

## David Copperfield | Frequently Asked Questions

Here we have tried to answer questions that have already been asked or that we anticipate might be asked. We've tried to cover all bases, but we probably haven't thought of everything! If your question isn't answered here, please ask us at: [davidcopperfieldplay@theatreroyal.org.uk](mailto:davidcopperfieldplay@theatreroyal.org.uk)

### What is *David Copperfield*?

*David Copperfield* is a brand-new community play that will be created through a research, development and rehearsal process. The play will be made with the cast and creative team – a truly collaborative process.

Rehearsals will be from May 2025 onwards, with the production week in February 2026.

### Who can get involved?

*David Copperfield* is produced by the theatre's adult participation department, which means anyone who is aged 18+ is welcome to sign up to a free Taster Workshop.

To tell this story by and with the people of Bath, we need to create a company that is representative of ALL of Bath.

Participants will need to be available for the majority of rehearsals. We will be looking at people's availability and what you're able to commit to.

We are happy to speak to individuals about any specific barriers they are facing to participation.

You can contact us:

**Email:** [davidcopperfieldplay@theatreroyal.org.uk](mailto:davidcopperfieldplay@theatreroyal.org.uk)

**WhatsApp:** (message only): 07796598478

**Telephone:** 01225823409

### Will there be an opportunity for people with learning disabilities with access needs to participate?

Yes. We will support individual needs as necessary to enable someone with learning disabilities to participate. Our volunteer Cast Buddies will help with this too.

### Can children get involved?

There will be limited spaces for children to perform, and only when accompanied by a participating performer adult. The adult should be a family member/carer/guardian, who will accept responsibility for the child whilst on site for rehearsals. A maximum of 3 children per accompanying adult.

### Can I bring my dog to rehearsals?

If you have a disability and your dog is a trained assistance dog\*, we can accept your dog in rehearsals.

If your dog is an emotional support or wellbeing dog, please contact us to discuss whether you can bring it with you to rehearsals: [davidcopperfieldplay@theatreroyal.org.uk](mailto:davidcopperfieldplay@theatreroyal.org.uk)

\* Information from Assistance Dogs UK:

*Assistance dogs are dogs that have been highly trained to carry out a range of tasks and alerts that support a disabled person or person with a long-term medical condition. Examples include a guide dog that guides a visually impaired person, a medical alert dog that alerts a person to an oncoming medical episode, or an assistance dog that alerts someone with a psychiatric condition to take medication.*

### Will there be an audition process?

We won't audition in the traditional sense, but we would like you to attend a taster workshop before registering for the project.

### **Are you looking for musicians?**

If you have a desire to perform and also play an instrument then we will embrace that.

### **When can I register to be a part of David Copperfield?**

Registration information for the project will be sent out in April 2025.

### **When do rehearsals start?**

Rehearsals start in May 2025, and will be on Thursday evenings 6.30pm – 9.30pm and Saturdays 11am – 5pm. There may be some sessions during half term weeks (w/c 26 May and 27 October).

### **Are rehearsal venues accessible?**

All rehearsal venues have step free access and accessible toilet facilities.

### **What do I wear for taster workshops and rehearsals?**

Clothes and shoes that you are comfortable moving in.

### **Is there parking at the two rehearsal venues?**

Yes. At Brougham Hayes Hall we will have access to the school car park.

There is limited parking available at Widcombe Junior School, which we will prioritise for people who need to drive to access the project.

### **What if I can't make all the rehearsal dates?**

We will ask you at registration what your prior commitments (including holidays) are.

Ideally holidays and other commitments fit into the scheduled breaks, but we are open to conversations about it.

If we are oversubscribed, we will prioritise people with more availability for rehearsals.

### **Will there be a core cast or lead roles?**

We don't know yet, that's what the Research and Development process (May – July) is all about.

We will go through the story and file it into its crucial parts. This project is really about the community coming together to form one company.

Having said that, we anticipate that there will be featured roles that require more commitment than other roles.

### **How important is it to be there for the whole Research and Development process?**

It's really important as it will be how we build the show. We're open to a conversation however and we won't be working with 100 people every session.

### **When are the performances?**

We're aiming for 5 performances. The production week, including all performances will be from Monday 16 February to Sunday 22 February 2026 inclusive. Performers will need to be available daytime and evenings for all of these dates.

### **Will there be many tech rehearsals etc in production week?**

Once we get into the theatre, we'll start the technical rehearsals and bring the different elements together. We ask people to be available for that week, because we have to rehearse with you.

This is non-negotiable, you will have to be available for the whole of production week (16 – 22 February 2026).

### **Are there roles other than performing?**

Yes. We will be recruiting volunteers aged 18+ to help as:

- costume and prop volunteers;
- rehearsal assistants and buddies for those who might need some extra support to take part;
- communications assistants to tell the story of the people and process.

If you're interested in volunteering please email [davidcopperfieldplay@theatreroyal.org.uk](mailto:davidcopperfieldplay@theatreroyal.org.uk)

### **Can I undertake a technical backstage role?**

The technical aspects will be undertaken by professionals and BSU students, due to our limited production week time in the theatre.

However, if you have experience of lighting or technical theatre, then please get in touch with us: [davidcopperfieldplay@theatreroyal.org.uk](mailto:davidcopperfieldplay@theatreroyal.org.uk)

### **What is the commitment for non-performing roles?**

Because you will be a volunteer it's a slightly different commitment and more flexible.

If you're a cast buddy or rehearsal assistant, we'll rota you into rehearsals according to your availability.

Costume and props assistants – we'll have dedicated sessions to assist the Stage Manager and Costume Supervisor from September onwards.

Regarding Costume – helping us for just one day will be helpful!

### **What does it cost?**

£95 for performers but it is free for backstage roles.

We can also offer sponsorship spaces and the option to pay in instalments.

You won't have to pay until you are offered a place on the project.

### **Is there an opportunity to pay it forward, if you're in a position to cover someone else's fee?**

Yes, we will make that available.

If any of you work for a business or run your own and want to support us, then we would like to hear from you. Please contact Andrea (Development Manager) on [andrea.harris@theatreroyal.org.uk](mailto:andrea.harris@theatreroyal.org.uk)

### **If people can't be involved for any reason will other Engage sessions continue?**

For Engage Acting, David Copperfield will be the offer.

Engage Elders and Engage Together will still run, but it will be a reduced regular engage programme.