

Honest Actors' and Spotlight announce Emerging Actors Roundtable

Honest Actors' Podcast creator Jonathan Harden has announced that he will produce a series of roundtable discussions with emerging actors, in association with Spotlight.

The application process for actors wishing to participate in the roundtables is already open, with filming dates to take place at Spotlight's Leicester Place studios at regular intervals over the course of a year.

Commenting on his new project, Harden said:

"We've all watched them, those glossy American actor roundtables. Beautifully lit, beautiful people discussing the struggles they faced en route to their latest award nomination. And yeah, I enjoy them. But it occurred to me that perhaps there was another way of doing it. Something a bit more 'Honest Actors'. A group discussion with emerging actors seems the perfect antidote to Hollywood glitz. But without the support of Spotlight, it just wouldn't be possible."

The Emerging Actors Roundtable will feature actors entering the industry from a variety of different avenues: conservatoire training, university degree courses, and those who have decided to enter it directly. Harden plans to follow the same actors over the course of one year, meeting every few months for a group chat and occasionally checking with individuals to see how things are progressing, or not.

Lauren McKinnon, Head of Marketing at Spotlight commented:

"The Emerging Actors Roundtables are a great opportunity to tell the story of actors who are just embarking on the industry – the expectations, challenges, highs and lows, that many actors' experience in the early stages of their career. Spotlight are delighted to be supporting this project. It can be a daunting and overwhelming world to emerge into, and we want to help actors see the different ways in which you can approach it."

The already established Honest Actors' Podcast returns for Series 2 on September 30th, with guests to include Noma Dumezweni, Amanda Abbington, Michaela Coel, Joe McGann, Arsher Ali and Peter McDonald.

For Harden, the roundtables are a natural extension of what the podcast has been doing since it launched almost a year ago:

"The idea of the roundtables is to extend the kinds of discussions I'm already having within the context of podcast beyond those who have been out working for a decade or more. The aim is to give those who are entering the industry - or are just about to - an honest impression of what it's like out there, and what they can realistically expect."

Eligible actors who wish to apply to be part of the first cohort must complete an online form accessible via inanything.com/emergingactors. Filming commences in November.

Series 1 of the podcast is available on iTunes, Stitcher Radio and at www.inanything.com/podcast

-ENDS-

FOR INTERVIEWS, PHOTOS AND MORE:

E: honestactors@gmail.com

T: 020 8677 4679

M: 078 3023 6715

or visit www.inanything.com/press

FOLLOW THE PODCAST ON TWITTER <http://www.twitter.com/honestactors>

NOTES TO EDITORS:

Jonathan Harden is a native of Belfast, Northern Ireland. He lives in London with his wife, actor/writer Bronágh Taggart (*The Fall*) and their rescued Lurcher, Gracie. He is currently filming *Victoria and Abdul*, directed by Stephen Frears and starring Judy Dench, and later this year will appear in *My Mother and Other Strangers*, a new period drama on BBC1.

On film, previous credits include Ralph Fiennes' *The Invisible Woman*, Oliver Hirschbiegel's multiple Sundance award-winning *Five Minutes of Heaven*, RSC Associate David Farr's directorial debut, *The Ones Below* and the screen adaptation of David Park's *The Truth Commissioner*. On TV, Jonathan most recently appeared as Sean Rawlins in *Unforgotten* (ITV) and Gregory in *Peep Show* (Channel 4). He played a lead role in and narrated the BBC's modern Dickens, *The Life and Adventures of Nick Nickleby*, and had notable roles in John Alexander's Emmy award-winning *Small Island* (BBC) and in *Titanic: Blood and Steel* (Encore/CBC). Theatre credits include Maxim Gorky's *Children of the Sun* at the National Theatre and *Much Ado About Nothing* at Theatr Clwyd.

The Honest Actors Project is an initiative aimed at promoting open and honest discussions about the acting profession. It launched in September 2015 with a free fortnightly podcast, featuring interviews with 'jobbing' actors. The first blog posts had started a few months in advance of this, becoming more regular with the release of the audio content. These days, several articles are added each week, with the ever-growing list of contributors now numbering over 50. In April 2016, the blog won the UK Blog Award in the Arts & Culture category.

According to iTunes rankings, the show is the **UK's Number 1 Acting Podcast**, and is consistently a **Top 20 'Performing Arts' Podcast**, alongside content from the BBC, the National Theatre and international media outlets.

Twitter supporters include actors Bradley James, Adrian Lester, Ben Miller, Sherrie Hewson, Joe Simms, David Oakes, Rachel Tucker, Tony Gardner, Aimee Kelly and Maimie McCoy, as well as Almeida Theatre Artistic Director, Rupert Gould and the controversial 'West End Producer'. To date, it's been **downloaded in excess of 110,000 times**, and while 80-85% of listeners are based in the United Kingdom, episodes are **regularly played in over 50 countries worldwide**, with significant audiences in the US, Canada and Australia.

Terms and conditions

By completing the [online form](#) applicants are confirming that they are happy to be contacted directly regarding your potential participation in the 2017 Emerging Actors Roundtable series. Applicants must be over 21 years of age and be either a) graduating from an accredited drama school in 2017, b) graduating from a university drama degree course in 2017, or c) an untrained actor that entered the industry after January 2015. Shortlisted actors will be interviewed individually before final decisions are made. Only successful candidates will be notified. Applications close 18:00 Thursday 6th October 2016.