

2025 CASTING

Illyria celebrates its 34th season in 2025. Would you like to work for one of the longest established, most widely respected and highly acclaimed of the open-air theatre companies? If so, we'd like to hear from you.

Illyria's shows are very physical and demand very strong vocal skills. The productions are ensemble - no individual is the star. Actors need to be fearless in giving HUGE performances and, within given parameters, interacting freely with the audience.

We rehearse in the far west of Cornwall. Rehearsals are 5 days per week, and the entire cast will stay together in one or two static caravans. Travel to Cornwall and accommodation during rehearsals are provided and paid for by Illyria.

On tour, there is at least one day off per week (generally Monday). Vans return to base/London on average once a fortnight, but sometimes less frequently. Any other travel on tour is provided and paid for by Illyria. Accommodation is provided and paid for by Illyria (normally shared twin rooms).

Each tour has a company of between 4-6 actors (depending on the title) who work as a team. Everyone mucks in with everything, including stage-management, driving, costume/prop-maintenance, radio/TV interviews, and most importantly get-ins & get-outs which involve lugging heavy steel deck staging. No-one gets off lightly. All jobs are everyone's jobs.

Performances continue regardless of the weather. Building the stage, performing in the show, striking everything and packing the van in the pouring rain and mud – how does that make you feel? Is that an *honest* answer, or just what you think we want to hear? Everyone loves the sound of adventure – until they're in one. So please think long and hard about this kind of work before applying.

Touring with Illyria is not like indoor touring. Open-air shows demand greater physical and vocal energy, because we don't use amplification and because the weather and other elements can sometimes work against you. There are days when your get-in becomes laborious and muddy, the wind blows your voice away from the audience and your quick-changes in sodden costumes become an endless struggle. You can be cold, tired and wetter than you've ever dreamed possible. But for the right people the periodic hardships are outweighed by the camaraderie, the balmy days and the magic of being on stage in the great outdoors. During the last 33 years 75% of Illyria's actors have returned for more! (Over 50% return for 3 seasons, 20% for 5 seasons or more!)

Illyria was proud to adopt Equity's Charter for Outdoor Theatre at its inception. Please bear this in mind when choosing between work with Illyria or other companies who offer remunerations and conditions well below the Equity standard.

We would like to hear from versatile performers who are up for the challenge of outdoor touring. We need to be certain that every applicant has genuinely understood the physical,

mental and technical demands of open-air touring, so **submissions will ONLY be considered if accompanied by a *detailed* covering letter (or voice memo or link to a short video*) from the performer themselves**. We can see your skills and experience from your CV, but we want to hear about *you*. Tell us in a paragraph or two why this kind of work appeals to you, how it plays to your strengths, and what qualities you can bring. We regret that submissions without a detailed covering letter, voice memo or link to a short video **from the performer themselves** cannot be considered.

*Please don't upload your video to a platform where the link expires after 1 week, as we may not be able to view it within 1 week of your sending it.

Casting – HMS PINAFORE

Location: UK open-air theatre tour

Dates: Rehearsing 30th June – 4th July in Fulham, London. Then from 7th July in Cornwall.

Touring 19th July – 7th September (10 weeks in total, dates subject to alteration)

Wage £523pw

+ 3 meals per day on tour OR £7.50 per meal

+ statutory holiday pay/paid holiday

+ overtime (where applicable)

+ pension contribution

Accommodation and travel paid for by Illyria.

Compliant with Equity's Charter for Outdoor Theatre.

Character Details:

We are looking for exceptionally versatile actors to join Illyria as company members in this ensemble production. Every performer will not only play a leading role, but also their own chorus of Sailors, Sisters, Cousins and Aunts.

Essential:

All applicants must be classically trained singers with a very strong legit sound and must have the following:

- a full, clean driving licence
- a passion for small-scale touring

Desirable:

- Van-driving experience
- Some dance experience

We strongly encourage application from Black, Asian and ethnic minority actors. All appointments will be made on merit.

Roles:

Ralph Rackstraw

(Tenor, Range up to B4)

Playing age: 21-45

Gender: As per role

Appearance: Any

Height: Any

Male juvenile lead. A common enlisted sailor, he has fallen in love with the Captain's daughter, Josephine, a match that Victorian society cannot condone.

Josephine

(Soprano, Range up to C6)

Playing age: 21-45

Gender: As per role

Appearance: Any

Height: Any

Female juvenile lead. Captain Corcoran's daughter. She resents the social pressures that cause her to be paired up with Sir Joseph and prevent her union to Ralph.

Sir Joseph Porter

(Female voice, Alto/Mezzo, Range G3-G5. N.b. Eb5 as Sir Joseph & G5 as Ensemble)

Playing age: 30-50

Gender: As per role

Appearance: Any

Height: Any

First Lord of the Admiralty, Sir Joseph Porter KCB rose to power through family influence and inherited wealth, and certainly not through having any discernible talent or skill.

Buttercup

(Alto/Mezzo, Range G3-F5)

Playing age: 21-45

Gender: As per role

Appearance: Any

Height: Any

Described as a "bum-boat woman" - she is a woman of a certain age who has made her living rowing from ship to ship in the harbour selling the crews various goodies. It is not clear whether she herself is one of the commodities for sale.

Dick Deadeye

(Female voice, Alto, Range G3-D5)

Playing age: 21-45

Gender: As per role

Appearance: Any

Height: Any

NB, this is a male role, but we are casting a female voice. Dick Deadeye is a salty old seadog, who does his best to tear the young lovers apart simply to gratify his own bitter heart.

All other roles are now cast.

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Please email your details and/or Spotlight link (or equivalent) to the director, Kim Healey: illyriacasting@gmail.com. Email applications only please, with "CASTING HMS PINAFORE" in the title bar. Submissions without a detailed covering letter, or mass submissions of only photos and CVs, cannot be considered.

Closing date for applications: midnight 30th March 2025. Auditions to be held in London on 16th & 17th April 2025.