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Job Title: Director/Creative team for *Romeo and Juliet*

Responsible to: David Workman, Youth & Community Director

About Us

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.

Southwark Playhouse also exists to engage its local 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 in Elephant and Castle which will expand the scope of the theatre's operations.

The Project

In January 2022, Southwark Playhouse will be staging *Romeo and Juliet*, the latest in our Schools Shakespeare performances. We are excited to announce that we are making an open call to find directors or creative teams at the early stage of their careers who have a bold, exciting and inspiring vision for the production.

Aimed at young people aged 10 – 15 from schools across South London, these productions have played to over 5,000 audience members winning acclaim from schools and critics alike:

"... this 90-minute show delivers an enchanting and emotionally charged *Tempest*
" *WhatsOnStage* on *The Tempest* (2017)

"A Year 8 class were asked if they would go to the theatre again – they all said yes. Then asked if they would see a Shakespeare play, again they said all said yes. We have now started our Shakespeare unit and so the students are coming to this with a far more positive approach, Year 8s are even studying *Twelfth Night* so they're coming at it feeling like experts which has been great for confidence". Participating Teacher, *Twelfth Night* (2019)

These are fully professional productions (cast and creative team), which incorporate both schools and public performances across a full four-week run at Southwark Playhouse. The production will receive the full support of the Playhouse, including technical and marketing support.

What we are looking for

We are looking for new and emerging creatives with the expertise and ability to take the lead on this project, working alongside Southwark Playhouse to bring the project to life.

Applicants must have staged at least one professional production in a fringe or similar-sized venue. We will be looking particularly favourably on applications that consider these key elements:

– The project will be funded and produced by Southwark Playhouse, with the budget set in advance and all decision making made in collaboration with us.

- The production should aim to be no longer than 75 – 90 minutes.
- The production will only have access to six cast members.
- The production will retain Shakespeare’s language, although this may be negotiable.
- The production will take place in the Little Theatre at Southwark Playhouse in January 2022, with rehearsals from December 2021.
- Directors applying individually will be able to select their own creative teams (subject to agreement with Southwark Playhouse), or will be supported to put a team together.

To Apply

We are looking for initial expressions of interest. To apply, please send us a single-page outlining your ideas for the production of *Romeo and Juliet*, along with your CV (and those of any of other members of your creative team) and a short covering-letter outlining your relevant experience.

We will also happily accept digital applications. These should be sent via WeTransfer to the address below.

Please send your applications to David Workman, Youth and Community Director on david.workman@southwarkplayhouse.co.uk.

The closing date for applications is Friday 30th July at 12pm.

From this, we will shortlist 8 applications to take to interview stage, with final decisions being made in early September.

If you would like to discuss this further for an informal chat, please contact David on the email address above to arrange.