

Auditions Notice:

Blue Stockings by Jessica Swale

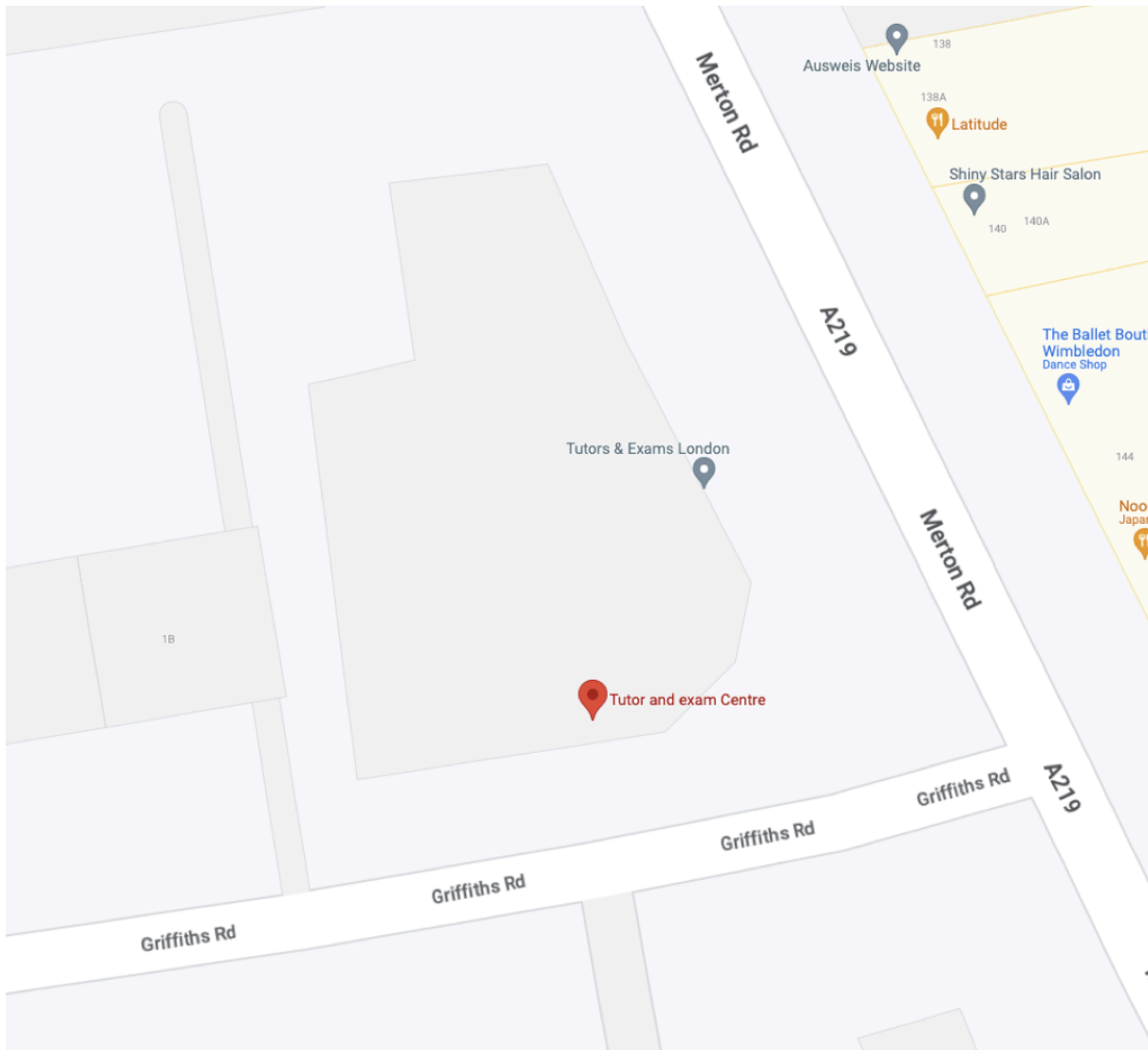
Auditions: Tuesday 20th and Thursday 22nd August at 7:30pm (just choose one evening to attend) at Lantern Methodist Church, Griffiths Road, Wimbledon, SW19 1SP.

