

Kickstart Placement: Trainee Performer

(Actor, Dancer, Musician or Performance Poet)

Dates (tbc / negotiable): March 1st - August 30th 2022

Curiosity Productions Ltd in partnership with

Cloud Cuckoo Land Theatre Ltd

Supported by The Sir Barry Jackson Trust, Creative Alliance
and The Department for Work and Pensions

If you've got any **questions** or if you'd like this information in a
different format, please email:

hello@cloudcuckoolandtheatre.com

Trainee Performer

(Actor, Dancer, Musician or Performance Poet)

Curiosity Productions and Cloud Cuckoo Land Theatre

*** Application deadline Monday 24th January 2022 at 6.30pm ***

This role is supported by the Kickstart scheme: applicants must be aged 18 to 24 and claiming universal credit.

You must apply through your Job Centre. Ask your job coach to search for the Trainee Performer role with Curiosity Productions: postcode reference is B9 4AA.

Once we've received your application from your Jobcentre, you'll be asked to send a CV and examples of your performance-related skills. Selected applicants will then be invited to attend an informal workshop audition online, followed by an online interview for shortlisted applicants.

We're happy to accept application materials in standard typed, online, audio or video formats.

Curiosity Productions and Cloud Cuckoo Land Theatre are committed to positive action to tackle systemic marginalisation. If you meet the essential criteria and you identify as D/deaf, disabled or neurodivergent, LGBTQI+, or as a person of African, Caribbean or Latinx heritage, South Asian, East Asian, South East Asian or Middle Eastern heritage, Roma, Irish Traveller or Jewish heritage you will be guaranteed an audition for this role.

ROLE DETAILS

25 hours per week, fixed term for 6 months,
paid at the National Minimum Wage.

Open to candidates aged 18-24 in receipt of Universal Credit with a strong connection to Birmingham and The Black Country.

Purpose of the role

Actor, musician, performance poet or dancer / movement specialist to train and develop their skills for a career creating theatrical performances for and with young audiences.

Companies Overview

Curiosity produce accessible, inclusive creative events that nurture and develop creatives, artists and local communities.

www.curiosityproductions.co.uk

Curiosity Productions are Producers for Cloud Cuckoo Land Theatre, which is the focus of this role.

Cloud Cuckoo Land creates participatory music theatre with a dedicated focus towards young people in systemically marginalised communities.

www.cloudcuckoolandtheatre.com

Main Responsibilities

You'll support Cloud Cuckoo Land Theatre's ensemble to develop, devise and deliver workshops, events and open-air performances for local children in grassroots community settings.

You'll also have dedicated time and support to develop your performance skills practice, solo mentoring, opportunities to observe other practitioners and companies working with young audiences, and training in admin and fundraising techniques to help you to lead the creation of new theatre for young audiences in future.

Core Duties

- Most work will take place outdoors, or remotely via Zoom, with some face-to-face indoor sessions in Birmingham if Covid restrictions and your access needs allow (the role can be adjusted to suit your needs if required).
- You'll join our ensemble of performers/musicians for music and theatre devising sessions

- You'll support planning and delivery of creative arts workshops for multi-lingual children
- You'll do weekly solo skills practise (eg. a musical instrument or dance form) and research
- You'll help distribute resources and document sessions
- You'll create online resources/blogs
- You'll attend arts industry networking events (online and possibly face to face too)
- You'll support other participatory community arts experiences for young audiences (eg. creative arts workshops or sensory installations), as required by Curiosity or CCL
- You'll have chances to observe the work of a range of other artists/companies providing high-quality theatre, music and workshops for young audiences

General Duties

- You'll positively implement company processes, policies and procedures, including data protection, safeguarding access

and inclusion, wellbeing, and health and safety best practices around social distancing, masks, etc.

- You'll ensure compliance with all relevant funding conditions and reporting requirements
- You'll work in a way which celebrates and enhances diversity, access and inclusion in practice, programmes and projects
- You'll act as a positive advocate of the company at all times
- You'll contribute to a supportive, generous and open approach to ensemble wellbeing
- You'll carry out any other reasonable duties as required and agreed with your line manager

Entry Requirements

Applicants should be literate and numerate.

