

PIG HEART BOY: ASSISTANT DIRECTOR JOB ADVERTISEMENT

ABOUT THE SHOW

Tristan Fynn-Aiduenu will direct the premiere of the Malorie Blackman moving story *Pig Heart Boy* in a new adaptation by Winsome Pinnock. A Unicorn co-production with Sheffield Theatres and Children's Touring Partnership.

Cameron is thirteen, and all he wants is to be normal - have friends, go to school, and dive to the bottom of his local swimming pool. But he desperately needs a heart transplant and time is running out. When he's finally offered a new heart, Cameron must choose how far he'll go to get his life back.

*From the multi award-winning writer **Malorie Blackman OBE**, author of Noughts and Crosses, this brilliant novel is brought to life in a brand-new adaptation by **Winsome Pinnock**, and is directed by **Tristan Fynn-Aiduenu** in a Unicorn co-production with Sheffield Theatres and Children's Touring Partnership.*

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.

We believe that young people of all ages, perspectives and abilities have the right to experience exciting, entertaining and inspiring work - we want all children to experience our theatre and actively seek out children who 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 adulthood. 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. We involve children in the creation of work through Creative Hub projects.

ABOUT SHEFFIELD THEATRES

Sheffield Theatres is home to three theatres: the Crucible, the Sheffield landmark with a world-famous reputation; the Playhouse, an intimate, versatile space for getting closer to the action; and the gleaming Lyceum, the beautiful proscenium that hosts the best of the UK's touring shows.

Having held the title 'Regional Theatre of the Year' on four separate occasions, Sheffield Theatres is the ticket to big names and local heroes, timeless treasures and new voices. Committed to investing in the creative leaders of the future, Sheffield Theatres' dedicated talent development hub, The Bank, supports a new cohort of emerging theatre-makers every year.

ABOUT CHILDREN'S THEATRE PARTNERSHIP

The Children's Theatre Partnership (CTP) was established in 2010 to produce and tour bold, ambitious and imaginative theatre for young people. Our aim is to excite and engage new and diverse audiences, often introducing them to the theatre for the first time, bringing communities to their local theatres, inspiring a life-long love of theatre and supporting the UK's most talented artists.

ABOUT THE DIRECTOR

Tristan Fynn-Aiduenu is a British-Ghanaian writer-director whose work aims to stretch the imagination of his audiences with his unique brand of storytelling. His previous credits include directing the play *For Black Boys Who Have Considered Suicide When the Hue Gets Too Heavy* (Olivier nominated/ Black British Theatre Award for Best Director) and writing and directing *Sweet Like Chocolate Boy* (Jack Studio & London Tour). Tristan's direction of the Orange Tree production of Arinze Kene's *Little Baby Jesus* won the 2019 JMK Award. In 2021 Tristan was nominated for the TV Edinburgh & Netflix Stage to Screen programme.

Tristan's other credits include: *Bootycandy* (Gate Theatre, theatre), *Sundown Kiki Reloaded* (Young Vic, theatre), *The Boy Who left Home To Find Out About The Shivers* (Unicorn Theatre, Short film) and *Children's Children* (English Touring Theatre with Black Apron Films, short film)

THE ROLE

We're looking for a collaborative, rigorous and empathetic person to join us as Assistant Director on *Pig Heart Boy*.

The Assistant Director will assist Director Tristan Fynn-Aiduenu on the production, providing creative and administrative support throughout the rehearsal, tech and preview process. They will go on to maintain and note the show weekly during its run and working in the understudies.

Reporting to: Director

Working closely with: Director, Creative Team, Company Stage Manager, Deputy Stage Manager, Producers.

MAIN DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- Attending all rehearsals
- Providing administrative and creative support to the Director
- Working closely with the company, running warm ups, helping with line runs and offering notes where required
- Collaborating with and supporting the Creative Hub team if children are involved in the creative process.
- Attending all technical rehearsals, dress rehearsal and preview performances
- Note at least one performance each week of the run including on tour
- Attending key meetings and events, as required
- Participating in the provision of a safe working environment, adhering to the Producers' Health and Safety and Safeguarding policies at all times.
- Responsible for rehearsing in the understudies and running understudy rehearsals on tour to ensure performance-readiness
- Attending each tour venue to include Get-In and show watch

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 the Director and Producers

PERSONAL SPECIFICATION

- Experience of working as Director or Assistant Director on previous shows, this could include fringe performances, community theatre and digital work

- A clear and diplomatic communicator with a sensitivity for the creative process
- Able to give detailed notes and maintain the show once running
- Able to collaborate effectively and constructively with Stage Management and the Technical Team
- Able to follow tracks for each performer in order to plan and rehearse in the understudies in collaboration with the Stage Management Team and Director.
- Excellent relationship building and interpersonal skills
- Efficient time management: the ability to organise and prioritise, work well under pressure and adapt to new situations, with accuracy and attention to detail and meet non-negotiable deadlines
- Strong organizational skills and attention to detail
- Ability to act on own initiative and motivation whilst working effectively in a team, following guidance and instructions
- A sensitivity to the new writing process
- An interest in creating work for children and young people

FEE

- Fee: £5,250 for Unicorn and Sheffield as Assistant Director
- CTP: Weekly Touring Fee (£150 per day, min. 2 days per week) as Associate Director
- Expenses: Standard Class Travel and Accommodation to be provided for during the Sheffield dates and on tour.

KEY DATES

This will be a full-time commitment during each rehearsal and previews period; then attending one morning/afternoon performance a week during the show's runs in February (Unicorn) and March (Sheffield Theatres).

Unicorn Theatre

- Rehearsals: 16 December 2024 - 19 January 2025, Monday - Saturday (including break week w/c 23 Dec 24)
- Technical Rehearsals: w/c 20 January 2025
- Preview and Press performances: 26 January 2025 - 5 February 2025
- After the Press Night on 5 February 2025, we expect the Assistant Director to attend one performance a week until the final performance on 22 February 2025
- Creative Hub R&D workshops: w/c 28th October - this will be under a separate contract and fee

Sheffield Theatres

- Technical Rehearsals: w/c 24 February 2025
- Previews commence: 27 February 2025
- Creatives leave: 28 February 2025 (following preview and notes)
- We expect the Assistant Director to attend one performance a week until the final performance on 15 March 2025
- Presented in the Tanya Moiseiwitsch Playhouse

CTP TOUR - The role will move to an Associate Director role whilst on tour.

This will be a part time commitment from 17th March 2025, attending a minimum of two performances a week until 22 June 2025. Working days are usually Tuesday & Wednesday but are subject to change as per the tour schedule.

APPLY

The Unicorn Theatre and Sheffield Theatres recognise the positive value of inclusion, promoting equality and challenging discrimination. We welcome and encourage applications from people of all backgrounds.

We are committed to becoming more diverse organisations, and encourage applications from underrepresented voices in the theatre industry, including but not limited to, deaf, Neurodivergent, Disabled people and the Global Majority.

We are keen to support theatre makers in their early years of professional practice, please do not apply if you are still in full time education and/or do not have any professional credits.

To apply please email jobs@unicorntheatre.com with the email subject **PHB AD APPLICATION + 'Your name'**, and the following:

- Our Additional Info, and Equal Opportunities forms
- Your CV (either written or a link to your website)
- A covering letter (max one page / 500 words) which addresses
 - How you meet the person specification
 - Why do you want to work on this production?

NEXT STEPS

For successful applicants, there will be a short interview w/c 26th August
All applicants will be notified of the outcome of their application by 22nd August



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