), *Fame* (Centre Stage, Iris) and *Reefer Madness* (Sedos, Dance Captain & Ensemble). Sam works in Business Development for Apple during the day, so she easily relates to the corporate world content of *How to Succeed*. She is thrilled to be collaborating with Sedos to choreograph this spectacular show!

## **PRODUCER | REBECCA CHISHOLM**

Rebecca has been a member of Sedos since 2007 and this will be her 6th show as producer for the society. As well as being part of production teams, Rebecca has performed in many Sedos shows over the years, including *Grand Hotel*, *Wild Party*, *Guys and Dolls*, *Candide* and *Lucky Stiff*, stage managed, built sets and is currently on the Sedos Committee.

## **ASSISTANT DIRECTOR | GUY ETTLIN**

Guy is a stage and film director and actor who moved to London in 2018. Previously based in Montreal, Canada, previous credits include Eugene Ionesco's *Rhinoceros* and Gilbert and Sullivan's *Iolanthe*. This is his first time working with Sedos and he is thrilled to be a part of this show!

## **ASSISTANT MUSICAL DIRECTOR | WILL GAINES**

Will is a rare sight in London - a northerner. From Sheffield, he began playing saxophone aged 9 before starting piano at secondary school. Thus, his influences lie heavily in jazz and swing, much to the distaste of his classically trained piano teacher. Will discovered his love of musical theatre at university, working on revue shows, cabarets and taking the role of MD for a production of *Pippin*. However, upon remembering he cannot sing, he instead turned to passionately shouting and flailing at those more talented than himself from the safety of the band pit, a skillset he is excited to bring to his first show with Sedos.

## **DATES FOR THE DIARY**

### **WORKSHOP**

If you would like to find out more about the show vision and character breakdowns, we will be holding a workshop on Monday 17 December 2018 at Brewers' Hall Garden ('BHG') from 7pm. This will be an opportunity to meet the team, act and sing through part of the show, learn the audition dance, experience our rehearsal process and ask any questions you may have. The workshop is free and open to all, members and non-members.

Please sign up here, so we have an idea of numbers: <https://membership.sedos.co.uk/signup>

### **AUDITIONS**

Auditions will be held on Saturday 5 January, Sunday 6 January, & Thursday 10 January, with the opportunity for recalls on Saturday 12 January, all at BHG.

Request an audition here: <https://membership.sedos.co.uk/signup>

### **REHEARSALS**

The first rehearsal will be on or around 29 January (depending on cast availability) with the readthrough (and fun sing-through) for the whole cast taking place on Saturday 2 February - with a social in the evening after.

Rehearsals are called on Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 7-10pm, and on Saturdays from 10am-5pm. There are no rehearsals on Saturday 20 April or Saturday 4 May, so there will be Sunday rehearsals on 14 April and 5 May instead.

### **SHOW WEEK**

The following dates require mandatory attendance:

- Saturday 11 May 2019 (day): Final Runthrough
- Sunday 12 May 2019 (day): Sitzprobe
- Monday 13 May 2019 (evening): Tech rehearsal
- Tuesday 14 May 2019 (evening): Dress rehearsal

Performances take place from Wednesday 15 to Saturday 25 March 2019 at 7:30pm, with 2:30pm Saturday matinees on the 18 and 25 May, at Bridewell Theatre. No performances will take place on Sunday 19 May or Monday 20 May.

## AUDITION FORMAT

The audition panel will consist of the full creative team plus a member of the Sedos committee to ensure fairness is maintained.

Each person will be allocated a 10-minute slot upon application, to:

- Sing one of the assigned audition songs
- Read one of the assigned dialogue extracts

On Saturday 5 January and Sunday 6 January, we will run auditions in sets of two hours (10 people) starting at the following times: 10am, 12:30pm, 3pm. The dancing part of the audition will take place in a group as described below:

10:00 – Auditionee #1  
10:10 – Auditionee #2  
10:20 – Auditionee #3  
10:30 – Auditionee #4  
10:40 – Auditionee #5  
10:50-11:10 – 20 min for group dance audition for Auditionees #1 – #10  
11:10 – Auditionee #6  
11:20 – Auditionee #7  
11:30 – Auditionee #8  
11:40 – Auditionee #9  
11:50 – Auditionee #10

On Thursday 10 January, the format will be as per the below:

7:00 – Auditionee #1  
7:10 – Auditionee #2  
7:20 – Auditionee #3  
7:30 – Auditionee #4  
7:40 – Auditionee #5  
7:50-8:10 – 20 min for group dance audition for Auditionees #1 – #10  
8:10 – Auditionee #6  
8:20 – Auditionee #7  
8:30 – Auditionee #8  
8:40 – Auditionee #9  
8:50 – Auditionee #10  
9-9:10 – 10 min for group dance audition for Auditionees #11 – #15  
9:10 – Auditionee #11  
9:20 – Auditionee #12  
9:30 – Auditionee #13  
9:40 – Auditionee #14  
9:50 – Auditionee #15

## PREPARATION

All audition materials will be made available to you once you've signed up to an audition slot. You will receive a link to all audition pieces via your audition slot confirmation email. You do not need to have learnt the pieces, but you should be confident and familiar enough with them to perform with conviction and character.

