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Young Company Theatre Director Recruitment Pack

September 2022



Tramshed is seeking to hire an emerging theatre director to work on a play for National Theatre Connections, for which Tramshed is a partner theatre.



ABOUT THE ROLE

- Fixed term contract (January 2023 - May 2023)
- Fixed fee - £2000 (£1000 prep work and £1000 directorial work)
- The director will be the lead creative on directing a group of young actors (aged 15-19) for a new play, written for NT Connections 2023
- Tramshed opens sessions to all young people from a range of abilities, disabilities and backgrounds, so the post-holder must be confident working with diverse groups
- The director will be supported as and when required by Tramshed's Artistic Director
- All producing, marketing and technical requirements for the play will be delivered by the Tramshed team

ABOUT YOU

- Emerging theatre director (we recognise emerging as less than 5 years of professional experience in this field)
- Experience of working closely with a diverse group of young people
- London based (travel and accommodation is not included)

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KEY DATES

Young Company Rehearsals:

Monday 3rd April - Saturday 8th April (NB this may include a rehearsal on Good Friday)

Tuesday 11th April - Friday 14th April

Young Company Performance(s):

Friday 15th April

National Theatre Connections Performance:

One performance, on either:

Thursday 20th April or

Friday 21st April or

Saturday 22nd April

The role will also include auditions and additional meetings from January 2023, and an end of project evaluation. These dates will be confirmed with the director based on their availability.

THE PLAY

Tramshed's Artistic Director and Participation Manager will choose two of the plays listed on the following pages. The final decision will be made by the NT Connections team. Please read the synopses to gain greater understanding of the production you could be directing.

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The Heights by Lisa McGee

Cast size: 14 named characters, minimum cast size of eight
Recommended for ages 13+

This is a play about stories. Lillie is a teenager who lives on the Heights Estate. A place where nothing ever happens, except in Lillie's head. Lillie's not like most people, definitely not. For starters, she never goes out, but sits in her bedroom window on the sixth floor of her tower block, watching the world and the people in it go by – though sometimes some of those same people enter her world. As she sits, she makes up stories. Some of these stories are sad, some are happy, some are funny and some are just wonderful. However, whatever they are, they are just stories. Aren't they? No one would play catch in the middle of the street with a loaded gun, or use the same gun to frighten a stranger as they slept in their bed. And no one could give birth to a baby made of glass, or murder their twin brother over an argument about what they should spend their money on IF they won the lottery... would they? Surely these are all just stories, dark, curious, beguiling figments of Lillie's fertile imagination aren't they?

Content guidance:

- Strong language
- Some infrequent moments of violence - these include one character choking another, and a scene where a character is tied up and gagged. In a non-naturalistic scene, there is a description of a glass baby shattering and causing a character's arms and legs to bleed

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Is This Good Enough? by Aves Mohammed

Cast size: 30 named characters, for a suggested minimum ensemble of 15

Recommended for ages 13+

A contemporary take on The Conference of the Birds (a 12th century epic Persian poem by Sufi poet Farid ud-Din Attar, commonly known as Attar of Nishapur) meets '70's cult film classic, The Warriors. Young people from all over the city, all the different tribes, the Rudeboys, the Party Girls, the Footballers, the Chess Players, The Skateboarders, the Drug Runners and the Uniformed Schoolkids are all converging in the park one cold winters night at midnight. Summoned there by the mysterious and enigmatic Cyroe. No one really knows who Cyroe is, or has ever really met them. All they do know is that when Cyroe calls you answer - and they know Cyroe has got a message for them. What they don't know, but are about to find out, is that far from having the 'answer' to what they might all be looking for, Cyroe is going to send them on treacherous quest - across deserts, up mountains, over frozen wastelands and long dangerous rock faces - where they will face their worst nightmares and darkest fears in an attempt to find the answer for themselves and discover the true meaning of leadership.

Content guidance:

- Includes the death of a character
- Includes references to drug use

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Old Times by Molly Taylor

Cast size: 14

Recommended for ages 14+

A play about stigmatism, friendship and justice. Stefi and Zafer are twins about to turn 18, they have finally reached adulthood. However life is throwing up complications; Zafer is fighting illness, and Stefi is scared the past is about to turn around and bite them. Five years ago, when they were 13 years old, their old school crew were involved in the murder of a policeman. Except only one of them was accused and convicted, well-known trouble-maker and 'bad kid' Tom Joy. The rest of the gang kept stum and weren't even implicated, but it tore their friendship group apart, and the town has never forgotten the notorious crime. So when Stefi hears Tom Joy has been released from prison, and she starts receiving spooky calls from an unknown number, she knows it's time to get the group back together so they can get plan strategy, talk survival, and get their story straight. Stefi has a plan to protect them all. But when she gathers the seven friends back together under false pretenses, the ghosts from the past are reborn. Who was really responsible for the crime? Who betrayed who? Do they deserve retribution? And will they ever be able to move on?

Content guidance:

- References to cancer
- Moderate language and two instances of strong language
- Reference to the stabbing of a character (unseen, offstage)
- A brief reference to substance abuse

We will share specific guidance around the use of a knife onstage

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Strangers Like Me by Ed Harris

Cast size: minimum of 15

Recommended for ages 14+

A play about grief, masculinity, relationships and friendship. Elbow's best friend Hamster has died, suddenly, unexpectedly. So Elbow is now grieving... right? But what is grieving? How do you do it? And what happens if you get it wrong? On top of which, privately, Elbow is beginning to feel they weren't even as close as everyone makes out. So it would be better if everyone just left Elbow alone – mum, dad, his stupid big brother Donut, but especially all those annoying kids at school pretending they really care... writing poems, singing songs and holding a vigil at Elbow and Hamster's favourite meeting place. Who do they think they are? Come to think of it, who do any of us think we are...deep down? Elbow doesn't know. Elbow just knows there's a strange feeling inside, or the absence of a feeling, or the feeling of horrible, horrible nothingness - which can only be dealt with through anger.

Content guidance:

- Play explores responses to the death of a friend of the lead character (unseen, offstage)
- Strong language
- In a non-naturalistic scene, one character - who is the embodiment of part of the lead character's psyche - has their tongue ripped out. It is then reattached later in the play

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If you would like to be considered for this role, then please fill in this expression of interest form by midnight, Sunday 2nd October 2022.

We are an inclusive employer and welcome applications from people from all backgrounds and with all different kinds of life experiences. We are seeking a team that reflects and benefits from the diversity of our local area. We:

- are happy to receive recorded rather than written applications
- will meet access needs at interview and make any reasonable adjustments required for the workplace
- consider transferrable skills and examples of work experience in similar roles as an employee, through placements or as a volunteer

If you have any questions or need additional support, please call 020 8854 1316 or email participation@tramshed.org.

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