



Freelance Artist Practitioners Opportunity

SJT Creation Studios



The Stephen Joseph Theatre is launching an exciting new after schools' club: **SJT Creation Studios**. The clubs will launch in September from nine primary schools in the Scarborough/Whitby/Filey area and will run until the end of the academic year in July. We are looking for freelance practitioners to join us in delivering an excellent and varied programme of arts to the young people of our local community.

As the freelance artist, you would devise and lead the activities, but would be supported by two pastoral members of staff, one adult volunteer and three young volunteers (aged 14-19). Each session would run from 3:15 - 5:15pm, and each artist would be required to commit to three sessions/ evenings per week. There will be 25-30 children per group.

We are looking for freelance practitioners to cover various areas of work.

- **Specific Skills**

Experienced practitioners to work with children aged 8-11. Areas could include:

- Drama
- Dance/ Movement
- Stage Fighting
- Technical Theatre
- Puppetry
- Mask Making
- Fine Art
- Drumming (Music)
- Shadow work
- Sound Production
- Playwriting
- Circus Skills
- Comedy
- Film Making
- Photography

- **Personal Qualities:**

- Enjoys working with children and young people
- Happy to work with volunteers
- Good communication skills
- Good organisational skills
- Good Leadership skills
- Enjoys working as part of a team
- Committed to raising aspirations within the community and for young people in particular

The Project

We have identified through our work with the Scarborough Pledge that young people within certain areas do not access the arts and culture in out of school provisions. Sustained engagement with arts and cultural activity has the potential to broaden horizons, increase life chances, improve social wellbeing and enable young people to think critically and in a new way.

The performing arts are also a highly effective way of building confidence and self-esteem. By providing an out of school programme in the 9 schools within the Opportunity Area, children will participate in activities which engage and challenge them, thus contributing to increased social mobility and enabling families and young people to participate in positive activity, based in their local community.

We have identified 9 schools in our area and aim to open-up an out of school 'life skills' club for young people, using a variety of accessible theatre techniques. As the word theatre can come with preconceptions, we have named the club something that is more in keeping with the skills element of the club and universally accessible. The club is free for young people to take part in.

1) This club will build upon existing successful provision delivered in partnership with schools and the Children's University (After Schools Club) and will include sessions which provide tasters of different art forms. Street dance, drumming, drama, film making, singing etc. all framed around relevant stories and the positive attributes of the community in which they live – we will unearth local champions and heroes, stories of significance, something that holds a mirror up to what is great about the place in which they live. This will be driven by two key pastoral staff who will work with the young people throughout the project to ensure consistency.

2) In each area the young people will vote on the two skills (after taster sessions across all art forms) where they want their focus to be. This means that the young people get a choice in what pathway their club takes, they will own its direction. An example of this could be a group who have selected Drama, who will receive one term of sessions, culminating in a short presentation to family and friends. This allows the community to become involved and start discussing what their young people are doing as well as celebrating and highlighting positive local messages.

3) The next term a different art form will be focused on. By the end of the year, there will be 2 terms worth of concentrated work which we will help the young people to showcase in their own communities, this could be by an invited audience or by becoming part of an installation in their community (eg. a flashmob in their community one Saturday afternoon for example or could just be the sharing of a skill that they have learnt with someone else in their community, it depends upon the young person, this is about individual goals and achievements and how to embed the life skills that they have learnt into their everyday lives.)

If you are interested in applying, please submit your application to Diana Logan, Associate Director (Education): diana.logan@sjt.uk.com.

Please send a covering letter and CV (no more than two pages each) including details of recent experience and why you are interested in working with SJT OutReach and details of which strands and opportunities you are interested in.

Shortlisted candidates will be invited to facilitate a workshop session (20 - 30mins) followed by an informal conversation (20 - 30 mins).