



Job Title: Lead Facilitator x2, Southwark Playhouse Elders Company

Responsible to: David Workman, Youth & Community Director

Southwark Playhouse is all about telling stories and inspiring the next generation of storytellers and theatre makers. It aims to facilitate the work of new and emerging theatre practitioners from early in their creative lives to the start of their professional careers.

Our theatre programme aims to facilitate and showcase the work of some of the UK's best up and coming talent with a focus on reinterpreting classic plays and contemporary plays of note. Our two atmospheric theatre spaces enable us to offer theatre artists and companies the opportunity to present their first fully realised productions. Over the past 20 years we have produced and presented early productions by many aspiring theatre practitioners many of whom are now enjoying flourishing careers.

Southwark Playhouse also exists to engage the wider community by offering a range of drama related activities that promote learning and social cohesion.

Over the next year Southwark Playhouse will be relocating to a new purpose-built venue which will expand the scope of the theatre's operations.

Main Purpose:

Southwark Playhouse Elders Company is a weekly drama group for non-professional participants aged 65+ and aims to provide:

- Regular drama workshops at the theatre. Led by professional directors/facilitators, these develop participants' skills, confidence and abilities, and provide them with an opportunity to meet others with similar interests.
- The development of a number of pieces of theatre performed by the group at Southwark Playhouse and, where appropriate, at others venues in the local community.

Southwark Playhouse Elders Company has been running since June 2015, and in that time we have produced a number of professionally-supported performances and run regular weekly workshops, including throughout the lockdown. The group generally comprises between fifteen and twenty members aged 65+, from all backgrounds, and with a variety of performance experience.

Following extensive evaluation of the programme, we are planning an evolution of the project from July/August 2021 and are seeking two lead facilitators/directors to lead the group through that process. Those roles are:

- **Role 1:** A lead practitioner/director for the existing Elders Company, responsible for planning and delivering weekly workshops and devising and directing productions (c. two per year). The Elders Company meets year-round, and we are seeking someone able to commit to the company for at least six months initially. The role has plenty of opportunity for someone dynamic to put their own stamp on the role. This role would suit someone with both community theatre and professional theatre experience.
- **Role 2:** A lead practitioner for a new project, the Elders Company Drop-In (name TBC). This will be a more informal, relaxed group for new participants who might not be ready to graduate to the existing Elders Company. This will initially be for a ten-week period, with the possibility of a more permanent extension depending on the success of the project. This role would particularly suit those with community theatre experience and an ability to manage a group of people with a variety of different backgrounds, skills and needs, building a group from scratch.

Sessions are intended to take place on weekday mornings.

Key Responsibilities

- To deliver weekly workshops at Southwark Playhouse.
- To devise and develop performances and productions.
- To work closely with the Youth and Community Director to plan Elders Company activity.

Person Specification

Essential skills, attributes and experience:

- Excellent drama workshop facilitation skills.
- At least three years of experience of working with adults/ older people in drama/arts contexts.
- Knowledge of, and commitment to, inclusive arts practice.
- Proven experience of directing and devising theatre with non-professional groups.
- Ability to create a safe and welcoming space for new members (specifically relevant to **Role 2**)
- Excellent verbal communication skills, including the ability to communicate with a range of individuals, organizations, and professionals.
- Strong people skills and an ability to work flexibly and creatively to meet people's needs and potential, with particular emphasis on the needs of older people.
- Ability to respond positively to unexpected challenges.
- Ability to work independently and as part of a team.
- Proven ability to work with freelance artists and collaborate on creative projects.
- A current enhanced DBS or willingness to apply.
- Awareness and understanding of equal opportunities, confidentiality, health and safety issues and the safeguarding of vulnerable adults.
- Passion for drama and the arts.

Desirable skills, attributes and experience:

- Professional directing experience.
- An arts based qualification.

- First aid certificate.

Fee

The fee is £90 per two-hour session, paid on a monthly basis on the presentation of invoices. This fee includes all planning for weekly sessions. Additional meetings, rehearsals and performances will incur additional fees, in consultation with the Youth and Community Director.

To Apply

Please send your CV and a covering letter to David Workman, Youth and Community Director on david.workman@southwarkplayhouse.co.uk.

If you are interested in both roles please indicate this clearly in your cover letter and indicate why you are suitable for both roles.

All shortlisted candidates will have an informal meeting, and those applying for **Role 1** may also be asked to attend an Elders Company session to lead a short activity and meet the group – this will be confirmed closer to the time.

Closing date for applications: Friday 21st May, 6pm

Interviews will be held during the week commencing 31st May.

Southwark Playhouse is committed to being an Equal Opportunities Employer.

Southwark Playhouse Theatre Company is a registered charity no 1042870.