Two videos showing the dance audition sequences will be made available in advance. Beginner and mover auditionees should learn *Company Way Reprise*. Any advanced dancers should also learn and perform *Brotherhood of Man*. A short additional part of the choreography will be taught at the auditions.

Request an audition here: <https://membership.sedos.co.uk/signup>

## CHARACTER BREAKDOWN

### MALE CHARACTERS

#### J. PIERREPONT FINCH (Age Range: 18-25)

Our story's protagonist. An irrepressible, clear-eyed, almost puckish hero, he is a window washer who applies for a job at the World-Wide Wicket Company and attempts to climb the 'ladder of success.'

Vocal Range: C3 - G4

Dance Level: Medium - Advanced

#### J.B. BIGGLEY (Age Range: 50-70)

The stuffed-shirt, philandering President of World-Wide Wicket. Beneath his ruthless exterior, he is a college lad at heart with a passion for knitting.

Vocal Range: C3 - A4

Dance Level: Mover

#### BUD FRUMP (Age Range: 18-25)

Biggly's nephew and scheming employee. He is an arrogant sycophant who tries to advance his career by exploiting his family connections.

Vocal Range: C3 - F4

Dance Level: Beginner - Advanced

#### BERT BRATT (Age Range: 20-60)

Personnel Manager - A harried executive that does a quality job. Bratt is central to the hirings and firings that move the plot along and is one of the only executives who seems to do his job.

Vocal Range: Baritone

Dance Level: Medium - Advanced

#### MR. TWIMBLE /WALLY WOMPER (Age Range: 45-70)

-Twimble is a fussy, old-fashioned, yet loyal employee at the company. Supervisor of the mailroom, he believes his success is due to his lack of ambition and ability to remain unnoticed.

-Wally is the company's Chief Executive Officer and a former window-washer.

Vocal Range: C#3 - E4

Dance Level: Mover

#### MILT GATCH (Age Range: 30-50)

A sleazy executive with a penchant for the ladies.

Vocal Range: Baritone

Dance Level: Mover

#### BENJAMIN OVINGTON (Age Range: 20-40)

The new head of advertising - Ovington is the golden boy. Tall, handsome, athletic and smart. He is hired to head up the advertising department.

Vocal Range: Baritone

Dance Level: Medium - Advanced

## **FEMALE CHARACTERS**

### **ROSEMARY (Age Range: 20-30)**

A secretary at the company who is more interested in finding a man than advancing her career. She becomes Finch's love interest.

Vocal Range: A3 - B4

Dance Level: Medium - Advanced

### **SMITTY (Age Range: 20-40)**

A secretary with a painfully dry sense of humour. She is a cynical, working woman who is also on the lookout for a man.

Vocal Range: Mezzo

Dance Level: Medium - Advanced

### **MISS JONES (Age Range: 30-50)**

J.B.'s diligent secretary who is abrupt and tough, but soft and kind to those who are good to her.

Vocal Range: Bb3 - Gb5

Dance Level: Medium - Advanced

### **HEDY (Age Range: 20-35)**

A sexually-charged woman adored by all the men. She may appear dim-witted, but she knows how to manipulate men to get what she wants.

Vocal Range: C4 - Eb5

Dance Level: Medium - Advanced

### **MISS KRUMHOLTZ (Age Range: 20-50)**

Mr. Gatch's secretary, Miss Krumholtz is the professional secretary that is completely loyal to the executive she is assigned to that day.

Vocal Range: Mezzo

Dance Level: Medium - Advanced

## **ENSEMBLE**

There are various opportunities for an ensemble of 4 to 6 individuals who will play roles such as Executives, Mailroom Workers and Secretaries. Despite the period setting, we will consider male and female auditionees equally for Executive roles. We are looking for advanced dancers for Ensemble roles, as well as committed character actors who can help to portray the story alongside the 'named' parts.

## **CASTING NOTES**

It is Sedos' policy that casting is based on suitability for the role (regardless of Sedos membership).

It is important to note that during the historical period of the show, the early 1960s, the situation for women and people of colour were very different to today. Regardless of the historical context we actively encourage actors of all ethnicities to audition for all and any roles, and the role of women in the storyline will be greatly explored throughout rehearsals, and the show itself.

## **ACCENTS**

All accents should be American Standard.

## AVAILABILITY

Unfortunately, due to crossover in rehearsal times, members who have been cast in *Next Thing You Know* and *After the Dance* will not be able to audition for *How to Succeed*.

Due to the significance of Finch in the majority of scenes and the amount of stage time he occupies, the actor cast as Finch must have excellent availability during the rehearsal period.

## FEES AND SUBSCRIPTIONS

There is an audition charge of £5 for non-members which is payable when booking your audition slot.

Sedos is one of London's pre-eminent amateur theatre societies with the aim of producing quality amateur theatre to the best artistic quality possible. In the nature of amateur theatre, performers are not paid - not even expenses.

Each performer must be a member of Sedos to perform in a show. Membership fees are £30 a year if paid by direct debit, £35 otherwise. There is also a show participation fee of £40.

## LINKS AND CONTACT

Sign up to the workshop / Request an audition:  
<https://membership.sedos.co.uk/signup>

Sedos FAQs:  
<https://sedos.co.uk/aboutus/faq.htm>

If there's anything else, please contact the production team at [howtosucceed@sedos.co.uk](mailto:howtosucceed@sedos.co.uk)

Good luck!

