**Deputy Production Manager (Paid Training Programme)**

**Job Description**

**Role Summary**

We are delighted to have received new funding for a full-time, two-year Deputy Production Manager training position; the funding aims to support artists and organisations who are seeking to recover following the impact of COVID-19 on UK theatre.

We are seeking candidates who are keen to work in theatre production and who are in the early stages of a career in stage management, technical theatre or production management.

The aim of this training post is to offer you the opportunity to develop an understanding of how a theatre venue and its technical and producing departments run, and to further build on and consolidate your skills and experience as a production manager.

This role is a funded trainee position because we seek to nurture and support emerging talent into creative backstage theatre roles. The Unicorn is also seeking a second placement for a Resident Design Assistant trainee for the same period.

The ideal candidate will likely have around two years professional experience in a similar or comparable role and have an understanding and knowledge of theatre production processes, or have recently graduated from a relevant BA or MA course in production management, stage management or technical theatre. We are looking for people with the potential to grow and who would welcome the training and support this opportunity offers.

We are committed to being an equal opportunities employer and actively encourage people from a wide variety of backgrounds, experience and skills to join us and influence and develop our working practice. We particularly encourage applications from Black candidates, candidates from diverse ethnic backgrounds, and disabled candidates.

All candidates who identify as disabled and demonstrate that they meet the essential criteria will be invited for an interview, in line with the Equalities Act 2010.

**Responsible to:** Technical & Production Director

**Working closely with:** Technical Manager, Facilities Manager and Technical Team, Artistic Director, Producers, Freelance Creatives and production teams, finance team, General Manager

**Summary**

The Deputy Production Manager is responsible for supporting the Technical & Production Director and Freelance Production Managers and combines practical, artistic and administrative elements alongside additional training, mentoring and the opportunity to independently lead on the production management of Unicorn shows in year two of the programme.

The Deputy Production Manager will be part of all the artistic activity at the Unicorn: 8 - 10 productions each year in the Clore and Weston theatres, from digital projects, in-house shows and co-productions to visiting company work and touring. There is also the opportunity to work across the organisation to gain understanding and insight into the operations of a busy producing venue, including facilities management, technical, governance, strategy, programming, and engagement.

**Key responsibilities**

***Production Management***

Support the Technical & Production Director and Freelance Production Managers in:

* Assisting in realising events, visiting work and co-productions, taking the lead on some productions in year two of the placement
* Devising, co-ordinating, and managing the production and performance schedule for productions and projects ensuring all performances and events are provided with appropriate technical resources.
* Initial planning and accurate costing, for all production and staffing requirements, ensuring that designs can be delivered within budget and schedule.
* Liaising with directors and designers to draw up plans and schedules to realise the productions; to arrange for the construction, purchase and/or hire of all design and technical elements; and provide expertise and other specialist technical help as required.
* Ensuring all productions comply with the Unicorn Production Health & Safety Policy. Provide risk assessments of both design elements and performance conditions, advise and instruct the Company (performers and operators) on safe procedures, provide and supervise any training required, and provide Health & Safety reports on each production or project.
* Ensuring that designers are fully aware of the restraints of budget, staffing, Health & Safety requirements, sustainability policies and Theatre Green Book, and the constraints of the theatre. Be available during all fit up and technical periods.
* Attending all previews to ensure productions are fully realised on time and on budget, and that all technical notes arising are passed on and acted upon.
* Support fit-ups, production periods and get outs for productions, events and co-productions.
* Attending relevant production or project meetings, liaising and assisting with provision of their requirements.

***Administrative & Financial***

* Provide general administrative assistance, including preparing paperwork, collating reports, scheduling, attending and minuting meetings, assembling touring information, responding to enquiries, formatting documents, and undertaking research as required.
* If required, manage booking specialists for Access performances and budgets; this might include captioned performances, audio-description services, or British Sign Language interpreters.
* If required, administrate timesheets, payroll for stage management, casual technicians, and technician overtime.
* Process invoices and credit card bills, and update ledgers for the department as assigned by the Technical & Production Director, ensuring smooth liaison with the Finance team in processing, timesheets, coding and tracking payments and updating cashflow.
* Manage the email inboxes relating to invoices and props hire and managing this process.
* Prepare contracts for Stage Management, Wardrobe and other production freelancers.
* Attend Building and Production meetings, taking minutes when required.

