**ROLE DESCRIPTION: Freelance Theatre Designer**

Lewisham Youth Theatre is expanding our pool of freelance theatre designers for our 2019 youth theatre productions at the Broadway Theatre Studio, Catford.

**About the Role:** We are seeking **experienced set/costume designers** to design our full-scale productions with young people aged 8-24.

The Designer will be responsible for the design, creation and delivery the set, costumes and props for the production. Working alongside a stage manager and producer, the designer will manage a team of volunteers during the 2 production weeks leading up to the performance. The designer will also be expected to attend 3-5 production meetings and minimum 2 rehearsals in the months leading up to the performance, and be available for get-out, evaluation and returns following the performance.

We welcome applications from those with experience working with young people collaboratively in the design process.

**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.

LYT has a technical theatre programme, providing training in backstage and technical theatre for young people aged 12-24. Young people support backstage during production weeks, particularly in the roles of ASMs, assistant technicians and costume assistants.

LYT’s productions usually perform in the Broadway Theatre, Studio in Catford. The theatre is a 70-80-seat flat-staged black box studio, with raked seating.

**Design Fee:** £1,400 (per production)

**2019 Productions:**

**1st – 13th April 2019:** Junior Youth Theatre, 12 – 14s performance

Participants: Up to 40 young people aged 12-14

Performance(s): Saturday 13th April, 3pm and 7pm (times TBC)

**20th May – 1st June 2019:**  Junior Youth Theatre, 8-11s performance

Participants: Up to 40 young people aged 8-11

Performances: Saturday 1st June, 3pm and 6.30pm

**15th – 27th July 2019:** Senior Youth Theatre, 14-21s performance

Participants: Up to 35 young people aged 14-21

Performances: Friday 26th and Saturday 27th July, 7pm

**Designer Roles and Responsibilities**

* Design and deliver the set, props and costume, in line with director(s) vision and the needs of the production
* Manage team of volunteers (including placement students) during make-week and production-week
* Manage design budget, providing receipts for all expenses
* Attend 3-5 production meeting to present draft and final designs, responding to feedback from directors, stage manager and producers.
* Ensure set and costumes adhere to LYT’s Health & Safety policy, including ensuring that young people feel safe and comfortable onstage and in their costumes
* Attend min. 2 rehearsals and measure performers for costumes (as necessary)
* Communicate with directors the ‘base costumes’ that you would like young people to supply
* Collect and organize participants’ own costumes to ensure that these are not lost during the process
* Along with the production team, make or source all set/costume/props and oversee the delivery of these elements to the standards agreed in design meetings
* Along with the production team, get-in the set to the studio theatre
* Ensure all set/costumes/props are ready for the dress rehearsal (usually day before or afternoon of first performance)
* Along with the production team, support with the get-out to remove all set/costumes/ props from the theatre
* Evaluate the project along with LYT’s team, volunteers and other freelancers
* Take responsibility for returns in the week following the production

Designers 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 designing and delivering high quality productions with large casts
* Experience of designing, sourcing and making set, costumes and props
* Experience of managing volunteers
* Experience of managing budgets
* Ability to work collaboratively with a production team
* Ability to communicate designs verbally and visually with the production team
* Highly organised, with strong attention to detail

**Desirable:**

* Experience of designing in a youth theatre context
* Experience of working collaboratively with young people to design a production
* 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.)

**To Apply**

Please apply by emailing the following information:

* A CV
* A covering letter of no more than 2 sides of A4, addressing the essential and desirable skills and experience.
* 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 Designer” 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 closing date.*

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.*