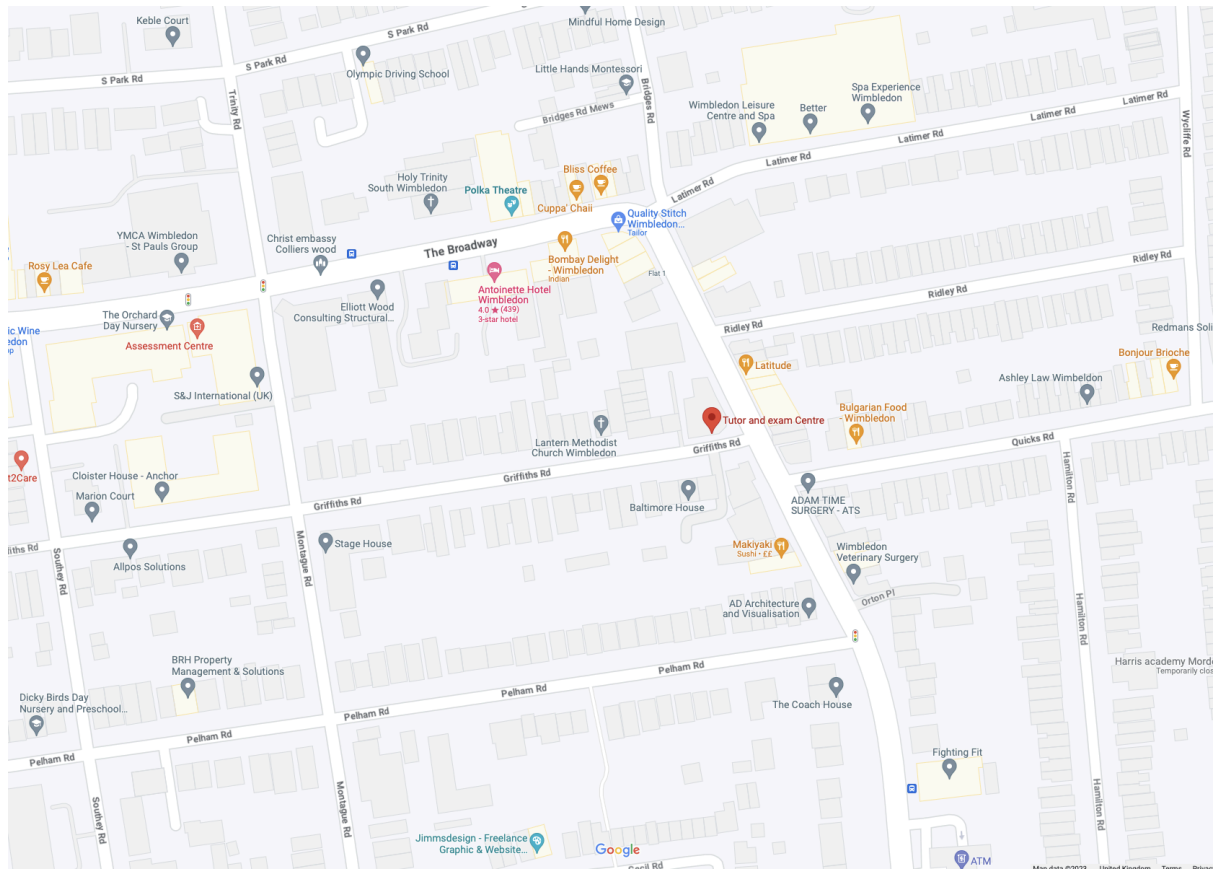
Performances: Tuesday 12th - Saturday 16th November at 7:45pm, plus matinee at 3:00pm on the Saturday. All at the Studio at New Wimbledon Theatre, SW19 1QG.

Rehearsals: Must be available for most Tuesdays and Thursdays 7:30 - 9:30pm from 3rd September, plus a couple of additional Saturday mornings 10:00am - 12:00pm. You will be needed from 11:30am on Sunday 10th November for the get-in and tech rehearsal and all evening on Monday 11th November for the dress rehearsal.

Auditions Venue:

Auditions will be taking place at Lantern Methodist Church, Griffiths Road, Wimbledon, SW19 1SP.