Grade C/4 and above in English, Maths and IT are preferable:

but we know people have varied journeys through life and your qualifications don't necessarily reflect what you're capable of!

Skills Required

Essential

- A genuine interest in creating theatrical performances for and with children in grassroots community settings, and awareness of the value of such experiences for young people.
- A proven commitment to your chosen performance skill or skills in acting, music, dance or performance poetry (this might be voluntary or educational, it doesn't need to be paid).
- A strong connection with Birmingham and/or the Black Country and a place to stay there.
- Creative problem solving skills and enjoyment of collaborative working models.

Desirable

- Experience creating or supporting creative arts workshops or events.
- Ability to speak more than one language (spoken or sign).
- Experience teaching or caring for children.
- Experience or knowledge of working inclusively with disabled or neurodivergent people.
- Experience or knowledge of challenges facing children growing up in systemically marginalised communities.

Personal Qualities

- You're keen to create theatre for and with children in grass-roots community settings, and aware of the value of theatrical and musical experiences for young people.
- You enjoy learning about a wide range of different approaches to making theatre.

- You're curious about other people's experiences and their creative ideas, skills and perspectives.
- You enjoy working collaboratively in a team and learning from others.
- You enjoy working on your own to develop your practical performance skills.

Future Prospects

Trainees will be considered for future opportunities to work as a paid devising performer or facilitator on productions and workshops created by Cloud Cuckoo Land Theatre or Curiosity Productions. You'll have access to mentoring from a children's theatre professional, and support to create a new CV, portfolio and online profile and blog posts.

We'll share your online profile and portfolio sector-wide, to support your wider career as a creator and performer or theatre for young audiences.

ACCESS

We're a neurodiverse team but we know we still need to do a lot better on access and disability inclusion: we're committed to becoming more inclusive, and we're always open to learning.

The Project:

We will endeavour to provide access support: if your needs go beyond what we're able to cover, we'll pay for support with an Access to Work application (for example, the scale of the budget unfortunately wouldn't cover a BSL interpreter for every session: but we could provide this for initial sessions while your access to work comes through, and support with the access to work application). We'll ask you to share your access needs at the start of the process, and we'll work with you to facilitate your happy and comfortable participation in the project. If you have any concerns about the level of support available, drop us a line on hello@cloudcuckoolandtheatre.com: we'll happily chat it over.

Application Process:

We're happy to accept applications in standard typed, online, audio or video formats.

If you need this information in another format, or you require any other support with the application, or to submit your application in another way (eg. over the phone), just get in touch and we'll do our best to facilitate it, on hello@cloudcuckoolandtheatre.com

Interviews and Practical Workshop Auditions:

All interviews and auditions for these roles will be online. We'll provide adaptations like captions ourselves if required, and support an access to work application for an interpreter or other support we can't provide ourselves. As an ND-led team we try to run neurodivergent friendly interviews and workshops, eg. providing interview questions in advance, and making questions as literal as possible. We're happy to welcome stims, tics and whatever you need to be comfortable into the online space.

We want to get to know people as their authentic selves. Just let us know your requirements and we'll do our best to facilitate them.

ABOUT CLOUD CUCKOO LAND THEATRE

We create, support and promote creatively inventive, participatory music theatre & interdisciplinary activities for young audiences, through grassroots community partnerships.

The company has a dedicated focus towards younger children in systemically marginalised communities, performing extensively in areas with limited arts provision & high levels of food poverty.

Our music theatre productions for younger children, *Ding Dong* and *Ariel On The Cliff* (below), have toured nationally to venues including Farnham Maltings, ArtsDepot and The RSC: but their natural home is the schools, community halls, libraries, nurseries, healthcare settings and community gardens where most children have encountered them, all around Birmingham in areas

where children can have less access to the arts (we've performed most often in Sparkbrook, Northfield, Bordesley Green, Stechford, Balsall Heath, and Highgate). We've created numerous small-scale grassroots storytelling performances, workshops and installations for young audiences all over the city. For more details, please visit:

www.cloudcuckoolandtheatre.com

In March 2020 we repurposed funds to create a child-friendly website hosting online materials: we worked with Flatpack Festival to create new resources, designed for children in Birmingham who speak English as an additional language, *Planet Me*:

www.cuckoofun.com/planet-me