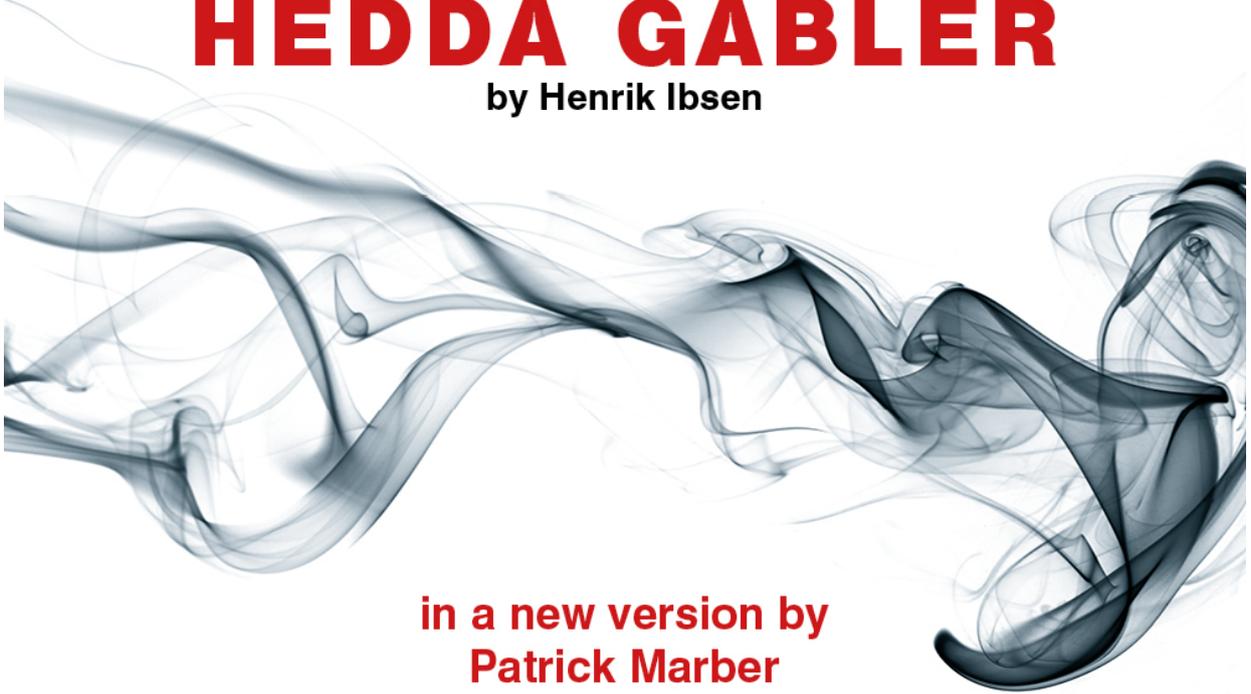


# **HEDDA GABLER**

by Henrik Ibsen



**in a new version by  
Patrick Marber**

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## **AUDITIONS**

Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> September 1.30pm – 5pm

## **REHEARSALS**

Commencing Monday 16<sup>th</sup> September  
Monday 7.30pm – 10pm and Sunday 1.30pm – 5pm

## **PERFORMANCE DATES:**

Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> and Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2019

## **PLOT SUMMARY**

Hedda, the daughter of an aristocratic general, returns home from her honeymoon with her new husband George Tesman. George is an academic, aspiring for a promotion to 'Professor' at the University he works for. When Eilert Lovborg, George's academic rival and an ex-suitor of Hedda, returns to town Hedda's life is thrown into disarray. Lovborg is a recovered alcoholic who's academic talent was wasted in the past, providing Tesman with the upper hand in their profession. Thanks to a new relationship with Hedda's old schoolmate, Thea Elvsted, Lovborg has managed to turn his life around and write a new academic masterpiece.

Jealous that Thea has taken Hedda's place as Lovborg's muse, Hedda convinces Lovborg to join Tesman and Brack on a boozy night out in an attempt to demonstrate her control. When the night becomes raucous Tesman finds himself in possession of the only copy of Lovborg's great work. Lovborg arrives to confess to Thea that he has destroyed his work whilst drunk, and Hedda fails to correct him. Devastated at how he has acted Lovborg informs Hedda that he has in fact simply lost the manuscript and that he is contemplating suicide. Hedda encourages him, giving him a pistol that once belonged to her father. She then burns the manuscript, telling Tesman that she has done so to protect his job and their future.

When the news spreads that Lovborg has killed himself, Tesman and Thea are determined to try to reconstruct his book from Lovborg's notes. Hedda is shocked to discover from Judge Brack that Lovborg's death, in a brothel, was messy and probably accidental rather than the Romantic suicide Hedda had imagined. Worse, Brack knows the origins of the pistol. He tells Hedda that if he reveals what he knows, a scandal will likely arise around her and Hedda realizes that she is now trapped and controlled by Brack. Hedda sits at the piano, plays a short tune before taking her father's pistol and shooting herself in the head.

## **ABOUT THE ADAPTATION**

Hedda Gabler was written by Norwegian playwright Henrik Ibsen in 1891. The text has since been translated and adapted by a number of playwrights each capturing slightly different meaning and intonation in the text.