N.B. you will notice that there is a marker on Google Maps for Lantern Methodist Church further down Griffiths Road, this is incorrect, the red marker shown above on the corner of Griffiths Road and Merton Road is correct. The front door is in a small alcove on Griffiths Road.

About the play:

Blue Stockings is the first full-length play by Jessica Swale.

It is set at Girton College, Cambridge in 1896. Its title refers to ‘blue stockings’ - a derogatory term for female intellectuals popularised at the time.

The action involves four talented female undergraduates and the campaign to be allowed, like their male colleagues, to receive a formal degree qualification at the end of their studies.

The play touches on some of the issues surrounding the feminist ideals of the late nineteenth-century New Woman including equal education rights, sexual autonomy, political enfranchisement and female bicycle-riding – which was a big thing back then.

The play was developed during 2012 at the National Theatre Studio and the Royal Academy of Dramatic Arts. Its first full production ran at Shakespeare's Globe from 24 August to 11 October 2013.

About this production:

Nearly all roles will be doubled, with the exception of Tess and Mrs Welsh. Actors playing male students especially may also expect to play professors and other minor characters, if there is call for it.

Playing age may be considered during auditions, however please don't be put off if you think you may be too old or too young for a role – if it works, it works, no matter your age.

As this play relates to a fairly oppositional time in history, to say the least, between men and women, it is not appropriate to consider complete gender-blind casting. However, if you believe you can bring something unique and relevant to a role that you feel you identify with, regardless of gender, please go for it!

Characters:

The Girton Girls

Tess Moffat: Our protagonist. A talented young woman with an inquisitive mind. She goes on a journey of discovery, battling with the sacrifice it took at the time for a woman to be in higher education, whilst still being buffeted by first love. Good comedic sense and timing are a plus.

Carolyn Addison: A bohemian, easy going young woman. She is extremely well travelled and carries this accrued wisdom with her. Determined to walk her own path.

Celia Willbond: A strait-laced hard worker. She likes to play by the rules, though she is fiercely loyal to her friends. More introverted and cautious than the others, but no less headstrong.

Maeve Sullivan: A reclusive yet extremely bright young woman from a disadvantaged background. She must take the fall for the cause. A real tragedy of the play.

The Boys

Ralph Mayhew: The love interest of Tess. Though he seems to be romantic and everything she would want at first, he ultimately betrays her, scared of facing the politics of the situation should he stay with her.

Lloyd: The archetypal bully. He is misogynistic and expects the other men to follow his lead.

Holmes: Lloyd's right-hand-man, though he questions whether his friend goes too far at times. He ultimately rejects Lloyd, rising to a higher moral standpoint.

Edwards: He is often the butt of the other men's jokes. Though he is not the strongest and may say things that are misguided, he does have redeeming qualities.

Will Bennett: An old family friend of Tess. He has promised her father that he will look after her, which he always looks to do, even if he does not fully understand her. He falls in love with her.

The Staff

Elizabeth Welsh: Mistress of Girton College. She is totally driven towards achieving the right for women to graduate. She forgoes any other rights for women, at least for the meantime, in order to achieve this one goal.

Dr Maudsley: A renowned psychiatrist, he does not believe that women should be educated, and as such represents the opposite of Mrs Welsh in the play.

Mr Banks: A brilliant lecturer, he teaches at Trinity and Girton. He sticks to his principles to the last.

Miss Blake: A fantastic lecturer at Girton. She is progressive in her thinking and politics. She sympathises with the work of the suffragettes.

Professor Collins: A lecturer at Trinity. He shows he has a softer side, when he struggles to conceal a smile when Tess is given a second chance.

Professor Anderson: A lecturer at Trinity.

Professor Radleigh: A board member at Trinity and an important man. He is unsympathetic to the cause of degrees for women.

Others

Minnie: The housemaid at Girton. She is friendly and helps the girls out, even if it means bending the rules.

Miss Bott: The women of Girton's chaperone. She gives an exterior of strictness, though there is evidence that she is more aware of the mischief than she lets on.

Mr Peck: The gardener and maintenance man at Girton.

Billy Sullivan: Maeve's brother. Kind. Traditional.

Also: A librarian, a waiter and a lady in a café.