

# Rubber Chicken Theatre's World Record Attempt Bigger, Bolder . . . . . Faster!

Back in February 2020, a team of 200 cast and crew set a new Guinness World Records title for Fastest Theatrical Production; taking a show from its very first rehearsal to performance in 11 hours and 59 minutes. It was such an incredible feat and I know that everyone who took part felt very proud of our achievement.

## However...

Prior to our attempt, in December 2019, a group in Spain set the record at 11 hours and 9 seconds. Now, due to the way Guinness World Records administer some of their record attempts, this wasn't confirmed until July 2020 and our record, although still recognised in GWR's history books, had been officially broken. Whilst we congratulate the group on their achievement, we felt it was unfair that we hadn't been told about the new time prior to our attempt. If we had known, we would have obviously set our target time accordingly.

We always said that if we broke the record, and then lost it, we wouldn't attempt it again. However, losing it to a time that had already been set before our first attempt, that just doesn't sit right.

## So...

On Sunday 20th February 2022, we're going to attempt to break the record once more, with a provisional **target time of 10 hours!** We'll gather at the Macrobert (this time a little later in the morning), open the mystery box of scripts and then get to work. And we hope that you'll be up for joining us again.

Just like last time, we need everyone to get involved to carry out the huge range of jobs that come from staging a full show and setting a world record. From singers, actors, dancers and band members to technicians, set builders, costume makers, runners, chaperones and evidence loggers, there literally is a job for everyone.

As we have mentioned before, attempting to set a world record in a theatre in a day is not only a massive challenge but also an expensive one. Last time out, we made a loss of nearly £6000 in attempting the record. Whilst we were able to absorb that last time, the additional challenges that 2020 and 2021 have brought means that we cannot afford to do the same this time around. There is some good news in that GWR are waiving their fee (which was by far the largest expenditure) but we still estimate that costs will be in the region of £15,000. To that end, once again we will be asking everyone who wants to take part in any capacity to pay a registration fee of £45 to cover their registration, t-shirt (we'll all need shiny new ones), lanyard, certificate etc. As always, there will always be the option to defer payment (just use the code RCTDEFER at the checkout) and pay in instalments, or for us to waive the fee altogether where cost may be a barrier. Please do just let us know.

If you're still reading and looking to sign up again, we've included details on the next page of the roles you can sign up to, and a reminder of what to expect on the day. **It's really important you read the roles carefully before booking. Our new system is great but it's much harder to change bookings once they've been made!**

You can sign up at: [www.bit.ly/rctworldrecord](http://www.bit.ly/rctworldrecord)

The pre registration workshop sign up for those in P4 - P7 is at [www.bit.ly/rctprereg](http://www.bit.ly/rctprereg)

We're so excited and determined to take this record back. We hope you are too!



# RCT's World Record Attempt - Roles

## Adult Cast (Age 16+)

Some of the adult cast are likely to take on lead and principal roles, however this is very much dependent on the show selected. Others will perform in the chorus. We will try our best to get everyone on stage, however, as the show is unknown, stage time is not guaranteed and cast must be comfortable with possibly being asked to perform offstage providing additional singing support (such as harmonies etc.). Adult cast that aren't offered parts but have additional skills may be redeployed elsewhere.

## Junior Cast (S1 - Age 15)

Junior cast are guaranteed stage time, however how much will depend on which show is announced. Junior cast will primarily perform in the chorus, however principal parts may be cast from here if the show requires it.

## Young Cast (P4 - P7)

Attempting a world record is tough. To make sure that we don't push our youngest performers too hard and that they are able to enjoy the day, we've decided to hold a pre-registration workshop to give them a taste of what to expect. After this, we'll offer spaces to young performers based on our observations during the workshop. The workshop takes place 5pm - 6pm on Monday 6th December at Dunblane Christian Fellowship. **Young performers must sign up and attend this workshop to be considered for a space.**

Young cast members offered a space in the attempt will be guaranteed stage time and are most likely to perform in the chorus.

## For those in P1 - P3

You might notice there's no option for those in P1 - P3 to sign up. On this occasion, we're not able to offer them a space, simply because of the length of the day and the pressures involved. We know from experience that even our shorter rehearsals are just too much for some of our littlest chickens so expecting them to rehearse for 10 hours followed by a show would be unfair on them. We do hope they'll support us though by coming along to the performance and cheering us on! There will also be lots to keep track of though our social media channels.

## Adult Crew (Age 18+)

Adult crew will be assigned to specific roles based on their declared experience. This may include set build, props, costumes or technical. In addition, there are a number of event specific support roles including evidence recording, administration, drivers, runners, chaperones, social media and photography / videography.

## Junior Crew (Age 14 - 17)

Junior crew will be assigned to roles based on their interests, however due to safety requirements, may be excluded from some high risk jobs such as technical and set building.

## Band (Age 16+)

Working under the Musical Director, band members will learn the show before a dress rehearsal and then performance. Range across instruments is useful although not entirely necessary but flexibility and attitude is key... last time out, some of the band performed on instruments they hadn't even played before!



## RCT's World Record Attempt - What To Expect

Prior to us attempting the record, we will nominate a person to select a show for us to perform. This person will not be involved on the day and will not tell anyone what the show is, not even Pamela. The scripts will arrive a few days before the attempt at the Macrobert; a senior member of staff at the Macrobert will then open and check the box to make sure all the scripts and band parts are all there before resealing the box. They also won't tell anyone what the show is and both sign a form to confirm they have kept it a secret.

At the start of the attempt, Pamela will open the box and announce the show we will be attempting. At that moment, the timer will start counting up. The timer will continue running until curtain up at the start of the performance.

From that point we need to plan, cast, rehearse, costume and set the show. Nothing can be pre-set, including the technical equipment (beyond what the Macrobert normally keep set up). The band will need to practise, stage will need to be built, set painted, costumes sourced and cast will need to learn their lines, songs and choreography.

Outside of that, there is massive challenge to record and document every element of the attempt. We need CCTV installed in rehearsal spaces, to appoint witnesses to act as independent verifiers of our attempt and evidence gatherers to log in writing exactly what is going on at all times. All of this evidence is reviewed by GWR's adjudicator on their arrival and must be in order for our attempt to be successful. Then there's the huge support operation. We need people to keep track of everyone. We need people to go and fetch things from across the country. We need people to photograph and film our attempt, as well as keep everyone up to date through our social media channels. We need people to keep an eye on our junior cast to make sure everyone is happy. We even need someone to design a programme!

When it comes to show time, a very important part of the record specification is that it has to be performed to an acceptable standard. At a very basic level, it needs to look like a show. Actors need to be in costume, there can't be scripts on stage, there must be lights and sound etc. If we don't meet that standard, our attempt will fail. However, all being well, at the end of the show, the GWR adjudicator will stand on the stage and announce us world record title holders for the second time!

