



Role Description

Role: Workshop Assistant (REQUIRES SAFEGUARDING EXPERIENCE)

Responsible to: Lead Director(s)

Commitment: Several opportunities across a range of age groups
2 hours, 1 day per week for 5 weeks.

Time Period: See current Volunteering opportunities, available for download at www.lewishamyouththeatre.com

Lewisham Youth Theatre Background

Usually based at the Broadway Theatre in Catford, South London, LYT moved in 2022 to our temporary home in Lewisham High St., for 18 months. LYT has created theatre with and for young people aged from 8 to 25 since 1987. LYT is run by professional theatre practitioners with the aim of creating high quality drama projects and performances with and for young people. We believe that this experience should be accessible to all. All our workshops are free and we do not audition members, although we expect a high level of commitment. We target those who are traditionally excluded and 70% of our members face disadvantage, across a range of needs. LYT's youth members perform full scale productions in our Creative Hub on Lewisham High St. and in other venues around the borough. We give our members as near to professional experience as possible, using high production values and working from scripted texts. We aim to provide a foundation from which our members can go on to work within the theatrical profession.

Workshop Assistant Role Overview

LYT seeks volunteer Assistants to help support our vibrant programme of youth theatre activities. We have several opportunities available working with young people aged 8 – 24. If you are passionate about theatre, interested in using the arts as a tool for social change and want to develop your skills as a theatre facilitator or youth mentor, we may be looking for you.

Assistants will work closely with the Lead Tutors/Directors to help plan and support drama workshops and rehearsals, including providing pastoral care for the participants. They will also support young people to develop social skills. You may help to lead warm-up exercises, support small groups to complete exercises and encourage individuals with additional needs and the group to engage in and benefit from the sessions.

This is an exciting opportunity to get hands-on experience in supporting youth theatre activities. The role will particularly suit students, recent graduates or those developing their youth arts practice who are interested in learning facilitation techniques, directing, youth theatre planning and building up their CVs in youth arts.

Skills and Qualifications

You will have:

- Some training and/or experience in youth arts or creative youth work
- An interest in supporting young people to reach their creative potential
- Some knowledge of current youth arts practice and the needs of young people, including Child Protection Practices.
- Commitment to keeping young people safe and ability to follow LYT's procedures for Safeguarding, Anti-Bullying, Equal Opportunities and Data Protection.

You will be:

- Reliable and able to commit to the agreed days and times
- Approachable and able to communicate with children, young people and adults
- Organised
- Creative and able to think outside the box
- Able to work well in a small team
- Flexible and able to take on new or challenging tasks as they arise

As this role includes contact with children and young people, you will need to hold a recent DBS check or be willing to undertake one.

Special Skills

70% of our participants face disadvantage, and in recent years we have received more referrals with more complex needs. We are particularly interested in hearing from candidates with a background in supporting young people with additional needs, including mental health needs, learning difficulties (including autism), behavioural difficulties, excluded young people or those dealing with family disruption.

We welcome applications from those with a drama or art therapy background.

LYT works successfully with a small production team. This sometimes means that all must participate in duties outside specific role descriptions in order to facilitate a smooth project. Volunteers and placement students are expected to remain flexible and contribute to the requirements of the project whenever possible, even when not specifically listed in the above responsibilities.

Responsibilities

LYT expects Directing Assistants to work closely with the Lead Directors, supporting them to facilitate workshops and direct youth theatre performances. Tasks will vary depending on the needs of each group, but may include:

- Planning and evaluating sessions with the lead directors
- Taking registers and calling young people/parents who have not arrived
- Encouraging participants to take part in activities and to contribute to the session
- Leading warm-ups or exercises, as agreed with the Lead Directors
- Noticing any problems with or between young people in the session and communicating these to the Lead Directors
- Running lines and supporting small group work
- Supporting backstage during performances to make sure actors are in the right place and have the right costumes/props.
- Helping with the get-in and get-out from performances as needed
- Evaluating project with the rest of the project team
- Upholding LYT's safeguarding policies and reporting any concerns of harm to the lead tutor
- Undertaking other duties in regard to the realisation of the production design, as required

Other Information

LYT works successfully with a small project team. This sometimes means that all must participate in duties outside specific role descriptions in order to facilitate a smooth and professional production. Volunteers and placement students are expected to remain flexible and contribute to the requirements of the production whenever possible, even when tasks are not specifically listed in their responsibilities.

There will be regular production meetings throughout the project.

Lewisham Youth Theatre, Broadway Theatre, Catford Broadway,
Catford, SE6 4RU
Email info@lewishamyouththeatre.com

Lewisham Youth Theatre, 142-144 Lewisham High St, SE13 6JG. Email Natalie at volunteering@lewishamyouththeatre.com