**ROLE DESCRIPTION: Freelance Youth Theatre Directors**

Lewisham Youth Theatre is expanding our pool of freelance theatre practitioners for our youth theatre programmes based in Catford, Lewisham.

We are seeking **experienced** **Youth Theatre Directors** to be joint lead/co-director our theatre projects with young people between ages 8-24, culminating in performances at the Broadway Theatre Studio, Catford.

**Fee:** Fees are based on a rate of £70 per session / £140 per day, plus production planning time outside of delivery days.

**Dates:** Seeking directors for various projects from January – July 2019. Projects last 5 – 18 weeks, with longer projects culminating in week-long intensive rehearsals/performance in Easter holidays (12-14s group), May half-term (8-11s group) and first week of the summer holidays (14-21s group).

**About Lewisham Youth Theatre (LYT)**

Lewisham Youth Theatre (LYT) provides participatory drama programmes to young people aged 3-24 who live or learn in Lewisham. All programmes are free to young people. Participation is based on commitment rather than ability, and participants must not currently take part in other out of school drama activity.LYT provides a universal service, but targets recruitment at young people in need across a range of disadvantages. Over 70% of participants every year are identified as facing disadvantage, which LYT defines as:

* Coming from families in receipt of means-tested benefits
* Having special needs (inc. disability, learning difficulty or autism spectrum disorder)
* Requiring additional support to take part (inc. Looked after children, Young Carers, those with mental health difficulties, English as an additional language; low literacy/numeracy)
* Referred from local partners, which include schools, pupil referral units, Child & Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS), Lewisham social care services, youth offending team, etc.

LYT provides a mixture of performance-based projects (where participants work towards a public performance), ‘workshop groups’ (drama and social skill-based sessions) and technical theatre training. Projects are separated into age groups for 8-12s, 12-14s, 14-19s and 16-24s. Performance projects usually run for 3-5 months culminating in an intensive full week leading to performance; Workshop projects usually run weekly for 5-6 weeks. Often, participants progress to projects requiring increased commitment both within and between programme years.

**Roles and Responsibilities**

Alongside a co-director (joint lead) the youth theatre directors will take on the following responsibilities:

**Delivery**

* Prepare, plan and deliver inclusive and supportive drama sessions for up to 20 young people within a given age group, using a mixture of text, devising, physical theatre and other creative methods as appropriate to the project;
* Support participants, particularly those who are vulnerable or have additional needs, to engage in and benefit from the project;
* Support peer mentors (older youth theatre members) and volunteers to develop leadership skills, resilience and ambition by taking on leadership roles within the project, as appropriate to their skills;
* Maintain LYT’s standards of practice, including maintaining high expectations for behavior and commitment (training will be provided);
* Ensure the safety of participants entering the sessions, during rehearsals and leaving sessions in line with LYT’s procedures
* Communicate with parents/carers, as necessary
* Monitor attendance and evaluate sessions and the project in line with LYT’s standard evaluation methods

**Production**

* Direct a high-quality performance that will stretch participants creatively and in terms of content/theme, taking into account any cross-project annual themes being explored by LYT;
* Liaise with designers, stage management and producers regarding the production elements of the performance (including lighting, sound, costume, set and props)
* Attending production meetings, when required
* Manage participants within the building during production week(s), ensuring appropriate supervision arrangements at all times

Youth Theatre Directors will be expected to uphold LYT’s policies and procedures, including Health & Safety, Equal Opportunities and Safeguarding policies. As this role involves contact with children and young people, you will be required to undergo an Enhanced DBS check.

**Skills and Experience**

We expect applicants to have the following skills and experience:

**Essential:**

* Proven experience of directing high quality performances with children and young people, through both devised and text-based performance
* Experience of youth-led practice and supporting young people to have a voice within the creative process
* Experience of working with vulnerable young people in a creative context
* Strong ability to work collaboratively with multiple delivery staff, including co-directors, producers, designers, stage managers and technicians
* Experience of communicating with multiple stakeholders, including parents
* Ability to evaluate own work and adjust plans to meet the needs of the group
* Knowledge of current pressures facing young people (including academic and social environment)

**Desirable:**

* Experience of working with young people with additional needs (including those with leaning difficulties, autism, mental health issues, etc) and/or marginalised young people (eg. Young people in care, young carers, those with English as an additional language, etc.)
* Creative specialism, for example physical theatre, movement, music, etc.
* Training and experience in delivering qualifications/accreditations (i.e. Arts Award, AQAs, ASDAN, etc.)

**To Apply**

Please apply by emailing the following information:

* A CV
* A covering letter of no more than 2 sides of A4.
* Links to any evidence of previous work you would like us to see (if applicable)

Please email your application with the subject “[Your Full Name] Freelance Director” to info@lewishamyouththeatre.com

Or post to: Lewisham Youth Theatre, The Broadway Theatre, Catford Broadway, Catford SE6 4RU

**Closing Date**: 12pm on Monday 29th October 2018

*Applications will be assessed on a rolling basis, and applicants may be invited for an interview and/or a conversation before the date below.*

**Interviews:** Thursday 8th November 2018

Interviews will consist of a practical interview with young people on the evening of 8th November.

For further info about LYT please view our website at: [www.lewishamyouththeatre.com](http://www.lewishamyouththeatre.com)

*Lewisham Youth Theatre is a Registered Charity (no. 297075) and an Equal Opportunities employer.*