



A call for a North-East Theatre Company/Creative Organisation

Benfield School, in collaboration with Culture Bridge North East, is seeking to commission a theatre company/creative organisation/artist collective to deliver an innovative school project.

The school is seeking to commission a professional theatre company/organisation with experience of delivering and devising theatre alongside young people. The company must have experience of delivering educational workshops and creative learning programmes that can be adapted to fit the needs and voices of all pupils.

Benfield School prides itself on inspiring young people through theatre and enabling them to thrive through participation. This unique and exciting project will challenge practice and thinking around partnership working between schools and creative companies/practitioners and the project will put pupils at the heart of devising professional, contemporary theatre.

Benfield School has an innovative approach to performing arts which aims to help children develop physically, emotionally and socially, ensuring their school offer is stretching and that opportunities are inclusive for all. The school places learners at the heart of practice with the ultimate goal of students feeling valued, included, challenged and supported in their creative learning.

Working with drama students aged 11-14, the company will co-create a piece of contemporary theatre which is reflective of both the students' lives and how they feel that they fit into the world. Pupils have begun exploring potential umbrella themes that they would like to use for their devising process; namely around the subjects of diversity, neurodiversity and social class and are wanting to explore more around the wider joys and challenges of being a young person in 2021.

We would like to see pupils:

- Develop their theatre devising skills.
- Understand the creative process of theatre co-production.
- Develop skills of transposition; putting the elements together.
- Feel valued and 'heard' through co-creation.
- Create rich characters.
- Explore the importance of movement.
- Work from text.
- Present and compile their work.
- Address social issues relevant to them.
- Share their learning with others.
- Build confidence and learn new skills.

A longer term goal of this project is to allow the pupils to develop creative communication. Pupils will be encouraged to talk to peers, school staff and creative practitioners and will be encouraged and supported to articulate their thoughts and ideas. In turn, we hope this project can help to build a community of performing artists in school, across year groups.

Requirements:

We require all applicants to have all relevant safeguarding experience and to have a current DBS check. We also require proof of public liability insurance.

Budget:

The budget for the commission is £2,000 to cover artists/companies delivery and planning days. We envisage that delivery will be three hours per week at Benfield School over eight weeks, plus one full day delivery on performance day. There is an additional £1,000 production budget.

Timeline:

We envisage that the programme will run from December 2021 - March 2022 over a total of eight weeks.

Management of the project:

The creative producer, on behalf of Culture Bridge North East, will manage the project. Contracts, budget and health and safety will be managed by Benfield School.

How to apply:

Please send a covering letter of no more than 2 pages explaining:

- How you would approach the project and what you hope to achieve for this project.
- Evidence of previous relevant experience, which demonstrates your suitability for this work.
- Outline how as an artist / organisation you are well placed to respond to the initial ideas set out in the brief.

Our Belief:

Culture Bridge North East is committed to cultivating and preserving a culture of inclusion and connectedness. We are able to grow and learn better together with a diverse team of employees. The collective sum of the individual differences, life experiences, knowledge, innovation, self-expression, and talent that our employees and contract staff invest in their work represents not only part of our culture, but our reputation. In any recruitment we undertake, we welcome the unique contributions that individuals can bring in terms of their education, opinions, culture, ethnicity, race, sex, gender identity and expression, nation of origin, age, languages spoken, veteran's status, color, religion, disability, sexual orientation and beliefs.

Application deadline: Monday 15 November 2021

Interview dates: w/c 22 November 2021

Please return your application to: Carolyn Sayer, Curriculum Leader Creative Arts:
Carolyn.Sayer@benfield.newcastle.sch.uk

If you require any further information, please contact Vicki Kennedy on behalf of CBNE:
vandhphotography@gmail.com