

HIDDEN SPIRE

Role Description: Lead Theatre Designer

We are looking to recruit a freelance Designer to lead the design of Hidden Spire 2020 – a collaborative theatre production run by Arts at the Old Fire Station (AOFS) and the homeless charity Crisis, which brings professional artists and people with experience of homelessness together to create a theatre production.

Specific responsibilities for this role will include:

- Leading in the creative vision and design of the set (April-May)
- Leading on lighting design (*optional – dependent on experience*)
- Delivering set design workshops for Crisis members (regular workshops July- Sept, occasional involvement in workshops from April - June)
- Supporting Crisis members as Design trainees (July – Sept)
- Working alongside Crisis members to build the set (Sept)

More generally the role will also entail:

- Liaising with the creative team to research and develop the piece
- Involving Crisis members in all aspects of the process
- Supporting the delivery of a final production in October 2020 – working closely with the creative team and Crisis members under the direction of the Creative Director
- Liaising closely with staff from Crisis and AOFS as required
- Ensuring the project delivers on time and within budget and that the Project Manager receives early warnings of any potential slippage
- Being available for interviews to support evaluation
- Being available to advise on the curation of the exhibition which will open in March 2021
- Working with the AOFS project manager to create a reflective report on the project.

Further details:

- The performances will take place in the Old Fire Station Theatre (dimensions 10.5x5m) from 7-10 October, with an anticipated cast of 8-15 actors. Further detailed theatre spec. will be sent in advance of interviews.
- This role ideally will cover both set and lighting design, but it could be that we hire two individuals - someone with set experience and someone with lighting experience- possibly two collaborators who have worked together before. We are therefore open to applications that would be able to include lighting design within their remit, and those that would prefer this to be led by a separate lighting designer.
- The role will not include costume design, this is a separate role.
- The space available for set-design is an art room – a spacious classroom. Any access to other space to build parts of the set would be helpful (but not essential).
- The total budget available for design materials/set is £1900.
- Candidates should be able to attend a read-through of the script on 21 April, 1.30-3.30pm.



- A professional writer is currently writing the script using ideas drawn from Crisis members, and a synopsis of the piece will be available in advance of interview for candidates to respond to and share proposals at interview.

The fee for this work is £3990. This excludes lighting design, for which an additional fee of up to £960 is available (dependent on whether it is incorporated into this role or carried out by a lighting designer).

We are looking for someone with creative vision who thrives in a collaborative environment and is excited by the prospect of working with a diverse creative team of both professional artists and Crisis members.

About Arts at the Old Fire Station

The Old Fire Station is a public arts centre which:

- Presents new, good quality art which takes risks, asks questions and entertains. We want our audiences to have fun and be open to new ideas and different people.
- Supports early to mid-career artists from all disciplines with advice, networks and promotion to help them become more successful.
- Includes people facing tough times - we share our building with the homelessness charity Crisis. Through this partnership, we offer people who are homeless space to define themselves and choose their own labels by including them in the running of the centre. We look for ways of including others who are socially isolated and disadvantaged. This improves the quality of what we do, helps develop networks, builds resilience and leads to more stable lives.

About Hidden Spire

Hidden Spire is a deep collaboration between Arts at the Old Fire Station and the homeless charity Crisis. It brings professional artists and homeless people together to create a performance using music, dance, theatre, visual arts and more. We work together every step of the way, including set design, script-writing, performance making, front-of-house and more. Hidden Spire isn't just a production, it's a process – it demonstrates the value and potential of having a public arts centre and resources for homeless people in the same building. Most importantly, it shows that excellent art and inclusive art can be the same thing.

Since 2012 there have been 4 Hidden Spire productions, each of which has been distinct. Hidden Spire 2020 will further establish the Hidden Spire concept – professional artists working with homeless people to make work for the public placing equal emphasis on the quality of process and product. Central to this will be writing, devising and performing a theatre production, which will be performed in the Old Fire Station theatre in October 2020.

The starting point for Hidden Spire 2020 is the 'the ground on which we stand', which has been the premise for developing the script, which will be finalised in April 2020.



The project will run over the course of 20 months and will involve the following key phases:

Phase	Dates
Phase 1 – Writing process	Oct – April 2020
Phase 2 – Composing and designing process	April – August 2020
Phase 3 – Rehearsal and production (including filming of the performance)	Sept – Oct 2020
Phase 4 – Storytelling/Evaluation	Nov – Feb 2020
Phase 5 – Exhibition	March – April 2021

How to apply

If you would like to apply for the role of **Lead Theatre Designer** at the Old Fire Station, please send us the following:

- your CV, including any examples of previous work
- Covering letter, explaining your interest in the role
- the name of two referees

Applications should be sent to sarah.cassidy@oldfirestation.org.uk by 10am on 30 March

- Interviews will take place 8 April (potentially also 7 & 9 April in morning)
- Employment start date, late April/early May 2020

Appointment is subject to DBS checks.

We look forward to hearing from you.