

THEATRE FUTURES OXFORD

A practical training programme in theatre for young people 18 – 25 years

Introduction

Oxfordshire Theatre Company is the county's leading touring company, producing professional theatre for audiences in Oxfordshire who might not otherwise engage with the arts. It presents 'Big Theatre in small spaces' to more than 50 communities across the county, reaching 5,000 people each year including families, young people and older people.

The company creates boldly ambitious new work that fuses drama, design, music and movement in ways that transform spaces into exciting worlds of the imagination.

The Programme

The company is committed to developing young people's skills in theatre and has created Theatre Futures, a professional work-based programme for young people aged 18 – 25 years who want to enter a career in theatre arts and/or theatre-related professions.

Those accepted onto the programme will choose an area of production they wish to develop their skills e.g. stage management, choreography, lighting, design, directing and will work alongside staff and artists who will provide mentoring and support. Young people will also be encouraged to explore new skills.

The programme will take place at the company's base in Oxford and on the road with the touring team during its family production of 'Alice in Wonderland'.

The traineeship is designed to equip the selected young people with strong skills in theatre. It is a challenging programme planned with the trainee and Oxfordshire Theatre Company to establish clear tasks and outcomes and trainees will be expected to contribute positively throughout their time. A certain amount of flexibility and discussion with the trainee will ensure the programme remains exciting and stimulating throughout.

To fully support the trainees during the scheme Oxfordshire Theatre Company will provide a weekly tax-free training bursary of £150 and will reimburse any travel expenses incurred.

Although there will be no formal job offer at the end of the traineeships, Oxfordshire Theatre Company can offer advice and references for future job applications.

The traineeship offers young people the opportunity to gain:

- An overview of how to create theatre
- Practical skills in lighting and sound production
- Practical skills in get-ins and get-outs at venues on tour
- Research skills
- Insight into marketing, tour booking and administration
- Experience of working alongside experienced theatre practitioners
- Customer facing skills
- An insight into arts management as well as theatre production
- Support of arts professionals in planning for the next step in career

Monitoring and Evaluation

A formal meeting at the end of each week will take place to review progress and to ensure that the trainee is gaining the best possible training. Trainees will be expected to write a short review of their experience for inclusion on the Company's website and in the final report to funders of the programme. Trainees will report to Karen Simpson, Artistic Director on all creative aspects including stage management, production, creative artists, and Louise Wiggins, Administrative Director with regard to marketing, administration, finance and personnel.

Other information

- There are up to six paid traineeships available between 1 November 2010 - 1 March 2011
- Each traineeship will last approximately six weeks
- Hours will include evenings and weekends
- Deadline for applications is 29 September 2010
- CVs will not be accepted without a fully completed application form
- Shortlisted applicants will be invited to a workshop/interview on either 14 or 15 October

For further information contact Louise Wiggins, Administrative Director on 01865 249444.

This scheme is supported by The Charity of Thomas Dawson.

