

BRIGHTON PEOPLE'S THEATRE

Producer Brief and Person Specification

Producer: The Songbird Cafe

Responsible to: Artistic Director
Works with: Songbird Cafe Creative Team, BPT Operations and Programme Manager, BPT Communications Manager, BPT Business Manager, BPT Members, ACCA team, Slung Low team, External partners and Commissioners

Scope of role:

Working closely with the Artistic Director (AD) and the creative team for The Songbird Cafe, the Producer is pivotal within the team. We are looking for someone to embrace and develop the vision and ambition for this production.

The Songbird Cafe is our next full production, commissioned by the Brighton Festival with seed funding for a period of R&D from November 2021 - June 2022. It is a step change for us both in terms of scale and scope and we want to work with a Producer who can enable us to navigate this next stage of our artistic journey.

The Songbird Cafe will be a family friendly musical that tours to parks across the city during the Brighton Festival in 2023. Our ambition for the piece is that it goes on to enjoy a tour beyond the city in 2023-24.

The concept has been co-created with our members to get it to the point of securing Arts Council England funding and a Brighton Festival commission. The R&D will see sustained involvement with our members co-creating different strands of the musical:

- working with a writer to co-create the world of the musical, narrative and characters resulting in a complete (60 minute playing time) script
- working with a set and costume designer to co-create ideas for set and costume design, resulting in a fully costed set of plans
- working with a composer and lyricist, resulting in the creation of original songs and some incidental music
- working with a choreographer, resulting in the creation of 1 movement piece

The R&D will take place over 4 weekends at the Attenborough Centre for the Creative Arts (ACCA) at Sussex University, where we are an Associate Company. We will have exclusive use of the building for the R&D days and we will involve up to 50 participants in the R&D process.

The purpose of the Producer role is to produce the R&D, build connections with potential partners and produce a budget and fundraising strategy for The Songbird Cafe to go to full production in May 2023 followed by a tour.

We are looking for a proactive, organised individual with outstanding people skills. Ideally we are looking for someone who has knowledge and experience of producing, musical theatre, outdoor work and national touring. Experience of co-created work would be a bonus, however we have a lot of experience in this area and can support the Producer with this.

BPT actively seeks to recruit individuals from less well represented groups in the arts, this includes those from Working Class backgrounds, Global Majority, Deaf & disabled and LGBTQI+ communities.

Payment

This is a freelance contract: 20 days @ £200 per day - £4000 contract

There is the potential for this role to be extended if sufficient funds are secured and co-commissioning partners brought on board at the end of the R&D period.

The candidate will need to have their own public liability insurance in place.

Location

The Producer can be based anywhere in the UK, but will need to be in Brighton for the following dates when the R&D is taking place at ACCA at Sussex University: 29th January, 27th February, 27th March & 2/3 April.

KEY OUTPUTS

- To produce a fully costed budget and fundraising strategy for full production for Brighton Festival 2023 and a tour
- Research both financial and community engagement models of touring co-created shows
- Actively engage with the AD and BPT membership to gain their feedback and views on different touring models, incorporating their ideas into production strategy

- In collaboration with the AD, Creative Team and members, set the production parameters before the R&D days with members begin in January
- To schedule and attend the 4 day R&D (January -April) and run the budget, including organising additional staffing as required
- Liaise with technical team at ACCA to ensure all technical support is in place
- To support the AD and Creative Team in maintaining the production parameters throughout the R&D
- To liaise with the team at Slung Low around the loan of their headphones for the sharing
- Organise the filming of the sharing to ensure footage captured for a 1 minute promo for The Songbird Cafe
- Contact potential co-commissioning partners and build connections for the company, seeking opportunities to raise investment and support
- Organise a zoom to present The Songbird Cafe concept in May 2022 to potential partners & co-commissioners
- Prepare presentation, including budget for touring model to potential partners & co-commissioners
- Hold zoom for potential co-commissioners, involving AD and Creative Team/members as needed to explain concept and vision for The Songbird Cafe
- Follow up with all attendees
- Submit at least 1 funding bid for the development of The Songbird Cafe

Application Process and Timetable

Job advertised: 13th October 2021

Deadline for applications: 9am 8th November 2021

Interviews: 10th November 2021 (on zoom)

Work commences: ASAP

Work completed: 30th June 2022

To apply please send a copy of your CV with a covering letter of no more than 2 pages of A4 outlining your suitability for this role to: Naomi Alexander, Artistic Director on: naomi@brightonpeoplestheatre.org by 9am on Monday 8th November 2021.

If you have any questions about the role before you apply please email Naomi on the email address above. Please note she is on annual leave the w/c 25th October and will return to work on Monday 1st November.