



POWER PLAYS FESTIVAL ASSISTANT PRODUCER

Timing: February-September 2-3 days/week
Pay: £10,000 fixed fee
Contract: Freelance

ABOUT TESP: The Electric Sunshine Project* CIC (TESP), lead organisation at The Old Electric (TheOE), was formed in July 2016 by Melanie Whitehead. The organisation is strategically led by a team of directors and seeks to be informed by the needs of the local community. TheOE is a creative community venue in the heart of Blackpool that opened August 2020 with help from Reaching Communities Lottery funding.

OUR PURPOSE is to provide high-quality theatre-arts experiences, connected to Blackpool, for those who are least engaged. We want to see a transformed landscape where residents can achieve more as a result of engaging with their own creativity. We believe the best way to inspire ownership of a new narrative about the town is by engaging in dialogue with local people, embracing the historical and popular traditions of the town and developing new work that offers a different light by which participants and audiences can see themselves, the area and the society in which we live. By working in partnership with others, offering a broad range of regular and high-quality opportunities, supporting the development of emerging artists and retaining links with established industry experts, we can and will have a positive impact on social cohesion, the growth of long-term relationships and a stronger creative community which helps to change the landscape of Blackpool for the future. As an organisation, we want to be an enquiring and diverse team responding to our locality; actively engaged in a dialogue with policy-makers, producers and artists to develop practice, influence change and engage new audiences.

ABOUT POWER PLAYS FESTIVAL: This new playwriting festival is possible as a result of Arts Council England funding and will be an exciting programme of workshops, scratch readings, schools programmes, new productions and mentoring opportunities with professional playwrights taking place at The Old Electric, in local primary schools, on an outreach basis and digitally. Submitted competition scripts will be read by a panel of esteemed professionals and offer developmental feedback, two scripts will be directed to scratch sharing and one will be professionally produced at TheOE with a view to touring outside of Blackpool.

Power Plays as a title is intended to act as provocation for thinking about where the power dynamics lie in the town with a view to enacting change. The festival will establish TheOE as Blackpool's home of new writing; supporting audiences to see how contemporary theatre can offer a new lens through which the town can be viewed; cement national/regional partnerships with organisations and individuals including Factory International, National Theatre, Dukes Lancaster: BlastFest, Headlong, Marlborough Theatre, Theatre Factory, Cultural Democracy and internationally renowned playwrights; and provide a range of personal, professional and place-based developmental opportunities with which emerging artists can connect.

POWER PLAYS FESTIVAL ASSISTANT PRODUCER ROLE OVERVIEW

This new role will work closely with TESP Artistic Director to plan and deliver a range of opportunities to create new work for stage that:

- ensure this exciting pilot offer connects with our local residents in new ways;
- challenges lazy or stereotyped perceptions of Blackpool;
- links with our shared responsibility towards environmental sustainability in practical and active ways
- showcases and celebrates local stories and characters from more than a nostalgic or negative perspective

TheOE's future success will be informed by the quality of our creative output; this festival is an opportunity to cement this venue as a home for vibrant, accessible, boundary-breaking theatre-makers to share practice and performance; from which we can all learn and grow. To raise aspirations, build professional theatre-making skills, develop a new shared understanding of writing methodologies, create a collaborative spirit of producing work here. Ultimately which enable TheOE to become Blackpool's first professional producing theatre; making a programme of socially-engaged shows and participatory opportunities which contribute to the local creative economy and provide longterm professional opportunities.

You will:

- In partnership with TESP AD, schedule, produce and deliver a pilot programme of workshops, performances and projects that support new writing based on the details, partnerships and activity plan in the ACE application
- Ensure all workshop content being provided meets the needs of our participants and that the work is being accurately described to potential participants including ensuring that all logos/ photos and descriptions are displayed accurately and in accordance with the facilitator/ artist wishes and The Old Electric branding guidelines
- Work with our marketing/PR lead to ensure this programme is being accessed by the broadest range of participants, attracting media coverage which supports positive profile raising for the organisation and capturing digital assets for social media stories, new items and evaluation purposes
- Plan and successfully manage the budget for this activity
- Provide administrative support for the whole festival programme
- Provide support to visiting artists and companies on their visits to the building to ensure they have a positive experience at TheOE and in Blackpool; with the specific outcome of ensuring that all potential for future developmental links with TheOE have been fully communicated, explored and optimised
- Be present at and support the delivery of sessions (including registration, refreshments, tech etc) which will involve undertaking H+S training and an induction of the building; all policies and procedures will be provided in advance and will require confirmation of your understanding and acceptance as a condition of employment
- Devise clear methods of quantifiable and qualitative feedback to be collated and create end of project evaluative reports for a range of stakeholders including completion of both ACE activity reports in a timely and considered way that includes recommendations for the future sustainability of this activity

Essential Criteria

- good communication and organisational/administrative skills
- ability to work independently, meet deadlines, co-manage a number of tasks with accuracy
- excellent IT skills including experience of working via google docs
- proven commitment to high-quality participant, audience and artist experiences
- ability to demonstrate reliability and commitment
- current knowledge of equal opps, data management, health & safety or willingness to train
- knowledge of/an interest in new writing

Desirable Criteria

- either a degree, diploma or certificate in arts administration, arts management, education, communications, English, performing arts/theatre, creative writing
- specific experience in a similar arts project and/or event
- successful bid writing/fundraising experience
- first aid training

CONTACT INFO AND DEADLINES:

Send a current CV and covering letter detailing why you are interested in and feel you can fulfil this role to Melanie@theoldelectric.co.uk by 12noon on Friday 19 January 2024.

We will aim to respond within 3 working days to arrange a follow up conversation.

For full information about our work visit [**www.theoldelectric.co.uk**](http://www.theoldelectric.co.uk)

For any questions before submission deadline, please call 01253 834175.



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