

TM Introductions

Hey everyone! We're Natalie and Louisa, your Tour Managers for CAST 2026. We are so excited for the road trip of the year with you guys :)

We chose to tour manage CAST as we've worked on several projects together, but we wanted to challenge ourselves with a longer-term passion project and contribute to CAST's incredible legacy. We are looking to build a creative, dedicated and warm team to take to the US this summer!

We both grew up internationally - Louisa lived in the US for eight years but hasn't been back since she was ten, and is very excited to return in a theatrical capacity. Natalie is Australian but has lots of family in the States!

Both of us were relatively new to theatre before Cambridge, and we are passionate about making sure that anyone can get involved: diversity is important to us, as well as fostering a positive and fun environment to create together.

Please find below our Spotify playlist for summery, roadtrip vibes :)

[CAST '26 Vibes!](#)

Director Introduction

Hey everyone! I'm Aditi, and I'm so excited to direct CAST 2026: King Lear:))

Growing up, I found Shakespeare intimidating until I saw my first live production, a touring show for students, and completely fell in love with it. That experience made me want to approach Shakespeare as something felt rather than feared. For CAST 2026, I wanted to choose a play that explores intimate family dynamics while also grappling with broader questions of power, inheritance, and its consequences. And also, it feels like such a full circle moment to tour and hopefully excite others about Shakespeare!

This production centres on the relationship between Lear and his daughters, with a particular focus on how power and "madness" are intertwined, and how each daughter is shaped by her proximity to that power. No sister is purely good or evil, each is a product of her environment, choices, and survival strategies.

Some quick ideas about the vision:

- A medieval fantasy aesthetic, paired with modern underclothes to support ensemble and physical work
- An ensemble that reflects Lear's shifting internal state and experience of "madness"

CAST: Key Details

- 1) Availability and Timeline
 - ★ The main part of the tour will take place from the end of August, throughout September, to the first week of October (Michaelmas Term) for the ADC Home Run. Applicants are expected to be available throughout the entirety of this period – CAST is a significant, long-term commitment and we expect all members of the company to be highly committed, reliable, and dedicated to the tour.
 - ★ Rehearsals will take place during Lent and Easter term (while accommodating exam dates). This is a significantly longer rehearsal process compared to ADC/Playroom shows, ideally making the process a lot more relaxing and slower-paced.
- 2) Company Fee/Expenses
 - ★ All touring members of CAST will pay a company fee of roughly £850 (based on 2025). The precise amount is yet to be determined, but not stray too far from this amount – at most, will increase subject to inflation. This fee covers all expenses associated with the tour, i.e., flights/transportation, accommodation, food and other necessities. While CAST itself cannot subsidise the company fee, most colleges have funds/grants which can be used to cover this fee, whether in-part or fully.
- 3) Additional Tour Logistics
 - ★ The route for the tour is yet to be determined. In recent years, it has begun in Cambridge (UK) with a short-run in late-August before travelling to the US and performing at a range of venues across the East Coast.
 - Past venues/tour routes can be found on CAST's [Camdram](#).
 - ★ We will stay with host families for the most part and drive state-to-state before returning to the UK in time for Michaelmas term and the ADC Home Run.
 - ★ There will be plenty of rest time in between performances/workshops. We understand that the demands of a three-four week, touring show are intense and unfamiliar to most; welfare is a major priority for us as Tour Managers.
 - ★ The tour is community-based and shows are generally held at venues attached to schools and universities. The aim of CAST is not only to provide opportunities for us as Cambridge students but to give back to the local communities who make this tour possible!

Application Details

Applications for CM and AD/co-SM should include answers to all the questions as well as the following information (ATM applicants should answer questions 2 and 5 only):

- ★ Your age, on 1st September 2026.
- ★ Your college, course and year.
- ★ Whether you have your driver's license (important to note as we will be driving to most locations, but this will not devalue your application should you not have a licence!)
- ★ Any reasons why you will not be granted access to the US (eg. visa issues, passport restrictions, a criminal record).
- ★ The following pages can help you in checking this:
 - For British nationals: Entry requirements - USA travel advice - [GOV.UK](#)
 - Tourism & Visit (US State Department)
 - Visas - United States Department of State
- ★ A general outline of your commitments between now and September (eg. theatre/film commitments and committees, May Ball committees, summer holidays, upcoming shows, etc.)

Deadline for applications:

- ★ Assistant Director/co-SM (deadline: 30th January, noon)
- ★ Company Manager (deadline: 5th February, noon)
- ★ Assistant Tour Manager (deadline: 5th February, noon)

Please email your application to: nsyn2@cam.ac.uk, lh885@cam.ac.uk and armas2@cam.ac.uk

Assistant Director/Co-SM (touring)

We're looking for a motivated Assistant Director /Co-Stage Manager to help bring King Lear on tour. This is a flexible, collaborative role, ideal for someone seriously interested in directing and excited by the specific vision for this Lear (see details below).

Application Deadline: 30th January, noon.

