

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR LONDON YOUTH CIRCUS

Circus Space is recruiting a creative practitioner, company or organisation to direct and deliver the London Youth Circus Production in 2013. The aim of this project is to enable and support young artists as practitioners of performance, using their specialist skills to create work of the highest artistic merit and innovation. The production will showcase the skills of the LYC performers, as well as informing the wider artistic community about the possibilities that circus skills can offer. You will create a show with the young people and alongside their circus teachers. The show must showcase the students' technical capability and be artistically innovative.

About Circus Space

Circus Space is a registered charity and one of Europe's leading providers of circus education. Based in a magnificent Victorian power station adjacent to Hoxton Square, we involve thousands of people in the creation and performance of circus arts every year. Over half of the annual income needed to run Circus Space comes from grants and donations.

Our diverse range of work includes the UK's only BA Hons degree in Circus Arts and professional development opportunities for aspiring and established performers. Adults and young people can take part in a range of recreational classes and we provide workshops and away days for the business community.

Our classes and courses are for early years to older people and everyone in between. Our participation and outreach provision starts at age three in our family learning programme and progresses to our Centre of Advanced Training Programme where students train for up to nine hours a week. For people age 18+ we offer regular classes in aerial and acrobatics which people take for fun and fitness as well as a way in to the profession.

About the London Youth Circus Production

The London Youth Circus is now in its 8th year. The project aims to develop young Circus artists, opening pathways to the Circus Arts BA (Hons) course and ultimately the profession. Performance is at the core of Circus Space's vision for the development of the art form and we are committed to developing performance experiences for participants and audiences.

Over the past years, the programme has grown in size and ambition. We have worked with well-known physical theatre and circus companies such as Ockham's Razor, Frantic Assembly and Company FZ.

We want to build on this success and continue developing partnerships with established companies/practitioners who share our ambitions for top quality shows performed by young artists.

JOB SPECIFICATION: ARTISTIC DIRECTOR LONDON YOUTH CIRCUS

Reports to: Head of Participation and Outreach

Timeframe: February half term (1 day), Audition Company, Easter holidays (1 week) Research and Development, June half term (1 week) rehearsals, rehearsals as required weekends April – July, To be completed by July 2013, with performances 12, 13, 14th July.

Project fee: £4000 (inclusive of VAT) payable in 3 instalments to be agreed.

Principal Responsibilities

To create an amazing Circus production (approx. 1 hour) to be staged at Circus Space in July 2013. To include within the production a short piece (approx. 10 mins) which works as a stand-alone extract which can be used for publicity purposes.

With The Head of Department, plan, set and implement a timeframe which includes a rehearsal and production schedule.

With the Head of Department audition / select the cast, ensuring that students understand the creative process and commitment required.

To attend internal and external meetings as advised by Head of Participation and Outreach.

To integrate as part of the Circus Space staff team and gain an understanding of the London Youth Circus programme as a whole so as this work complements students' training.

To involve the existing teaching in setting creative tasks so as this project is embedded in the training.

Abide by all Circus Space's policies and procedures, including Safe from Harm and Health and Safety, and take responsibility the health and safety of all involved in the production.

To communicate with all members of the creative and production team – including the Production Manager, Lighting Designer, Set Designers, Circus Skills Teachers and the Participation and Outreach Coordinator.

The performance must be suitable and accessible for audiences consisting of young people and their families.

Person/ Organisation Specification

Essential

- We welcome practitioners from a range of disciplines, but a background in physical performance is an advantage.
- Experience of and commitment to working with young people and engaging them in the creative process.

- Strong project management skills including communication, briefing the company and arranging rehearsal schedules.
- Able to demonstrate previous professional directorial or choreographic experience
- A proven track record of delivering work of high artistic quality with young people.
- Ability to create a clear cohesive artistic vision and communicate this effectively.
- Able to incorporate the creative propositions of the students.

Desirable

- Experience of working within a large organisation.
- Experience of working with a wide range of Circus skills.

Tender Process

To tender for this project please send:

1. A detailed CV
2. Short video of previous work
3. Statement of no more than 1,000 words detailing how you would approach this project and initial ideas for the production.

Tenders can be posted or emailed to:

Charlotte Bassam-Bowles
Administration and Personnel Officer
Circus Space
Coronet Street
London N1 6HD

Charlotte@circusspace.co.uk

If you have any further questions or would like to talk to someone informally about the position please call 020 7613 8275, jennifer@circusspace.co.uk

The closing date for tenders is 8TH February 2013. Successful applicants will be invited to attend a selection interview at Circus Space week commencing 11th February. It is expected that the residency will begin in February 2013.