



**X**

**by ALISTAIR McDOWALL**

## **X**

Written by Alistair McDowall

Performance dates: 19 - 23 March 2024

Venue: Barons Court Theatre

Director: Lloyd Smith

Assistant Director: Helena Bumpus

"X" is a psychological drama by Alistair McDowall. Marooned on a space station on Pluto, a small group of survivors struggle with their place in the universe. As the cracks grow, they begin seeing things outside...

We are looking for six actors keen to get involved in this character-driven play. We'll build a close ensemble over the rehearsal period, finishing with a tightly-produced and exhilarating production.

Read on for all the information!

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### **KDC SPRING SEASON LAUNCH**

Thursday 11 January, 7.30pm

Theatre Deli Leadenhall bar

107 Leadenhall St, London EC3A 4AF

Hear the directors speak about their productions and answer your questions at the Season Launch. You can also talk to them about getting involved in other backstage ways.

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## 1. Auditions

**When:** Tuesday 16 January and Wednesday 17 January 2024. Choose whichever one date suits you best, but bear in mind that auditions get busier later in the week.

**Time:** Welcome and registration at 6.45pm. Auditions run till ~10pm.

**Where:** Theatre Deli, 107 Leadenhall Street, EC3A 4AF, London

**Format:** The audition will be formed of group warm up games and improvisation, with nothing to prepare. We aim to make the evening fun whether you have never been on stage before, are getting back into acting after a break, or have extensive experience!

You can audition for all shows on the same night, but the format for each might be different so please make sure you have read all audition notices.

Before you audition, please [fill in the online audition form](#) so that we have your contact details, as well as note down any rehearsal dates you can't do (see below for when rehearsals take place). You don't have to specify which day (Tues 16th or Wed 17th) - just fill in the form and then turn up on whichever of those days you prefer.

Auditions are free and open to all. You do not need to prepare anything for the audition, just bring your sense of humour and respect for fellow auditionees.

## 2. Recalls

Recalls are more script based, with actors split into pairs and groups to work on scenes from the play. You'll be given a short amount of time to familiarise yourselves with the script, and then you'll perform to the director - we won't be expecting you to be off book.

You will be contacted by Friday 19 January if the director would like to invite you to recalls. Make sure to check your spam folder so you don't miss the invitation!

**Date:** Saturday 20 January 2024

**Time:** 12-3pm

**Where:** Theatre Deli, 107 Leadenhall Street, EC3A 4AF, London

If this date is not possible for you, it may not be crucial but you will need to flag this to the director when you audition (verbally) and note it on your audition form.

If you have any questions about the auditions or recalls, feel free to email us at [kdcx@proton.me](mailto:kdcx@proton.me)

## 3. Show dates

The show will be performed five times from Tuesday 19 to Saturday 23 March 2024 at the Barons Court Theatre in London.

Each performance will start at 7.30pm and you will be called an hour beforehand. Get-in/tech and dress rehearsal will take place on Monday 18 March, and we ask that you take the Monday afternoon off to attend this from around lunchtime.

#### **4. Rehearsals**

First rehearsal (depending on cast availability) will take place on Tuesday 23 January.

Rehearsals will take place on Tuesday and Wednesday evenings from 7 - 10pm and Saturdays 10am - 2pm, at the same location as auditions: Theatre Deli, 107 Leadenhall Street, EC3A 4AF, London

A rehearsal schedule will be created and circulated as soon as possible, once the cast's availability dates are all accounted for. Not every cast member will be called for every rehearsal, and we fully expect to have to work around a few unavailable dates - just please let us know at the auditions!

We will also plan cast and crew socials where we can bring the whole team together for a drink - and also with the other show of the season.

In addition to the scheduled rehearsal days, we also expect you to learn your lines in the first 4 or 5 weeks of the rehearsal period. This will greatly benefit the rehearsal process and getting ready for the show. The director can support you with tips and tricks for line-learning and online line-runs may be organised by the director or cast outside the scheduled rehearsal days.

#### **5. KDC subs**

Auditions are free and open to all. If you are cast, you will be required to pay a 'subs' fee of £30, which gives you membership of KDC for three seasons (one year). Additionally, you will pay a participation fee of £15-45, depending on your income (self-assessed) for being a part of this show.

KDC Theatre is a charity. Your subs, along with tickets, help to cover some of the costs of putting on the show.

#### **6. About the play**

It's been six months since the last contact from Earth, and the crew of a second-rate supply mission sit waiting on Pluto for any sign of rescue. As the walls close in, they begin to hear things, see shadows outside the window, and turn on one another.

X, written by Alistair McDowall, was first produced at the Royal Court in 2016.

X is primarily about our relationship with the future and how humans create meaning and purpose, both for ourselves and for each other. The show is a claustrophobic psychological

horror that is at times dark, funny, and hopeful. Our goal in rehearsal is to create an ensemble of bold and well-developed characters, along with the sort of intense relationships that come from being stuck in a tin can for months. There's also a considerable technical component, with special effects, stage combat, and so on. The rehearsal process should be great fun for everyone involved, with a dense high-impact show at the end.

## 7. Cast breakdown

We are looking for a cast of six. You are welcome to audition for a specific role or for no role in particular.

- **Gilda** (Playing 20-40, female) The station's geologist and second-in-command. Perceptive, self-aware, insecure, gritty.
- **Clark** - (Playing 20-40, male) In charge of technical maintenance and fart jokes. Brash, earthy, petulant, soulful.
- **Mattie** - (Playing 18-30, female) A rescuer. Playful, crystalline, ephemeral, mean.
- **Cole** - (Playing 20-50) Enjoys crossword puzzles. Killed small animals as a child. Cole can be played as any gender. Overlooked, manipulative, flinty, precise.
- **Ray** - (Playing 40-70, male) The captain. Powerful, anxious, fossilised, despairing.
- **Young Girl** - We are also looking for an actor to play the role of a young girl - for insurance and safeguarding reasons, the actor must be 18 or over. She appears in a single pivotal scene with facial prosthetics and horror makeup, with no lines. This is an especially good role to dip your toe into KDC for the first time or if you are busy, since it requires much less commitment - only prosthetic fittings, makeup tests, and a smaller number of rehearsals - but you will still get all the fun and glory of show week! If you would like more details about this role in particular, please get in touch.

The characters of Gilda and Clark have a kiss in one scene in act 2 - we will have a professional intimacy director for this scene. The production contains themes of suicide and will use strobe lighting and haze.

All are extremely welcome to apply, no matter how much experience you have. If you have any questions, please email the production team at [kdcx@proton.me](mailto:kdcx@proton.me)

We are also interested in hearing from anyone who would like to get involved backstage with production, makeup, tech or just general helping out! You'll be joining an experienced team on a fun backstage production, and can chip in as much or as little as you like - just give us a shout.

## 8. About the Director

Lloyd's previous directing credits include *Lemons Lemons Lemons Lemons Lemons* (KDC), *DNA* (Sedos), *The 39 Steps* (New Stagers) and others. He has also done a little horror for KDC before, having previously directed a murder-in-the-woods piece for the KDC new writing show.

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