We're looking for someone who:

- ★ Is excited by the artistic vision of this Lear (pitch and additional materials below)
- ★ Has a strong interest in directing and theatre-making
- ★ Is a clear, proactive communicator with directors, actors, and company
- ★ Is willing to be SM-trained by the ADC (if not already trained) and share the SM responsibilities with the director

Core Responsibilities:

- ★ Working with the directing team to cut and shape the Lear script for clarity and timing
- ★ Taking ownership of a specific area of focus or learning, for example:
 - Co-hosting Shakespeare workshops with the director
 - Choreographing /leading physical theatre elements
 - Or another skillset you feel would meaningfully support the cast and the vision of the show

Rehearsal Role:

- ★ Preparing for rehearsals alongside the directing team
- ★ Being present for most (ideally all) rehearsals
- ★ The more availability you have, the more opportunity there will be for you to lead rehearsal segments independently

Tech & Production:

- ★ There is flexibility depending on your interests!
- ★ If you're keen on design or technical elements from a creative standpoint, you'll be involved collaboratively
- ★ If you prefer to stay focused in the rehearsal room, that's completely fine too!)

This is a newly shaped role, so there is room to tailor responsibilities to your strengths. At its core, we're looking for someone motivated, generous, and focused on making the show as strong as possible. In your submission, feel free to outline what you'd be most excited and suited to contribute. We also have an existing TM/AD, Louisa, and the three of us will work closely together. The two AD roles won't be identical: the aim is to divide responsibilities thoughtfully and play to each person's strengths. As this is a touring production, there may also be some light administrative support involved, depending on the final shape of the team

Questions (deadline: 30th January, noon)

1. Why would you want to work on CAST?
2. Which aspects of the existing Lear vision are you most excited by? Where do you see room for development and change?
3. What experiences do you have that would make you a strong fit for the CAST directing team?
4. As this is a new role, how would you envision your ideal contribution to the team?
5. [Short answer] Are you SM-trained/open to get SM-trained for the tour?
6. [100% optional] Any other things you would like us to know?

We're so excited to read your applications!!!!

⚠ Because driving logistics are important in the tour, it is a preferred (but not a requirement) that the AD/co-SM has a driving license:)

King Lear Initial Application:

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1P_C-LJvJLF9sHcZzrvzyLln-q_T7t-MyjDjGEzPPHw/edit?usp=sharing

King Lear Additional Materials:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1ZSUVOMtTVu5ezvEluMAoRSr6kjlryAyEgd18H6MaqHVE/edit?usp=sharing>

Company Manager (touring)

The company manager is the fourth key touring leadership role, with the director and TMs. Whilst Louisa and Natalie (TMs) are in charge of the 'big picture' aspects of the tour (i.e. organizing venues for performances, finances, flights, routes, etc) and Aditi (director) leads the show production, the Company Manager is responsible for the touring company. This means managing the logistics of the tour in closer detail, and taking care of people's needs whilst the TMs manage the tour itself.

The CM role thus mainly involves logistical organisation. It is also the primary welfare role on the team, and the CM needs to be someone who can help facilitate accessibility, accommodate for people's preferences, and be there to help handle welfare issues that may arise. You are the tour welfairy and because the planning/execution of the tour is so huge, we need someone who can oversee the team and keep us on track! 

Application Deadline: 5th February, noon.

The specific duties of the CM include:

- ★ Organising food (booking restaurants, collecting dietary requirements, liaising with host families for meals etc)
- ★ Organising accommodation preferences e.g. pairing people up and providing accessible accommodation options
- ★ Planning the driving routes in detail, i.e. finding pit stops for food / refueling, drivers, and planning the best routes
- ★ Driving during the tour !
- ★ Booking and organising field trips and welfare excursions (the fun, tourist-y attractions!)
- ★ Making a schedule for tour days for cast and crew
- ★ Providing technical and moral support during a get in/out
- ★ Providing a positive and reliable energy for the cast and crew whilst on tour

This role is very flexible, and you will be welcome to take on additional duties like contacting venues, organising finances with the tour managers, planning routes etc should that be something that interests you!

 Because driving logistics are a key responsibility for this role, it is a requirement that every applicant have had a full driving license for at least 1 year.

Questions

1. Why would you like to work on CAST?
2. What skills do you have that might be relevant to the role of Company Manager? Feel free to include anything from experience in welfare, any trip planning or management roles (even if personal), or anything else - zero specific experience required! Please do confirm that you have a driving license, however :)
3. What challenges can you foresee with this role?
4. How would you strive to mitigate or deal with these challenges whilst on the tour?
5. Any other relevant experience you might have?

6. What is your leadership style like, and how do you see yourself working in a team?
7. Would you be happy to be considered for the non-touring company manager position? (akin to a more traditional welfare officer for our rehearsals, ADC run etc)

Assistant Tour Manager (non-touring)

As our ATM, you will work with Louisa and Natalie in a similar way to an assistant producer, helping out with general tour logistics and providing an extra layer of support for us! This is a great opportunity if you are unsure if you have the time to tour this summer, but want to be involved with CAST next year (or apply to TM! Yay!)

As in all of our roles, but especially this one, freshers are encouraged to apply! xx

Application Deadline:, 5th February, noon.

Some specific duties include:

- ★ Organising room bookings for rehearsals in Cambridge
- ★ Organising the May Week previews, the August Cambridge preview and the Week o ADC Home Run
- ★ Sorting through various logistical aspects of the tour (accommodation, recreational activities etc)
- ★ Following up with venues and helping with specific tour locations

As with the CM role, this role is flexible and can be accommodated to your preferred level of commitment!

Questions:

1. Why would you like to work on CAST?
2. What skills do you have that might be relevant to the role? (not required!)
3. What aspect of this role would you be most excited about?