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**Thank you for your enquiry about joining BATS. This fact sheet is designed to help you decide if joining BATS is the right choice for you**

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### **Who are BATS?**

BATS – the Basingstoke Amateur Theatrical Society – was formed in 1958. We always perform musical shows, ranging from the old classics such as “Oliver!”, “Oklahoma!” and “Fiddler on the Roof” through to the newer, glitzier shows like “42<sup>nd</sup> Street” and “Barnum”. We normally perform two shows, at one of the theatres in Basingstoke, in May and November of each year.

### **Who’s in BATS?**

The Society represents a broad spectrum of Basingstoke life. Our current members age from 16 – 70 and a wide range of professions is represented. You must be at least 16 years of age to join the main Society.

### **How do I become a member of BATS?**

For those wishing to perform, joining BATS is by invitation after a successful audition to join the Society. An audition for new members is usually held at the start of rehearsals for a new show, which includes both singing and movement and is called the **company audition**. The Musical Director (MD) of the current show and one or two of the BATS Committee will sit on the audition panel.

If you would like to join BATS but we are already in the midst of rehearsing for a show we are always looking for people to help out backstage. You don’t need any special skills and it’s a great way of getting to know us prior to a company audition.

### **What is involved in the audition process?**

If you successfully pass the company audition you are entitled to audition for a part in future productions.

### ***Principal Roles***

Auditions for principal (main) roles are held on an individual basis in front of an audition panel of 4 or 5 people.

### ***Chorus / Ensemble***

The format of the chorus/ensemble auditions may vary for each show, but usually involve both movement and singing (sometimes solo) before the panel in small groups. In order to audition for a show you **must** be a **fully paid-up member** of BATS (see next section).



Basingstoke Amateur  
Theatrical Society

# Fact Sheet for New Members 2008 - 2009

## What costs are involved?

### ***Membership fees***

Annual membership costs £30 per year. There is however a £5 (non returnable) initial payment for new members which allows you to audition for a show. Being a member of the Society enables you to **audition** for a show but **does not** guarantee you a place in a show. If you are successful in gaining a place in a show then the balance between the initial payment and annual membership will be required to be paid.

### ***Show fee***

If you successfully audition for a part in a show a show fee is also payable. This fee helps cover some of the costs of putting on a show. The fee varies from show to show but is normally between £20- £25

### ***Costumes, make-up and accessories***

The Society will provide the main items of costume for the actual performances but you may, on occasions, be asked to supply items of costume/props and accessories (especially make-up and wigs). All members are expected to provide their own appropriate rehearsal gear (e.g. (i) ladies – skirt, t-shirt & jazz/character shoes, (ii) men – loose trousers, t-shirt & jazz shoes).

### ***Scripts and vocal scores***

These are usually hired for each show and you will need to pay a returnable deposit if you wish to use a script and/or score.

## When and where are rehearsals?

All rehearsals are held at Bishop Challoner School in Basingstoke. Rehearsals can be very intensive, spanning a 4-5 month time period and you are asked to attend all sessions (setting dates are advised prior to the auditions). Should you be unable to attend a rehearsal, you are required to provide a stand in. When you join the society you will be allocated a buddy, who will be able to provide you with names of people that maybe able to be a stand in for you if required.

### ***Director setting/rehearsals***

The director setting dates are generally held every few weeks and may require a commitment of between 3-5 evenings per week (7:00 – 10:00pm) and/or all day on a Sunday (10:00 – 6:00pm).

### ***Revision rehearsals (assistant director/choreographer/musical director)***

These are held on Monday and Wednesday evenings (7:30 – 10:00pm).

## More information?

For more details, please contact Colin Webb at [newmembers@bats.net](mailto:newmembers@bats.net)

**Thank you for your interest in BATS and we look forward to meeting you soon**