

OPEN AUDITION CALL

Bob Hope Theatre Actors' Company

Great Expectations

By Hugh Leonard based on the novel by Charles Dickens

Director: John Goodwin - Production Manager: Jim Shepherd

Venue: Bob Hope Theatre, Wythfield Road, Eltham, London, SE9 5TG

Readthrough: Sunday 19th July at 2pm

Audition Dates: Monday 20th July 7.30pm & Saturday 25th July 11am

Performance Dates: Wednesday 25th to Saturday 28th November 2026

Rehearsal Dates: Will begin Mid-August 2026

Synopsis: *Great Expectations* is a coming-of-age story that explores Victorian English social hierarchies, personal growth, and moral redemption. The protagonist, Philip "Pip" Pirrip, begins life in the Medway marshlands of Kent, living with his harsh sister, Mrs. Joe, and her kind husband, Joe Gargery, a blacksmith. Pip's life changes after encounters with eccentric figures and mysterious benefactors, shaping his journey toward maturity.

As a young boy, Pip encounters an escaped convict, Abel Magwitch, in a graveyard. Fearing for his life, he retrieves food and a metal file for the convict, who later protects Pip from punishment.

Pip is introduced to Miss Havisham, a wealthy, reclusive spinster who wears her decaying wedding dress and lives in her dilapidated estate, Satis House. There he meets Estella; Miss Havisham's beautiful but coldly raised adopted daughter. Pip falls in love with Estella and becomes ashamed of his humble origins, aspiring to become a gentleman.

If you require further details, audition pieces or wish to show an interest in being involved in the production (on or off-stage) please email ge@bobhopetheatre.co.uk.

Roles:

Young Pip

The protagonist and narrator of *Great Expectations* and witness and conscience of his older self, Pip begins the story as a young orphan boy being raised by his sister and brother-in-law in the Medway marshes. (Acting age mid-teens)

Pip

The protagonist and narrator of *Great Expectations* and witness and conscience of his younger self, Pip is passionate, romantic, and somewhat unrealistic at heart, and he tends to expect more for himself than is reasonable. Pip also has a powerful conscience, and he deeply wants to improve himself, both morally and socially. (Acting age early 20s)

Estella

Miss Havisham's beautiful young ward, Estella is Pip's unattainable dream throughout the play. He loves her passionately, but, though she sometimes seems to consider him a friend, she is usually cold, cruel, and uninterested in him. As they grow up together, she repeatedly warns him that she has no heart. (Acting age late teens to mid 20s)

Miss Havisham

Miss Havisham is a wealthy, eccentric old woman who lives in a manor called Satis House near Pip's village. She is manic and often seems insane, flitting around her house in a faded wedding dress, keeping a decaying untouched feast on her table. She deliberately raises Estella to break men's hearts in revenge for her being jilted at the altar. (Acting age late 50s)

Abel Magwitch ("The Convict")

A fearsome criminal, Magwitch escapes from prison at the beginning of the play and terrorizes Pip in the cemetery. Pip's kindness, however, makes a deep impression on him. (Acting age late 50s)

Joe Gargery

Pip's brother-in-law, the village blacksmith, Joe stays with his overbearing, abusive wife—known as Mrs. Joe—solely out of love for Pip. Joe's quiet goodness makes him one of the few completely sympathetic characters in *Great Expectations*. Although he is uneducated and unrefined, he consistently acts for the benefit of those he loves and suffers in silence when Pip treats him coldly. (Acting age early to mid 30s)

Mr. Jaggers

The powerful, foreboding lawyer hired to supervise Pip's elevation to the upper class. As one of the most important criminal lawyers in London, Jaggers is privy to some dirty business secrets. (Acting age late 60s)

Herbert Pocket

Pip first meets Herbert Pocket in the garden of Satis House, when, as a pale young gentleman, Herbert challenges him to a fight. Years later, they meet again in London, and Herbert becomes Pip's best friend and key companion after Pip's elevation to the status of gentleman. (Acting age early to mid 20s)

Wemmick

Jaggers's clerk and Pip's friend. At work, he is hard, cynical, and sarcastic; at home in Walworth, he is jovial, wry, and a tender caretaker of his "Aged Parent." (Acting age late 50s)

Mrs. Joe

Pip's sister and Joe's wife, known only as "Mrs. Joe", is a stern and overbearing figure to both Pip and Joe. Mrs. Joe is petty and ambitious; her fondest wish is to be something more than what she is, the wife of the village blacksmith. (Acting age mid to late 20s)

Played by the same actor as...

Biddy

A simple, kind-hearted country woman, Biddy befriended Pip when they attend school together. After Mrs. Joe becomes an invalid, Biddy moves into Pip's home to care for her. Biddy represents the opposite of Estella; she is plain, kind, moral, and of Pip's own social class. (Acting age mid to late 20s)

Uncle Pumblechook

Pip's pompous, arrogant uncle-in-law. Obsessed with money, Pumblechook is responsible for arranging Pip's first meeting with Miss Havisham. He will shamelessly take credit for Pip's rise in social status, even though he has nothing to do with it. (Acting age late 50s)

Molly

Jaggers's housekeeper. Pip realises that there is more to her than meets the eye. (Acting age late 50s)

Miss Skiffins

Wemmick's beloved, and eventual wife. (Acting age late 50s)

The Aged Parent

John Wemmick's elderly father who lives with his son in his small replica of a castle. (Acting age very elderly)

THESE LAST THREE CHARACTERS ARE SMALL ROLES BUT ACTORS WILL BE INVOLVED IN CROWD SCENES AS LONDONERS, PUB REVELLERS, POLICE OFFICERS ETC.

This is an open casting call. We are committed to diverse, inclusive casting and encourage performers of all ages, genders, sexual orientations, races, and abilities to audition for all roles.



THE BOB HOPE THEATRE ACTORS' COMPANY PRESENTS...

GREAT EXPECTATIONS

25th - 28th November 2026

At 7.30pm. Sat. Mat. 2.30pm Tickets £15
(Concessions £13 Not available Fri or Sat Eve.)

on-line at www.bobhopetheatre.co.uk
or call/visit Box Office 020 8850 3702

Wythfield Rd, Eltham, SE9 5TG,
from 10am to 1pm Tuesday to Saturday.

By Hugh Leonard
Based on the novel by Charles Dickens
Directed by John Goodwin
Produced by Jim Shepherd

  **NODA**
For every stage

This amateur production of GREAT EXPECTATIONS (LEONARD) is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals Ltd. on behalf of Samuel French, Ltd. www.concordtheatricals.co.uk



**BOB HOPE
THEATRE
ELTHAM**