Director Ivo Van Hove used the most recent adaptation by Patrick Marber in the 2012 National Theatre production, starring Ralph Spall and Ruth Wilson. The text itself has been adapted by Marber to be timeless, without specific phrasing or turns of phrase that could imply a specific era.

## CHARACTER LIST

**Hedda Gabler** — The main character, newly married and bored with both her marriage and life, seeking to influence those around her.

*'It was time. I felt old, burnt out. I was tired of my chaotic life.  
I needed to settle. I settled for him. I'm terrible.'* - Hedda

**George Tesman** — Hedda's husband, an academic who is as interested in research and travel as he is in his wife.

*'Do you have any idea what you've done? As well as destroying a great work  
you've broken the law! It was his property! Even Brack can't fix that one!'* -  
Tesman

**Thea Elvsted** — A younger schoolmate of Hedda and a former acquaintance of George. Nervous and shy, Thea has recently left her husband in pursuit of a relationship with Lovborg.

*'All I know is that I must live  
where Eilert Lovborg lives – if I am to live at all.'* - Thea

**Judge Brack** — An unscrupulous family friend. Brack grants favours and helps his friends in order to place himself in a position of power.

*'Generally, I prefer the wives. And then the husband, if need be. These  
"triangular associations" often reward handsomely. All parties can be  
nourished according to need.'* - Brack

**Eilert Lövborg** — Tesman's former colleague, who now competes with Tesman to achieve publication and a teaching position. Lovborg is a recovering alcoholic who was once in love with Hedda.

*'And I confessed to you – you alone – my sins - my drinking – my shame.  
You had such power. I was helpless, compelled to tell you everything.'* -  
Lovborg

**Juliana Tesman** — George's loving aunt who has raised him since early childhood.

*'I can feel it, this is your moment – you must take it.  
And those "people" who blocked your way, those sneerers – well look at you  
now! And that loathsome "man" – Eilert Lovborg – your supposed rival! Where  
is he now? In a drunken squalor no doubt. Forgotten. A failure.'* - Juliana

**Berte** — Tesman and Hedda's maid.

*'Suppose the wife takes against me? Then what? She's very demanding.'* -  
Berte

## AUDITIONS

Auditions will be held on Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> September at Startforth School, 1.30 til 5. Although there are set audition texts, I very much want to use this time to play with combinations of actors and dynamics. A lot of the play is conversations between the characters and so the relationships and chemistry will be as important as the text.

We have the hall booked until 5, but please know that I am not expecting us to fill all of this time! If you have to leave/arrive at a certain time I am happy to be flexible, please just let me know in advance.

**If you can't make auditions** – never fear! I am aiming to announce the cast by Friday 6<sup>th</sup> September, so if you are available to audition privately before then I will try and accommodate.

Please fill in the slip below or e-mail me/text me with your preferred role before 1<sup>st</sup> September 2019 that would be great.

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### AUDITION SLIP

**NAME:**

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**ROLE AUDITIONING FOR:**

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**HEDDA GABLER UNAVAILABILITY**  
**SEPT/OCT/NOV 2019**

If you are interested in being involved, please can you fill in the availability sheet below and provide me with a hard copy or send me a version by e-mail – please put a cross in any dates that you are unable to attend.

If you are cast following the audition process and I have not received your form, I will presume you are available for all rehearsals.

<b>NAME:</b>					
Rehearsals will take place on MONDAYS from 7.30-10pm and SUNDAY afternoons 1.30pm – 5pm					
<b>PLEASE PUT A CROSS AGAINST THOSE DATES YOU CANNOT ATTEND (If you are only available at specific times please give details in the box)</b>					
Sunday 1 <sup>st</sup> September	Monday 16 <sup>th</sup> September	Sunday 22 <sup>nd</sup> September	Monday 23 <sup>rd</sup> September	Sunday 29 <sup>th</sup> September	Monday 30 <sup>th</sup> September
<b>AUDITIONS</b>					
Sunday 6 October	Monday 7 <sup>th</sup> October	Sunday 13 <sup>th</sup> October	Monday 14 <sup>th</sup> October	Sunday 20 <sup>th</sup> October	Monday 21 <sup>st</sup> October
Sunday 27 <sup>th</sup> October	Monday 28 <sup>th</sup> October	Sunday 3 <sup>rd</sup> November	Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> November	Sunday 10 <sup>th</sup> November	Monday 11 <sup>th</sup> November
<b>PRODUCTION WEEK</b>					
Sunday 17 <sup>th</sup> November	Monday 18 <sup>th</sup> November	Tuesday 19 <sup>th</sup> November	Thursday 21 <sup>st</sup> November	Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> November	Saturday 23 <sup>rd</sup> November
		<b>To be confirmed</b>	<b>TECH/DRESS RUN</b>	<b>SHOW</b>	<b>SHOW</b>

## CONTACT INFORMATION -

<b>Name:</b>	
<b>Address:</b>	
<b>Phone:</b>	
<b>Email:</b>	

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Digital, still and video photography may be taken during the rehearsals and production. Some of this material may be used on our website and individuals may be named. Please tick this box if you do not want your image named on the website:

*(Please note that because of the ensemble nature of the show we cannot guarantee that your image will not be on the website, but we will ensure that no name is associated with it).*

**The above information will only be used for contact purposes by the Castle Players.**