***General***

* Adhere to Health & Safety rules, and industry legislation and standards, including the Unicorn Safeguarding Policy and Data Protection, and to be mindful of the theatre’s commitment to Equal Opportunities.
* Provide occasional cover for Stage Door – the Unicorn’s Back of House reception desk.
* Attend internal and external readings, sharings and workshops
* Join the senior team and occasional board meetings as appropriate for strategy sessions
* Attend all company annual ‘away-days’, press nights and development events as reasonably required
* See work in the UK as required (ticket and travel costs beyond London covered by the Unicorn)
* Attend and become an active member of internal sub-committee working groups: Health & Safety, Sustainability, IDEA (Inclusion, Diversity, Equality, Access)

*This list of responsibilities is not exhaustive and you may be required to perform duties outside of this as operationally required and at the discretion of your line manager.*

**Training and Development**

**Mentoring**

You will be line managed by the Technical & Production Director, who also production manages some shows during a year. Mentoring will be provided by freelance professional Production Managers working at the Unicorn across our seasons for the duration of the placement, and there will be the opportunity to shadow a Production Manager working at another venue during the course of the first year.

Mentoring sessions will be scheduled on a regular basis, alongside an appraisal at 6 month intervals and an evaluation moment on completion of the fixed term with your line manager.

**Sustainability**

You will undertake Carbon Literacy training, and individual training and mentorship in creating sustainable productions.

The post-holder will uphold the Unicorn’s commitment to sustainability across our building and productions, ensuring that the Unicorn remains a leader in industry best practice, and embed Theatre Green Book standards across productions.

**Accessibility**

You will undertake Disability Awareness training, and learn about creative access approaches with a show, and have the opportunity to work with colleagues to further improve the organisation’s work around access and inclusion.

**Co-Creative Processes**

You will have opportunities to take part in community and school Engagement projects where aspects of a show are developed with young people over a series of sessions, gaining insights into how co-creative processes can work.

**H&S**

You will gain IOSH and H&S training in Year 1.

**Person Specification**

**Essential experience**:

* Two years recent, equivalent practical experience in technical theatre, stage management or production management in a professional and/or fringe theatre context

OR

* A recent BA / MA qualification in technical theatre, production management or stage management

**Essential approach:**

* A passion for theatre and commitment to building a career in the arts.
* An understanding of and interest in the artistic vision of the Unicorn and its work.
* The discretion, sensitivity, interpersonal and communication skills to be able to work effectively with a wide range of freelance artists, production teams, and staff across artistic projects.
* Interest in and knowledge of sustainability and accessibility issues and a commitment to improving and implementing good practice across productions.
* A willingness to work flexible hours and travel occasionally.
* Ability to work effectively under pressure.
* A commitment to diversity and equality of opportunity.

**Essential knowledge / skills:**

* Experience of working on productions in a learning environment, fringe and/or professional context.
* High level of attention to detail.
* Experience of running efficient administrative or production processes/systems.
* Excellent Microsoft Office skills.

**About the Unicorn**

***We create new, inventive and enthralling performances for every stage of childhood. We believe in the imaginative power of theatre to transform young lives.***

We are the largest children’s theatre in the UK, specialising in developing new devised and written shows alongside adaptations of classic texts, offering an innovative and inspiring year-round programme of sector-leading theatre for children.

Our purpose-built home at London Bridge (opened in 2005) is a creative and welcoming space designed with and for young people. Our building comprises two theatre spaces (Weston Theatre at around 290-seat capacity and Clore Theatre at around 90-seat capacity) plus two rehearsal spaces, along with backstage set, prop and costume facilities. We produce and present a thrilling and varied programme, exploring stories, ideas and themes that enrich and broaden children’s view of the world. We welcome 65,000 families and schools every year, reaching thousands more via Unicorn Online.

The Unicorn has a turnover of around £2.8 million. In a regular year, over 20% of income comes from Box Office – with almost all tickets being sold to children at concessionary rates – and we raise a similar amount from fundraising.

