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Big Up! Community Engagement Associate

About Big Up!

Hip-Hop, Puppetry and live music for 3-6 year olds and everyone who looks after them.

No matter whether you are Big or Small, the world is full of rules. Sometimes we make our own rules, sometimes we don’t know the rules and sometimes we want to play by different rules.

What happens when a Beatboxer, a Singer and a Puppeteer arrive on stage but nothing is ready for their gig?  No set, no instruments, no puppets. No rules.

Come and watch as they create a world full of joy and chaos, where objects come to life and everything is possible.

Big Up is perfect for little people who want to be Big, and Big people who just might have forgotten how to play.

After the success of *The Broke ‘N’ Beat Collective*the award winning Theatre-Rites and 20 Stories High join forces again, this time to create BIG UP!, a show especially for 3-6 year olds and the people who look after them.

‘*The shows originality and freshness sings out.’*

The Guardian on *The Broke ‘N’ Beat Collective*

About Theatre Rites & 20 Stories High

Theatre-Rites is one of the UK’s leading theatre companies, known for their puppetry, object animation and site-specific productions. Working across art-forms they create innovative theatre for children and adults to share together.

Influenced and inspired by their audience, Theatre-Rites feeds the imaginations of young people, giving them a memorable theatrical experience. The company’s work, directed by Artistic Director Sue Buckmaster, tours nationally and internationally and includes small intimate experiences, as well as large immersive productions.

Commissioners have included Sadler’s Wells, the Barbican and the Young Vic in the UK and Vienna, theater der welt and Salzburg Festivals in Europe.

20 Stories Highmake theatre with **young people** from excluded communities, emerging and **world-class artists** to tell stories that are…

gritty, jumping, melodic, rebellious, contemporary, mashed-up, authentic, original, visual, challenging, lyrical, tender, anarchic, diverse, surprising, booming, political, funny, collaborative and heart-felt.

We bring young people into theatre venues and go out into their communities. We hail from Liverpool, but our reach is international.

We believe everybody’s got a story to tell...and their own way of telling it...

Founded in 2006, 20 Stories High has established itself as one of the UK’s leading young people’s theatre companies, and has won a series of prestigious awards and commissions. 20 Stories High tours to theatres, schools venues and community spaces and run a range of participatory projects.

The Brief

The Community Engagement Associate will work with our Big Up! team to develop participants and audiences for shows and activities in Oldham. They will assist with the delivery of the Oldham Big Up! audience and participation development plan to ensure we are working with the children and families most in need of free creative arts experiences.

They will develop an understanding of the aspirations and requirements of local families in this area, and will use this learning to make sure all opportunities are as inclusive and open as possible.

They will visit local groups, meet up with peers/other local young parents on a one-to-one basis, lead meetings and activities in community settings and support groups and individuals to come and see the show.

They will encourage families to develop an on-going relationship with Oldham Library, setting up opportunities to access ongoing activities and get to know the team at the library.

Terms and Conditions

Contract: Freelance temporary contract, flexible hours (approx 5 days)

Fee: £500

Duration of work: Between November 2018- March 2019

Reporting to: 20 Stories High Executive Director, Leanne Jones

Responsibilities

Programme

* To hold activities/meetings in venues that are already used by target audiences e.g. children’s centres, community halls
* To support families in accessing Big Up! activities and shows
* To connect families to the team/programme at Oldham Library
* To promote opportunities for young people to perform at the Jam event

Operational

* Alongside 20SH’s Producers research and reach out to services, organisations and groups that are currently supporting young parents/carers to ensure we are working with the children and families most in need of free creative arts experiences (e.g. Early Help, Looked After Children’s support agencies)
* Alongside 20SH’s Producers develop community meet and greet session
* Alongside 20SH’s Producers support communities to engage with the residency and see the show
* Work with partners to ensure the safeguarding and pastoral care for children and young people involved in engagement and outreach activities

Sustainability and Development

* Advocate for cultural diversity, social inclusion and young people’s voices in theatre
* Make all opportunities as accessible and inclusive as possible

Person Specification

Knowledge, Skills and Experience

* An experience of engaging young people from excluded communities in arts activities
* Excellent organisational skills including the ability to manage multiple priorities in order to meet deadlines
* The ability to engage and communicate with people from a wide range of backgrounds and cultures and maintain discipline in a fair, friendly and firm manner

Personal Qualities

* Enjoy the company of young people
* Have an interest in the arts and the benefits they can bring to young people
* Excellent communication, interpersonal and presentation skills
* Ability to act on her/his own initiative whilst remaining a flexible team member
* An understanding of diversity and equality and a commitment to increasing access and inclusion

To Apply

If you would like to apply for this role, please send your Curriculum Vitae, covering letter and Equal Opportunities Form (below) and return by email to our Finance and Administration Manager, Tina Taylor tina@20storieshigh.org.uk.

The deadline for applications is Monday 12th November at 10am.Applications received after this date and time will not be considered. Interviews will take place on Friday 16th November with a start date as soon as possible after appointment.