

# Norah's Ark



**Stratford Town Trust are looking for talented and enthusiastic performers who can bring to life the colourful characters in their new community play, *Norah's Ark***

*Norah's Ark* is a modern medieval take on the climate crisis, to be performed in Stratford's historic Guild Chapel. It is a lively and spectacular production based on medieval mystery plays about Noah and the flood, and inspired by the Chapel's remarkable 15<sup>th</sup> century wall paintings.

The *Norah's Ark* project launched in Great Big Green Week in June 2025. There have been workshops and events running throughout the year, with more still to come. There will be four performances of the play itself in Great Big Green Week in June 2026, and the production will feature a very special actor playing God.

This new play has been written by locals Margo Galvin and Lance Woodman and, like medieval mystery plays, it engages with events from the past but puts a contemporary spin on them. It will be a fun and entertaining production designed to appeal to all ages, the message being that there is hope for the future if we act now.

*Norah's Ark* will be directed by Pamela Devine who produced and directed the hugely successful *Dance of Death* in the Guild Chapel in 2024, also based on one of the Chapel's medieval wall paintings. Artwork is by Janet Hall.

## The auditions

### Dates and times

**Auditions:** Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> or Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2025, 2.00pm-5.00pm, at the RSC Clore Learning Centre, Waterside, Stratford-upon-Avon, CV37 6BB. If you are unable to attend on either date but would still like to audition, please contact the *Norah's Ark* team at [norahsark2026@gmail.com](mailto:norahsark2026@gmail.com)

**Rehearsals:** Tuesdays from 6<sup>th</sup> January 2026, 6.30pm-8.30pm.

**Full dress rehearsal:** 9<sup>th</sup> June 2026, 6.00pm – 8.30pm.

**Performances:** 10<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> June 2026 inclusive (times vary).

### What we are looking for

We want to build a company of enthusiastic and creative individuals with a wide range of skills, whether those skills be acting, music, puppetry, or simply making weird animal noises.

The script offers opportunities for everyone to have their moment in the spotlight if they want it. We have a range of roles on offer from the main speaking parts of *Norah*, *Noah*, their three daughters and their partners, to supporting parts with featured moments (see below). We expect parts to evolve and develop as rehearsals progress. Some cast members may take more than one part but no one will be asked to do something they are not comfortable with - if you don't want a line, that's OK.

We are looking for anyone aged 18 and over who is available for all key rehearsals and the entire production week.

You are welcome to attend the *Norah's Ark* auditions whatever your background, whether you are a semi-professional actor, an amateur, or have no acting experience whatsoever. Our aim is to always be impartial and inclusive. If you have any specific access needs that we need to be aware of in advance, please let us know on your registration form or by emailing us at [norahsark2026@gmail.com](mailto:norahsark2026@gmail.com).

### Roles in *Norah's Ark*

#### Major roles

*Norah* and *Noah* - a middle-aged married couple.

*Avon* and *Stour* - *Avon* is the daughter of *Norah* and *Noah*. She is a highly-qualified marine engineer. Her husband *Stour* is an academic psychologist.

Wave and Bore – Wave is Norah and Noah's second daughter. She would like to be a social media influencer. Her husband Bore is an entrepreneur.

## **Other roles**

Blythe, Leam and Rea – Norah's gossip friends, or god-sibs.

Taff – a prophet who is repeatedly ignored.

Numerous other character parts with featured moments, for example, various animals, weather people, news reporters, including some parts with more 'passing' roles such as the Lookout.

Puppeteers – we will need people to bring to life a range of puppets, from tiny animals to a magnificent angel, the Cherub.

## **What we want you to do at the auditions**

The auditions will be structured like workshops (with an interval in the middle) so you need to be prepared for that - wear comfortable clothing, bring refreshments and so on. You might also want to bring a notebook and pen along.

At this stage, there is no right or wrong, pass or fail. We want the auditions to be fun. We will explore some of the play's key moments and experiment with vocals, movement, animal sound effects and so on. We want to get a feel for where people's talents lie and how everyone can come together as a team. We will provide copies of the scenes where the spoken word forms part of the exercise. There are no lines to learn ahead of the audition. This is a collaborative project, and the auditions are a chance for you to get to know us as well as for us to get to know you. Please feel free to ask as many questions, or make as many suggestions as you want.

## **What can we offer you?**

This is a great opportunity for anyone looking to develop their performance skills and gain experience, or anyone who simply wants to be part of something a bit different. You will be part of a friendly community production performing in one of Stratford's most familiar landmarks. The special qualities of the Guild Chapel make it a unique performance space, and that space will be used in a particularly innovative way in this production to showcase those special qualities.

## **Interested?**

If you are interested in taking part, please complete the registration form below and return it to [norahsark2026@gmail.com](mailto:norahsark2026@gmail.com) by **9<sup>th</sup> November 2025**.

Alternatively, return your registration form to Melysa Wilson, Stratford Town Trust, 14 Rother Street, Stratford-upon-Avon, CV37 6LU. Tel. no. 01789 207117.

# **Welcome aboard!**

## Non-acting roles

If you would like to get involved in other ways, or you have skills and experience which you think might be of help, please email [norahsark2026@gmail.com](mailto:norahsark2026@gmail.com) giving us details and an idea of what you would like to do.

## Workshops and other events



Our workshops and events are designed to support the production, develop the script, and give participants an idea of what we intend for *Norah's Ark*. If you would like to get involved in any of our forthcoming workshops and events, please scan the QR code or go to our events page at [www.guildchapel.co.uk/events](http://www.guildchapel.co.uk/events). To book a place go to <https://signup.com/go/UGBCvyj>

For all other enquiries, please email [norahsark2026@gmail.com](mailto:norahsark2026@gmail.com)





# Norah's Ark registration form

Name:

Address:

Tel no:

Email:

Dates you are unavailable for rehearsals:

Please give details of your relevant experience, if any, and what you think you could bring to the *Norah's Ark* production:

Preferred role(s), eg, Norah, Noah, their family, other roles, puppeteer:

**Auditions are scheduled for either Saturday 15th or Saturday 22nd November 2025 between 2.00pm-5.00pm. Please state your preferred date:**

If you are unable to attend on either Saturday 15th or Saturday 22nd November but would still like to audition, please contact the *Norah's Ark* team at [norahsark2026@gmail.com](mailto:norahsark2026@gmail.com)

**Privacy Policy** The privacy and security of your personal information is extremely important to us. Our Privacy Policy explains how we protect and manage any personal data which you share with us and that we hold about you, including how we collect, process, protect and share that data. Read the full policy here <https://www.stratfordtowntrust.co.uk/privacy-policy>

Signature:

Date: