

Dear Parents and Faust Members,

We would like to invite you to audition for a role in Faust International Youth Theatre's upcoming production of ***The Crucible* by Arthur Miller**. This production is directed by Emma York, with support from key members of the Faust team.

Performances take place from January 27th – 28th at the Tea House Theatre, Xiqu Centre, West Kowloon.

The Crucible is a drama and all roles will be played by Faust members aged 14 – 18. Due to themes within this play a certain level of maturity is needed to take part, hence the call for older students.

There will be a Faust production in May 2027 and auditions for this will be announced later this term. Faust members aged 9 – 18 will be eligible to audition for this production.



To audition, applicants must be aged 14 – 18 and be registered in a weekly Faust group (Season 28)

THE CRUCIBLE By Arthur Miller

Arthur Miller's 1953 play is a tragic drama set during the 1692 Salem witch trials.

A group of teenage girls, led by Abigail Williams, are caught dancing in the woods by Reverend Parris. When local girls like Parris's daughter Betty fall ill, rumours of witchcraft spread to cover up the girls' forbidden behaviour.

Abigail, driven by a past illicit affair with local farmer John Proctor and a desire to eliminate his wife, Elizabeth, begins falsely accusing townspeople of witchcraft alongside the other girls.

A special court presided over by judges like Danforth accepts the girls' hysterics as proof, leading to widespread arrests and executions as personal grudges and paranoia grip the town. John Proctor tries to expose Abigail as a fraud, eventually confessing to their affair in court to discredit her.

However, Elizabeth, trying to protect her husband's name, unwittingly lies about the affair, dooming them both. Condemned to hang, Proctor initially signs a false confession to save his life, but he ultimately tears it up. He chooses to go to his death rather than sign away his integrity and good name.

(Please see a more detailed synopsis below!)

Roles include John Proctor, Abigail Williams, Reverend John Hale, Elizabeth Proctor, Reverend Parris, Rebecca Nurse, Francis Nurse, Judge Danforth, Giles Corey, Thomas Putnam, Ann Putnam, Ruth Putnam, Tituba, Mary Warren, Betty Parris, Martha Corey, Ezekiel Cheever, Judge Hathorne, Herrick and Mercy Lewis. More details on these characters can be found at the end of this notice.

THE AUDITIONS

Audition Dates & Times

Monday November 2nd

5pm – 6.30pm

6.30 – 8pm

Tuesday November 3rd

5pm – 6.30pm

Please note that you may be asked to attend a call back on Wednesday November 4th between the hours of 5pm – 8pm.

The majority of those cast in the production will not need a call back.

To audition, please complete the [online audition form](#) no later than **Sunday November 1st** or email Auditions@FaustWorld.com for available slots. Audition slots are first-come, first-served.

When casting for any production, priority is given to those currently taking part in a Faust programme. You are welcome to tell your friends if you know someone who might be interested in auditioning. However, any non-members who audition will be required to join a weekly Faust term-time group to perform in the production. No additional performance fee is charged.

PREPARATION FOR THE AUDITION

Once you fill in the audition form, you will be sent a confirmation email with your audition time and venue, along with a PDF of the audition pieces.

Auditions are held in groups and will last approximately 90 minutes. They will involve some movement and each auditionee will be given the chance to explore the text together in a workshop style environment. Everyone will be given an opportunity to read aloud from at least one of the extracts attached. Regardless of ability, past experience and age, everyone who auditions will be warmly welcomed and encouraged to do their best.

For this production we really want to challenge our members to gain an early understanding and appreciation of what this play is all about. The more understanding you have about this play the more confident you will be in the audition room. We do not want you to learn the lines and would much rather you prepare for the audition as follows;

1. Read the below synopsis of The Crucible. This will help you understand what happens in the play.
2. Take a look at each character in the Character Description list. Think about which characters you identify with the most. What personality traits do you notice in some of these characters?
3. Read through each of the extracts at least twice. You may be asked to read for any part. Pay close attention to **all** characters: what they are saying to each other and what they say about others. What might this tell us about their particular character? **Please note you will receive the extracts by email once you have registered for an audition.**

We are looking for a diverse and talented group of actors who are comfortable working alongside one another. Our casting decision is about finding the right balance and fit as a group.

All we ask of you is to prepare ahead of time as suggested above and then come in to the room reminding yourself that you are you and that is what we are most interested in seeing! Remember we want you to do well in your audition and enjoy the experience.

If you are not cast, please remember that this is not about how well you did. It's more about the creative team finding the right balance and fit. There will always be more opportunities ahead.

Parents will be notified via email by Thursday November 5th of the audition results.

PRODUCTION COMMITMENT

Please have a look over the details below and discuss the production commitment with your family. Cast members will have up to three rehearsals a week and it is essential that every effort is made to ensure everyone attends all rehearsals as called. During production week, cast will also be called to rehearsals and performances in the theatre during the day. All actors must be able to attend all rehearsals and performances during production week.

Production Week (January 25th – 28th 2027)

- Technical & Dress rehearsals – Monday January 25th & Tuesday January 26th, Late Afternoon / Evening.
It may be necessary to leave school by 3pm to be at the venue by 4pm
- Four Performances – Wednesday January 27th to Thursday January 28th
 - Morning performances for schools; and evening performances for parents and the public
- All performances take place at the Tea House Theatre, Xiqu Centre, West Kowloon
- Cast members will be required to miss school on Wednesday and Thursday morning for the performances for schools. Faust will provide a letter to explain their absence to school.

Rehearsals (November 2026 to January 2027)

Rehearsals will begin with a full cast read-through & Parents' Briefing in on Friday November 6th at 5.30pm.

Cast rehearsals will be on Fridays and Saturdays with three additional rehearsals on Sundays (Dec 6th, Jan 10th & 17th).

Although cast members may not be needed for all rehearsals or the duration of the rehearsals detailed below, we need to know you can commit to Fridays, Saturdays and the Sundays mentioned above.

Friday	5 – 7.30pm
Saturday	2pm – 6pm
Sunday	2pm – 6pm

Please note:

- Cast members **MUST** attend every rehearsal they are called for.
- An updated Rehearsal Schedule will be issued every two weeks.
- Rehearsals will take place at the Faust Studio in Sheung Wan or at other venues if needed.
- If your regular Faust Group clashes with rehearsals, the rehearsal should take priority

Please check your availability for the above dates **BEFORE** auditioning to avoid disappointment. **It is essential that cast members attend all rehearsals and performances.**

On behalf of everyone at Faust and the production team, may I wish you all the very best for your audition.

Best Wishes,

Matthew Gregory
Producer

Please read this synopsis carefully:

THE CRUCIBLE by Arthur Miller

IN THE PURITAN NEW ENGLAND TOWN of Salem, Massachusetts, a group of girls goes dancing in the forest with a black slave named Tituba. While dancing, they are caught by the local minister, Reverend Parris. One of the girls, Parris's daughter Betty, falls into a coma-like state. A crowd gathers in the Parris home while rumors of witchcraft fill the town. Having sent for Reverend Hale, an expert on witchcraft, Parris questions Abigail Williams, the girls' ringleader, about the events that took place in the forest. Abigail, who is Parris's niece and ward, admits to doing nothing beyond "dancing."

While Parris tries to calm the crowd that has gathered in his home, Abigail talks to some of the other girls, telling them not to admit to anything. John Proctor, a local farmer, then enters and talks to Abigail alone. Unbeknownst to anyone else in the town, while working in Proctor's home the previous year she engaged in an affair with him, which led to her being fired by his wife, Elizabeth. Abigail still desires Proctor, but he fends her off and tells her to end her foolishness with the girls.

Betty wakes up and begins screaming. Much of the crowd rushes upstairs and gathers in her bedroom, arguing over whether she is bewitched. A separate argument between Proctor, Parris, the argumentative Giles Corey, and the wealthy Thomas Putnam soon ensues. This dispute centers on money and land deeds, and it suggests that deep fault lines run through the Salem community. As the men argue, Reverend Hale arrives and examines Betty, while Proctor departs. Hale quizzes Abigail about the girls' activities in the forest, grows suspicious of her behaviour, and demands to speak to Tituba. After Parris and Hale interrogate her for a brief time, Tituba confesses to communing with the devil, and she hysterically accuses various townsfolk of consorting with the devil. Suddenly, Abigail joins her, confessing to having seen the devil conspiring and cavorting with other townspeople. Betty joins them in naming witches, and the crowd is thrown into an uproar.

A week later, alone in their farmhouse outside of town, John and Elizabeth Proctor discuss the ongoing trials and the escalating number of townsfolk who have been accused of being witches. Elizabeth urges her husband to denounce Abigail as a fraud; he refuses, and she becomes

jealous, accusing him of still harbouring feelings for her. Mary Warren, their servant and one of Abigail's circle, returns from Salem with news that Elizabeth has been accused of witchcraft but the court did not pursue the accusation. Mary is sent up to bed, and John and Elizabeth continue their argument, only to be interrupted by a visit from Reverend Hale. While they discuss matters, Giles Corey and Francis Nurse come to the Proctor home with news that their wives have been arrested. Officers of the court suddenly arrive and arrest Elizabeth. After they have taken her, Proctor browbeats Mary, insisting that she must go to Salem and expose Abigail and the other girls as frauds.

The next day, Proctor brings Mary to court and tells Judge Danforth that she will testify that the girls are lying. Danforth is suspicious of Proctor's motives and tells Proctor, truthfully, that Elizabeth is pregnant and will be spared for a time. Proctor persists in his charge, convincing Danforth to allow Mary to testify. Mary tells the court that the girls are lying. When the girls are brought in, they turn the tables by accusing Mary of bewitching them. Furious, Proctor confesses his affair with Abigail and accuses her of being motivated by jealousy of his wife. To test Proctor's claim, Danforth summons Elizabeth and asks her if Proctor has been unfaithful to her. Despite her natural honesty, she lies to protect Proctor's honor, and Danforth denounces Proctor as a liar. Meanwhile, Abigail and the girls again pretend that Mary is bewitching them, and Mary breaks down and accuses Proctor of being a witch. Proctor rages against her and against the court. He is arrested, and Hale quits the proceedings.

The summer passes and autumn arrives. The witch trials have caused unrest in neighboring towns, and Danforth grows nervous. Abigail has run away, taking all of Parris's money with her. Hale, who has lost faith in the court, begs the accused witches to confess falsely in order to save their lives, but they refuse. Danforth, however, has an idea: he asks Elizabeth to talk John into confessing, and she agrees. Conflicted, but desiring to live, John agrees to confess, and the officers of the court rejoice. But he refuses to incriminate anyone else, and when the court insists that the confession must be made public, Proctor grows angry, tears it up, and retracts his admission of guilt. Despite Hale's desperate pleas, Proctor goes to the gallows with the others, and the witch trials reach their awful conclusion.

Character List

John Proctor - A local farmer who lives just outside town; Elizabeth Proctor's husband. A stern, harsh-tongued man, John hates hypocrisy. Nevertheless, he has a hidden sin—his affair with Abigail Williams—that proves his downfall. When the hysteria begins, he hesitates to expose Abigail as a fraud because he worries that his secret will be revealed and his good name ruined.

Abigail Williams - Reverend Parris's niece. Abigail was once the servant for the Proctor household, but Elizabeth Proctor fired her after she discovered that Abigail was having an affair with her husband, John Proctor. Abigail is smart, wily, a good liar, and vindictive when crossed.

Reverend John Hale - A young minister reputed to be an expert on witchcraft. Reverend Hale is called in to Salem to examine Parris's daughter Betty. Hale is a committed Christian and hater of witchcraft. His critical mind and intelligence save him from falling into blind fervor. His arrival sets the hysteria in motion, although he later regrets his actions and attempts to save the lives of those accused.

Elizabeth Proctor - John Proctor's wife. Elizabeth fired Abigail when she discovered that her husband was having an affair with Abigail. Elizabeth is supremely virtuous, but often cold.

Reverend Parris - The minister of Salem's church. Reverend Parris is a paranoid, power-hungry, yet oddly self-pitying figure. Many of the townsfolk, especially John Proctor, dislike him, and Parris is very concerned with building his position in the community.

Rebecca Nurse - Francis Nurse's wife. Rebecca is a wise, sensible, and upright woman, held in tremendous regard by most of the Salem community. However, she falls victim to the hysteria when the Putnams accuse her of witchcraft and she refuses to confess.

Francis Nurse - A wealthy, influential man in Salem. Nurse is well respected by most people in Salem, but is an enemy of Thomas Putnam and his wife.

Judge Danforth - The Deputy Governor of Massachusetts and the presiding judge at the witch trials. Honest and scrupulous, at least in his own mind, Danforth is convinced that he is doing right in rooting out witchcraft.

Giles Corey - An elderly but feisty farmer in Salem, famous for his tendency to file lawsuits. Giles's wife, Martha, is accused of witchcraft, and he himself is eventually held in con-tempt of court and pressed to death with large stones.

Thomas Putnam - A wealthy, influential citizen of Salem, Putnam holds a grudge against Francis Nurse for preventing Putnam's brother-in-law from being elected to the office of minister. He uses the witch trials to increase his own wealth by accusing people of witchcraft and then buying up their land.

Ann Putnam - Thomas Putnam's wife. Ann Putnam has given birth to eight children, but only Ruth Putnam survived. The other seven died before they were a day old, and Ann is con-vinced that they were murdered by supernatural means.

Ruth Putnam - The Putnams' lone surviving child out of eight. Like Betty Parris, Ruth falls into a strange stupor after Reverend Parris catches her and the other girls dancing in the woods at night.

Tituba - Reverend Parris's black slave from Barbados. Tituba agrees to perform voodoo at Abigail's request.

Mary Warren - The servant in John Proctor's household and a member of Abigail's group of girls. She is a timid girl, easily influenced by those around her.

Betty Parris - Reverend Parris's ten-year-old daughter. Betty falls into a strange stupor after Parris catches her and the other girls dancing in the forest with Tituba. Her illness and that of Ruth Putnam fuel the first rumors of witchcraft.

Martha Corey - Giles Corey's third wife. Martha's reading habits lead to her arrest and conviction for witchcraft.

Ezekiel Cheever - A man from Salem who acts as clerk of the court during the witch trials. He is upright and determined to do his duty for justice.

Judge Hathorne - A judge who presides, along with Danforth, over the witch trials.

Herrick - The marshal of Salem.

Mercy Lewis - The servant in Thomas Putnam's household. Mercy belongs to Abigail's group of girls.