

Tom and Tompkinson

By Tom Sweeney and Isaac Tompkinson

Prod Application Pack



About

Tom & Tompkinson is a two-hander long form improvised show from Tom Sweeney and Isaac Tompkinson in Week 1 of Michaelmas (15th - 18th October) at the Corpus Playroom. Each night we talk to the audience, find out what's on their mind, and then make an hour-long show based entirely on the interactions that we've shared.

Cambridge has a fantastic improv scene but the genre of two-hander improvised shows is so far unexplored. By paring down the cast and focusing on the relationship between audience and improvisers we hope to bring an engaging, surprising, and different show to the Corpus stage.

Roles

This is a great lower-commitment opportunity to be involved in improvised comedy and both experienced and novice applicants are encouraged to apply. Despite the egotism displayed in the title we are looking for people to help shape the show in collaboration with us.

We are looking for:

- Director
- Producer
- Publicity Designer
- Show Consultants
- Lighting / Sound designer(s)

I've pitched that we dress like this for the show. If you agree with this idea please apply as I'm fighting a losing battle. 🙏



How to apply

Please send answers to the following questions to Tom (tgs32@cam.ac.uk) and Isaac (imrt2@cam.ac.uk) by September 8th at 23:59. Please feel free to email us with any questions you may have about the show.

Director:

While we both have experience in long and short form improv, neither of us have worked on a two person improvised show. We're looking for a director with improv experience that can help steer us through rehearsals and work out the shape of the show with us. This direction may include: the prompts we gather and how we get them, ways of maintaining and differentiating a range of characters, and the approach the show takes in scene structure and editing. These are just a few of the elements that we're looking for your help with. Due to the amount of input we are looking for from our director in crafting the show, for this role previous improvised comedy experience is required. – Tom note: Don't be afraid to tell us off for forgetting how to do basic improv.

- Why are you interested in this show?
- What experience do you have that would relate to the role of Director?
- How do you envision running rehearsals?
- What challenges do you expect this show will face?

Producer:

This show may not have costumes or props of any kind, there are only two performers, hazards are inexistant so the risk assessment will consist of ticking a box saying that we won't spontaneously combust, and it's a late slot in the Corpus Playroom. Ask yourself one beautiful yet simple question: Do I want the easiest Camdram credit of my life? If the answer is yes then pop us an application. – Tom note: The risk assessment is still important, we have known many who have fallen in the improvised line of duty (sprained ankle and concussion).

- Why are you interested in this show?
- What (if any) experience do you have that would relate to the role of Producer?

Publicity Designer:

Tom and Tompkinson is a show that's different every night, but ultimately grounded in the lived experience of the people in the audience and the world in which we live. Designing this poster then is a unique opportunity as the characters, scene, and vibe will change every night, so there are no wrong answers. Also another aspect that is not required of the role but we would happily get your input on is wider marketing strategies and opportunities for publicising the show. Ultimately though we'd be very happy just to put up posters of your beautiful art all around Cambridge without needing its own bespoke guerilla marketing campaign. – Tom note: Experience in the “tiktoks” and “instagram reels” would be lovely, as Isaac is only really familiar with radio ads for Bovril and General Kitchener recruitment posters.

- Why are you interested in this show?
- What (if any) experience do you have that would relate to the role of Publicity Designer?
- Do you have any examples of your work?
- What initial ideas do you have for a poster?
- Which poster do you think is cooler? (Both are accurate)



Show Consultants:

Tom & Tompkinson is based around suggestions from the audience and for this show we're looking to get more detailed and personal prompts from our audience members than in a typical improv show. To practice this, we're looking for show consultants who will join us . This is a low commitment role and is perfect for anyone looking to get some insight into how a long form improv show is put together. We also would appreciate the presence of other people in rehearsals to prevent ourselves from going mad. For this role we're looking for applicants from a wide range of backgrounds with a variety of life-experiences to give us a diverse range of prompts to practice with. – Tom note: Shaping how we ask for prompts might be one of the most important parts of the show, otherwise we'll end up improvising an hour long show about bus times.

- Why are you interested in this show?
- Do you have any improv or other comedy experience? (none required)
- Do you think you are more of a Tom (joyous, cleanly, merciful) or a Tompkinson (jolly, fastidious, forgiving)?

Lighting / Sound designer(s):

We want to start the show with a high energy intro which will incorporate light and sound elements. There may be incidental light and sound changes throughout the show but these will be unplanned and completely up to the whim of the all-powerful and benevolent techie (you). These wouldn't have to be particularly sophisticated cues e.g. the lights going a bit blue if we go underwater, but these tech touches give the show a polished and immersive feel that would otherwise be absent. – Tom note: Oo flashy lightsahaha.

- Why are you interested in this show?
- What (if any) experience do you have that would relate to the role of Lighting / Sound Designer?