

BOB HOPE THEATRE ACTORS' COMPANY

Audition Notice

Yerma, by Federico Garcia Lorca.

Performances: 12th-15th November 2025

Auditions:

Monday 4th August 7.30pm - Table read open to all.

Tuesday 5th August, 7.30pm - Auditions for **Yerma, Juan, Maria and Victor**

Wednesday 6thth August at 7.30pm - Auditions for **all remaining characters**

Must also be able to attend all final rehearsals 9th, 10th 11th Nov

Presented in two acts with an interval

2hrs approximately including interval

The Bob Hope Theatre wants to attract talent from all over SE London and welcomes those from marginalised and underrepresented communities.

The story:

The time and the place: This story is set in the 1930's in Andalusia, rural southern Spain.

Yerma in Spanish means 'barren' 'unoccupied', 'wasteland' .

Our protagonist Yerma is unhappily living in an arranged marriage, and she is unable to conceive a child. This prevents her playing her main role in life at this time.

In 1930's Catholic Spain, fertility and chastity were cornerstones of a woman's identity. Her value was to the ability to bear children, especially sons, for her husband. She tries a range of things throughout the play to conceive, yet our heroine fails, so much so it finally drives her to madness and a tragic end. This play is a tragedy, but it will also be full of light and Spanish guitar music and the heat of Spain. It's a beautiful play.

Lorca , who himself met an early death in the Spanish Civil War because he was openly gay, is one of Spain's most important poets.

The play is divided into three acts, each of which builds upon the emotional and psychological journey of the protagonist, Yerma. The acts are structured to show the gradual deterioration of Yerma's mental state as her obsession with motherhood grows and her frustration with her situation deepens.

'Yerma' follows a linear narrative, moving from the introduction of Yerma's initial frustrations and desires to the final, tragic climax. However, there are moments of poetic and symbolic dialogue that make the play feel more dreamlike, adding to its tragic tone.

A recurring feature of Lorca's plays is the use of a chorus. In Yerma, the chorus is composed of women who reflect the community's social norms and the pressures placed upon Yerma. Their voices comment on the unfolding events and offer a collective perspective on Yerma's internal struggle. This creates a sense of social surveillance and highlights the limitations placed on the women in this period.

Symbolism and Poetic Language: Lorca's use of symbolic language and imagery is key to the structure of the play. Throughout, there are frequent references to nature, fertility, and the harshness of rural life, which underscore Yerma's internal conflict and her external environment. The structure thus blends realism with lyrical poetry, giving the play a heightened emotional impact.

The performance style:

Lorca's plays are known for minimalist staging, and Yerma is no exception. The play often uses sparse, symbolic sets, relying more on dialogue, movement, and the physicality of the actors to convey the emotional and psychological weight of the drama. There will be minimal props, with large open spaces or a simple room often representing the restrictive environment Yerma is confined to.

Some easy Spanish dancing is also required from some women actors.

Parts: 12 actors some playing multiple roles played in your own accents

- 1. Yerma** age **Mid 20's /early 30's**, beautiful, Long dark haired (or a wig). A fun person, she is married but unhappily. At the beginning of the play she has been married for 2 years to a man chosen for her by her father, but she is yet to conceive. She is vulnerable, and ages during the play. Over a period of about 5 years still unable to have a child and trying all manner of things, Yerma spirals down.

2. **Juan age 20's /30's** , Yerma's husband. Tall handsome, slim works in the fields of the rural community, and quite successful. He is controlling and uncaring towards Yerma's wishes and needs to fulfil her role to become a mother. He does not appear to want a family, just really wants her to himself.
3. **Victor age 20's /30's** Victor – a shepherd - is the man who Yerma should have married. Yerma speaks of feeling attracted to the good humoured and kind Victor. He is also tall, handsome, and strong enough to carry Yerma.
This actor also plays:
Yerma's 'dream' man at the beginning of the play
Pagan man in a sheep's mask
4. **Maria age 20's** Friend of Yerma who announces her pregnancy at the beginning of the play
This actor also plays
Washerwoman 1
5. **Dolores The conjurer age 40's-60's** a woman who is said to have the power to help women conceive. She is a figure of folklore and superstition, offering pagan rituals
This actor also plays
Crowd scenes
6. **Juan's spinster sisters x2 age 40's-60's**
These actors also play
2 old women in conjurer scene in Act 3
7. **Old Pagan woman age 50's/60's** A character who embodies traditional, often mystical, beliefs and practices related to fertility and nature. She is a figure of wisdom and experience, potentially offering guidance or rituals to Yerma, who is desperate to conceive a child.
This actor also plays
Washerwoman 3 - age 50's/60's
8. **Washerwoman 4 – age 18-25**
This actor also plays
Young girl 2- age 18-25
9. **Washerwoman 6 – age 18-25**
This actor also plays
Young girl 1 – age 18-25
10. **Washerwoman 5 –age 30-60**

This actor also plays

Woman age **30-60**

11 Washerwoman 2 – age 30-60

This actor also plays

Woman **age 30-60**

12 Five young girls – 7-10 years old

they will appear in the washer woman scene, in the pagan scene and at various other times with the women to illustrate what their lives will become in the cycle of this life in rural Spain. No lines, but will be carrying flowers and ribbons playing, dancing.

Audition dates all held at the Bob Hope Theatre:

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Wednesday 6thth August at 730pm Auditions for **all remaining characters**

Rehearsals will be on Mondays and Tuesdays through August and September, and from October will increase to three days including Sundays.

Rehearsals are due to begin 11th-12th August

The play: <https://upreplib.tripod.com/yerma.htm>

Audition speeches:

Yerma/Juan : Act 1/1 and Act2/2, Act 3/final scene

Victor /Yerma Act I on his entrance

Maria/ Yerma Act 1/1 on her entrance

Old Pagan woman Act1/2

Washerwomen Act 2/1

Dolores Act 3/1 **Spinster sisters/two old women** Act 3/1

Melanie Wray, Director

For questions or letting me know about the part/s you'd like to play email:
melanie.wray82@gmail.com