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## **A Space for Play & Experimentation:**

**Actor training and professional development for community practitioners. September 2024 - February 2025**

# APPLICATION PACK

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## Introduction

Thank you for taking an interest in Actor's LAB, a free of charge professional development programme presented by 20 Stories High, in partnership with TiPP and Unity Theatre.

This year, the Actors LAB programme is focused on developing the skills and experience of artists who are interested in working in community arts settings, as actors, and creative facilitators.

Led by 20 Stories High's Artistic Director Keith Saha, 4 artists will get a chance to develop themselves as actors and take part in creative skills, and professional development training facilitated by world-class professionals.

The training will be followed by a paid rehearsal process, and tour of a new piece of work Wobble Bass Frequencies, which explores narratives around families reconnecting. The piece will tour into prisons; secure units; and other community led spaces in Merseyside in February 2025.

Here is everything we think you need to know about the programme and how to apply, but if you have any questions, please do get in touch with 20 Stories High's Creative Producer [roxy@20storieshigh.org.uk](mailto:roxy@20storieshigh.org.uk)

## About 20 Stories High

20 Stories High is an award-winning theatre company that believes "everybody's got a story to tell... and their own way of telling it."

We co-create with culturally diverse, working-class young people, emerging artists, and world-class professionals to tell stories that are challenging, authentic and uplifting.

Experimenting with rap, dance, beatboxing, music, and puppetry, we mash up art forms to make new kinds of theatre that empowers and enables social change.

Our shows happen in loads of different spaces from theatres, schools and youth clubs to digital spaces and living rooms.

Our heart is in Liverpool, but our reach is universal.

We are in partnership with Unity Theatre and TiPP for this project.

## Who is the opportunity for?

We are looking for actors who are passionate about taking high quality artistic experiences directly to underrepresented, culturally diverse, working-class young people and communities.

**We are particularly keen to receive applications from people who are confident musicians and/ or singers**, as sound will play a role in the storytelling of the piece.

We are looking for actors who can commit to the whole process- including weekly workshops, as well as the full rehearsal process and performance weeks.

We know the theatre landscape isn't equal. At 20 Stories High we continue to strive to redress the balance. Actors LAB offers formalised training to early career actors, (meaning those who have little to no professional acting experience, or some professional acting experience but no formal training in theatre) who are:

- Aged 18+
- Based in Merseyside

**Additionally, preference will be given to artists who have faced barriers when accessing training, for example:**

- People from the Global Majority
- People with barriers accessing education or training
- LGBTQIA+ people
- People who have faced financial challenges
- Deaf and Disabled people
- Migrant artists
- People who have experienced mental and/ or physical health challenges

- People with extra responsibilities at home (e.g. primary caregiver for a relative or responsible for the care of children)

## Structure of the programme

We will offer the opportunity for 4 actors to participate in a two-stage professional development programme.

### Stage one - training:

- **A full-day meet and greet:**

**On Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> September**, which will be a chance for the selected artists to get to know each other, as well as 20 Stories High, TiPP and Unity. The day will include workshops, training and food.

- **10-week weekly workshops and mentoring programme:**

Held on **Monday evenings, starting on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> October, and running until Monday the 9<sup>th</sup> December 2024**. (Sessions will last up to 3 hours). Workshops will be in person (unless otherwise stated).

### Stage two - rehearsal and tour:

- € **2 weeks intensive rehearsal (Paid - £500 per week):**

Held over full days, **Monday to Friday, on the weeks commencing 20<sup>th</sup> January, and 27<sup>th</sup> January 2025**.

€ **2 weeks of performing the final piece on tour** (paid £500 per week):

**Touring on the weeks commencing 3rd of February and 10<sup>th</sup> February** (performing in community and youth spaces, with one public show taking place at a local theatre).

## About the training you will receive

Some training workshops will be creative skills focused, whilst others will explore best practise in working in community-based settings, and other sessions will be designated to think about your own professional development.

Examples sessions include:

### **Professional practice sessions:**

- How to work safely in secure units
- Vision and values mapping

### **Creative/ performance skills sessions:**

- Voice work/ text work
- Creative facilitation in community settings

### **Industry knowledge/ career building sessions:**

- How to approach agents and how to self-tape
- Mapping of the creative industry, and ecology

## **Wrap Around Support**

### **Mentoring**

Each participant will receive 1-2-1 mentoring slots outside of regularly scheduled times with graduates of a 20 Stories High professional development programme and industry professionals. These sessions will focus on non-craft based, career advice and development, as well as career planning.

### **Aftercare**

After the end of the programme, we will offer 3 months of bespoke aftercare to each artist. This will be tailor made to support them however they see fit, but can include networking and industry introductions, support with fundraising or making work, support finding an agent and/or preparing for auditions etc.

### **Wellbeing and Access**

Wellbeing, access and inclusion will be central to the project, running through all elements. The weekly training sessions will include a workshop led by a drama therapist, which is focused on your wellbeing.

Each participant will be supported to complete an access and wellbeing audit, with artists access needs then being built into all planning and delivery.

## **How to apply**

**There are three ways in which you can apply:**

- 1) **Complete the expression of interest form either in writing or digitally (typed)**, plus film yourself performing a short contemporary monologue of your choice. If you are a musician or vocalist, please also share footage/ audio to your performance/ work.
- 2) **Audio record or film your answers to the expression of interest form and send an unedited version to us** (this must be no longer than 10 minutes), plus film yourself performing a self-tape of a short contemporary monologue of your choice. If you are a musician or vocalist, please also share footage/ audio to your performance/ work.
- 3) **Book a slot with a member of the 20 Stories High team to answer each question in the expression of interest form in person**, plus film yourself performing a short contemporary monologue of your choice. If you are a musician or vocalist, please also share footage/ audio to your performance/ work.

You do not need to be off-book when performing your monologue, (meaning you don't need to have learnt your lines).

**The deadline for applications is: Monday 1<sup>st</sup> July, at 12-noon.**

Complete forms and hard copies of recordings can be posted to:

20 Stories High  
Toxteth TV  
37-45 Windsor St  
Liverpool  
L8 1XE



Or completed forms, audio or film recordings, or requests for a one-to-one interview can be emailed, along with a completed Equal Opportunities Form, to: **Roxy Daykin-Moores, Creative Producer:** [roxy@20storieshigh.org.uk](mailto:roxy@20storieshigh.org.uk)

## Access Support

We are committed to inclusive working practices and ensuring equal access.

This pack is available in a range of formats including audio, large print, dyslexia friendly and screen reader compatible versions.

If you have a more specific formatting requirement, please let us know and we will try our best to provide this for you. Please email: [Amy@20storieshigh.org.uk](mailto:Amy@20storieshigh.org.uk).

## Outcome of application and next steps

All applicants will receive a response regardless of outcome by **Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> July.**

Successful applicants will be invited to an in-person audition **in Liverpool on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> July.** Please make sure you are available for this date.