We believe that young people of all ages, perspectives and abilities have the right to access exciting, entertaining and inspiring work - we want all children to experience our theatre and actively seek out children wouldn’t otherwise attend. The theatre’s audiences are broadly defined as families and schools, and the theatre plays to all ages from six months to 13 years. We maintain a strong commitment to representing diversity in our audiences, as well as on our stages, and we prioritise accessibility and inclusion across our organisation.

During the coronavirus pandemic, we innovated in new forms of digital theatre and are proud to have been able to offer high quality, creative and award-winning online theatre experiences for free. Digital theatre is now a part of our future strategy and firmly embedded in our mission.

**Mission, Vision and Values**

The Unicorn is the UK’s leading theatre for young audiences. We believe that all children deserve to have access to the arts, regardless of their circumstances and our mission is to transform young lives through theatre by:

* Creating innovative and outstanding theatre for children aged up to 13 years.
* Supporting artists to make work with ambition, integrity and hope.
* Encouraging children to question and explore the world through stories; developing empathy, understanding and imagination.
* Collaborating with children in schools and communities to inform our practice, and inspiring children to fulfil their potential through creative projects with inventive theatre-makers.
* Extending our reach through online theatre experiences, national and international partnerships and subsidised tickets.
* Recognising that climate action is vital to protecting children’s futures, and actively reducing our environmental impact on the planet.
* Believing in equality, diversity and inclusion; we take action to advocate for, and promote the rights of children.

Our values are curiosity, courage and respect.

**Structure of the Unicorn**

The Unicorn was founded in 1947 by Caryl Jenner, who took theatre around the country to children. Jenner’s original aim was that: ‘the best of theatre for children should be judged on the same high standards of writing, directing, acting and design as the best of adult theatre’, a value which still holds very much true today. The Unicorn is crucial to the national theatre ecology, and is a beacon for all theatre for children; we are local, national and international in the work we make and the artists we make it with.

The Unicorn has recently undergone a period of extensive change, propelled by the coronavirus pandemic. Under a newly formed Executive team of Justin Audibert (Artistic Director) Helen Tovey and Bailey Lock (Co-Executive Directors), and with the appointment of a new Chair of the Board of Trustees, in March 2021, the Unicorn is emerging as a company with a renewed artistic focus and a vision to transform the lives of young people through theatre.

We are building a community of creative children through our productions, digital experiences and engagement programme. Our work has three core creative outcomes:

* Live Productions: Our live productions on our home and partner stages, created by diverse and exciting artists for children aged 0 -13 years old.
* Digital: Our innovative digital theatre experiences programme *Unicorn Online*, for local, national and global audiences.
* Engagement: Our engagement programme, including co-creation and co-design partnerships, actively develops and supports the individual creative lives of our audiences, participants and collaborators.

**How to Apply**

To apply for this post, please fill in the Application Form, which includes an Equal Opportunities monitoring form, and email it to [jobs@unicorntheatre.com](mailto:jobs@unicorntheatre.com).

**Salary:** £25,000 per annum

**Term:** 24 monthsfixed-term, full-time

**Contract:** We will consider applications for flexible working. The role usually operates on a five day week, moving to a flexible six day week during production periods.

3 month probationary period.

Annual leave allowance is 25 days, plus 8 statutory Bank Holidays.

Unicorn staff are auto-enrolled into the NEST pension scheme.

**Start date**: October 2022 (ideal but negotiable)

**End date**: Autumn 2024 (date TBC)

**Closing date for applications**: 12pm, Friday 26 August 2022

**First interviews:** w/c 12 September 2022 or w/c 19 September 2022

**Second interviews:** TBC

Because of the nature of this role, we would hope to meet in-person at the Unicorn building for interviews. If this is not possible, a Zoom interview can be arranged.

Travel costs beyond the M25 will be reimbursed.

If you need this information in an alternative format, please contact [jobs@unicorntheatre.com](mailto:jobs@unicorntheatre.com) in the first instance.

The Unicorn Theatre is supported using public funding by Arts Council England.

