

Please email all responses to as3833@cam.ac.uk and sgp44@cam.ac.uk (no more than one side of A4) - message if you need an extension :)

About the play:

A history scholar is spending some time in a nice foreign town, studying the archives and quietly admiring a lady living on the opposite side of the street. Much to his delight, he finds out that the lady is a princess, the foreign town is a place where fairy tales come true and some of his acquaintances are... ogres? However, the scholar will have to discover how dysfunctional the magic world really is after asking his shadow to tell the princess that he loves her.

Exploring the topics of friendship, manipulation, corruption and personal bravery, “The Shadow” is a political satire twist by Evgeny Schwartz on the tale of the same name by Hans-Christian Andersen. It is at the same time exhilaratingly funny, sad, and very dark (somebody may or may not die). The play was written as a part of a play trilogy in the second World War, but through the topics it discusses, it remains still relevant in our society and our times.

Content warnings (highlight to see):

Meet the director:

Hi, my name is Sasha Shelest, and I am a collaborative story-oriented director, keen on projects that are fun for everybody involved. I am always open to the creative input of everybody working with me, which in my experience is also the best way to achieve a fun and professional-looking production. When I am not watching actors being glorious, I work as a biophysics postdoc at the university.

“The Shadow” is a project very close to my heart – I even translated the play, as I felt the existing translation didn’t do it justice. Therefore, I feel very ambitious, hoping that we can create an exceptional piece of theatre, and maybe also something that we can take out for a week to a London pub theatre. I have previously directed both comedy and period plays, but this will be my first production in Cambridge, and I am a bit intimidated by the schedule, so please come on board and help me create some magic!

Vision:

The play is written for a gigantic cast, but I would like to put it on in an experimental way, using a cast of 11-15 people, double-casting secondary characters, and having a very minimal transformative set. The venue we have is the Black Box theatre, specifically because I am very keen on creating an immersive and intimate environment. In my vision, the central pieces of the world-building are the music and the costumes, whereas the set should be kept as simple as possible (think *Jane Eyre* by the Bristol Old Vic), and the lighting is serving for accentuation. Depending on how much double-casting there will be, I would like to have costume pieces and props that allow actors to immediately identify themselves as a certain character, and that might be even stashed somewhere on the stage.

Publicist

Help shape the public profile of *The Shadow* by promoting the production across social media, press, and the wider Cambridge community. Working closely with the producer and poster designer, you'll create engaging content and build excitement leading up to the show through social media and in-person (postering & flyering).

1. Why are you interested in publicising *The Shadow*?
2. What experience do you have with marketing, social media, publicity, or content creation?
3. Do you have any ideas to promote this production and communicate its unique style to audiences?