Romford Shakespeare Theatre

**RST DIRECTORS’ BRIEFING/APPLICATION PACK 2026**

Firstly, thank you for your interest in directing our 2026 summer production in the park. Here is some background information for you to consider, and also an application form. We don’t seek to be bureaucratic, but it will be helpful to us to have the same information from each director, to help us decide on who directs 2026 – and what the show will be!

**A LONG HISTORY**RST has been going since the early 1960’s, and much has changed since then. But the pandemic forced much further change since our 2019 production, so moving forward, we have been reimagining aspects of our company and productions, and indeed, reimagining and extending what we do.

Our summer show has moved from The Rockery to Ardleigh House. We’ve started our next journey in our new home by bringing back the first ever show on The Rockery, *A Midsummer Night’s Dream*, but we’re excited to see what the future holds for this new venue.

**MONEY, MONEY, MONEY**Despite moving to a new home at Ardleigh House, it’s still very expensive to produce an outdoor Shakespeare production. We cannot control the weather, and we have been lucky with the last few shows – but anything could happen. It is vital that we choose a play which will appeal to audiences, be practical in the space, and that we can sell. We have never done one of the historical plays, which currently remains untested territory.

**CHOICE OF PLAY**We could suggest a title, but feel it is important for the director to love the play, so we are inviting you to suggest what you think would be a great play to direct for 2026. It would be a good to choose one of Shakespeare’s well known titles – and ideally one on the school curriculum.

**WORKING WITH THE COMMITTEE/MARKETING TEAM**As mentioned, the production is teamwork and we see marketing as crucial. To this end, Paul and Mark will continue to provide this service – the director just directs. They have been doing this for the past few years and will keep our style consistent, building on previous success, while ensuring the director isn’t pulled in various directions and can get on with their job. It will be important for the director to communicate with Mark and Paul so that they can understand how the play is developing and organise practical things like photographs. The director will also need to liaise with the Stage Manager and Facilities Co-Ordinator as the production develops. We will explain along the way. Re costumes, we will source, aiming to provide what the director wants, but caveated with budget constraints and practicality!

There are eight performances scheduled, and show dates will be:

* Thurs-Sat June
* Thurs-Sat July
* Matinee on the first Sunday
* Matinee on second Saturday

Rehearsals will be at Ardleigh House, Ardleigh Green Road. We usually have two weeknight rehearsals at Ardleigh House and Sunday mornings outside.

So, if you are up for it, please let us know your ideas on the following sheets!

**RST SUMMER 2026**

**I’d like to direct RST’s summer play at Ardleigh House in 2026**

**The Basics!**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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Email address: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**A little bit about you**

Are you currently working on a project?

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Have you worked with RST before?

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If so, which productions and in what capacity?
(If more than three, just pick three!)

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Can you tell us a little about your directing experience?
ie have you directed many shows? what have you directed recently, when and for whom?

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**The exciting bit!**

What play would you like to direct for us?

Why do you think this is a good choice?

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What ideas have you on how it might be set?

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Do you see any particular obstacles or big challenges?

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Thank you so much for sharing this information.

Please email this to: chrissieact1@hotmail.co.uk
Or send hard copy to**:** 147 Balgores Lane, Gidea Park, RM2 6BT

If you would like to ask some questions or chat about it, call Chrissie on: 07762 133620 or 01708 476534



 **Replies, please, by 31/05/25**