



Spectrum Youth Theatre Lead Artists/Directors RECRUITMENT PACK

Little Angel Theatre's Creative Learning department exists to provide puppetry participation, education and training projects for people of all ages, experience levels and backgrounds, whether their interest is for fun, as part of an educational project, or as part of their professional development. Through our Creative Learning programme, we aim to enable artistry, encourage personal development and ensure equality of access, whilst demystifying the art form of puppetry and broadening its reach.

We are looking for 2 enthusiastic, creative and experienced practitioners to join us as the lead artists on Spectrum Youth Theatre

The successful candidates will work on a freelance basis, and will be key members of an expanding Creative Learning Department in a busy producing theatre with extensive touring, participation and community programmes.

For more information about the company please see www.littleangeltheatre.com

OVERVIEW

Reports to:	Head of Learning
Commencement Date:	16 th September 2017
Fee:	£2, 600 per Lead Artist (self-employed status)
Hours:	This is a freelance contract. Workshops take place on Saturdays during term time, from 2.15-4.15pm at Little Angel Studios, Islington. Autumn Term: Saturday 16 th September – 25 th November 2017 Spring Term: Saturday 13 th January – 18 th March 2018 Production week is 19 th -25 th March 2018, when daily attendance may be required during the daytimes and evenings (timetable and show times TBC)

About Little Angel Theatre

Little Angel Theatre is a home for puppetry. Since its doors first opened in 1961 the theatre has been dedicated to creating and sharing inspiring stories. Puppetry is at the heart of this innovative theatre, from igniting the imaginations of the youngest minds to equipping tomorrow's puppeteers with the tools they need to succeed. As well as an internationally recognised theatre with productions touring throughout the UK and across the globe, Little Angel Theatre also has its roots in Islington, and works with its local, diverse community to break down barriers to arts engagement so all can benefit and enjoy this remarkable art form.

"Little Angel is nothing less than an icon of north London childhood" Time Out, 2016

About Spectrum Youth Theatre

Spectrum Youth Theatre (SYT) is Little Angel Theatre's puppet youth theatre for young people with Aspergers or high functioning autism. It began in May 2014, as a pilot project with support from Turtle Key Arts, and has gone from strength to strength. The youth theatre members have been working with professional theatre company, Smoking Apples, since then. In 2016 they presented a group-devised piece entitled *The Creature*, which was performed, to much acclaim, on the stage at Little Angel Theatre. This was followed, in 2017, by an equally successful devised piece called *Beyond the Flash*, which was presented at Little Angel Theatre in March and then at the new Autism Arts Festival at the Gulbenkian Theatre, Canterbury, in April. Further details about youth theatre can be found at the foot of this document and here: <https://littleangeltheatre.com/creativelearning/young-people/spectrum-youth-theatre/>.

Core Objectives of Spectrum Youth Theatre

- The Spectrum Youth Theatre work together on creating a puppetry performance, which will be performed at Little Angel Theatre in March 2018.
- Over the rehearsal period they devise ideas for a performance, design and make any puppets needed (including set/props) and rehearse their production to include puppetry as an integral part of the performance.

Additional Objectives of the project:

- To enable participants to increase their aspirations, confidence, self-esteem and uplift their emotional state
- To equip participants with the tools to increase their social and communication abilities amongst their peers as well as outside of the project
- To encourage greater integration enabling participants to build new friendships, to work as a team as well as respect the contribution of fellow peers
- To enable participants to learn new skills improve areas such as dexterity and concentration
- Increased independence to participate in a wider range of activities than before providing participants with progression routes for further engagement

There are up to 14 young people in the group aged 11-18. There is a Pastoral Care Worker to support the group plus a minimum of 3 assistants.

We are looking to recruit 2 lead Artists to run the group. These need to cover the roles of director and puppet designer/maker, and fully support the group in realising the production

CORE DUTIES

The Role/s

The Lead Artists/Directors are responsible for the coordination, planning and delivery of the Spectrum Youth Theatre programme, as well as the realisation of the final production. These 2 roles are part of the Creative Learning Team, which consists of the Head of Learning, Schools Programme Manager, Community Development Manager, Participation Manager and Puppetry Trainees.

Job Details

From September 2017 our youth theatre will be embarking on creating a production to be performed at Little Angel in March 2018. Following a very successful partnership with Smoking Apples Theatre, as directors of this programme for the past two years, we are looking to recruit a new team to take over. We are equally happy to meet with a theatre company who would like to take on this programme, or with individual artists who would like to pair up and lead the youth theatre

As the project entails both MAKING PUPPETS with the participants and also DEVISING AND DIRECTING a production, it is important that these areas are covered off.

Principal Areas of responsibility:

- To work with the Head of Learning to plan a course of study over 2 terms that consists of devising a story, designing and making puppet characters, rehearsing a show and presenting a production to a public audience at the end.
- To coordinate, plan, deliver and evaluate the SYT workshops on a weekly basis
- To liaise with LAT's technical team and prepare a production for performance on 23, 24, 24 March (final schedule TBC)
- To support and manage staff (paid or volunteers) who assist on SYT.

Other

- Adhere to stated policies and procedures relating to Child Protection, Health & Safety (including undertaking Risk Assessments) and Equal Opportunities
- Adhere to procedures relating to the proper use, care and storage of equipment and materials for which the role has responsibility

PERSON SPECIFICATION

We are looking for 2 Lead Artists. As the project entails both MAKING PUPPETS with the participants and also DEVISING AND DIRECTING a production, it is important that these areas are covered off across the 2 roles.

We are equally happy to meet with a theatre company who would like to take on this programme, or with individual artists who would like to pair up and lead the youth theatre

Essential:

- Proven experience in arts education as a practitioner/workshop leader
- Proven experience of puppetry performance and direction (if you are taking the lead as the director)
- Proven experience as a puppet maker/designer (if you are taking the lead as the puppet designer/maker)
- Some experience of working with learning disabled young people or adults
- Huge amounts of enthusiasm, ideas and energy
- Good communication skills, both oral and written.
- Available to work on Saturdays during the dates specified, and available for the whole of production week: 19-25 March 2018.

Little Angel make work for a wide ranging family audience. All staff members are expected to represent the company with a friendly and approachable manner at all times

APPLICATIONS

The deadline for applications is **Friday 18th August 2017 at 12 noon**. Interviews will be held on Tuesday 22nd August 2017 (it may be possible to interview over Skype if you are away)

1st working session: Saturday 16th September 2016

To apply please send your C.V. with a covering letter to slavka@littleangeltheatre.com. Maximum of 4 sides of A4 per application please. **Please tell us about your experience of directing puppetry productions and/or designing and making puppets. We are also keen to hear about your experience of working with learning disabled young people.**

We are happy to accept applications from individual directors and puppet makers, as well as joint applications – either from a pair of artists who want to apply together or from a theatre company.

Please quote reference SYT Lead Artist in the email subject line.