

Circus Performance Project Leader

About Top Banana

The Top Banana Project is a community interest company based in Portsmouth established in 2012. It evolved from an Arts and Health project that used circus to develop the skills, creativity and confidence of children experiencing social exclusion and low self-esteem, and providing training, work experience and paid work opportunities to young people.

Top Banana now runs regular circus workshops for children, young people and adults, and commissioned activities for schools, community groups and public events. You can find out more about our work on our website www.topbananacircus.com.

Job Context

Arts Council England grant will enable us to offer an 6 month contract to a creative circus practitioner who will be instrumental in developing the skills and creativity within our organisation, and achieving our artistic aspirations. This is an exciting opportunity for an experienced teacher of circus performance skills to work with existing circus leaders and directly with the community.

The Project – Creative Circus Artist

November 2017- April 2018

We are seeking a Creative Circus Artist with a track record of devising and producing distinctive playful and imaginative performances. The Artist will provide consistent opportunities and incentives for professional, technical and creative development, for both new and existing members, and to inspire participants and audiences to watch and engage in contemporary circus.

The artist will develop a circus performance troupe consisting of young local people aged 16-25 years. He/she will run a programme of circus skills, performance development and specialist workshops with 5 different groups within the city. Participants will be invited to join our existing company members to develop these skills and will work with the artist to produce 2 distinct performances for 2 or more community events and one or more local performance venues

The Role

This is a part-time temporary position over 6 months.

Hours are flexible including weekends and evenings, but principally arranged between wed-sun.

Total hours: 287

Contract value: £4879

Potential Additional Hours: Outreach activities such as teaching or performing at corporate or school workshops, birthday parties and events by mutual agreement

Primary Responsibilities

The Circus Artist will:

- Deliver programme of ground based circus skills workshops,

- Run weekly performance development sessions,
- Encourage participants to develop short performance routines as individuals, duos or small groups,
- Run public access workshops.
- Oversee workshop assistants, trainees and volunteers.

They will devise and produce two performances, working with members of the performance group:

- A small scale, outdoor street style performance in December 2017
- An indoor performance in April 2018 incorporating new technologies (eg 360 degree cameras, motion capture or projection) interacting with the live performers.

They will schedule, organise and run rehearsal sessions and oversee delivery of the performances. They will deliver intensive workshops in their own speciality for performance group members and members of the public.

They will work collaboratively with management, company members, partners, other artists and college/community group leaders and participants.

Additional Responsibilities

- Assist with set up and take down of equipment
- Transport equipment and other staff to outreach activities as required.
- Maintain records and registers of attendance and injury reports.
- Collect fees, registrations and consent forms as applicable.
- Give and receive feedback to management and participants and contribute to project evaluation.
- Contribute to promotional and marketing activities and materials.
- Promote the project and the organisation locally and nationally
- May assist with purchases of equipment, props and costumes,
- May be asked to deliver outreach activities such as teaching corporate or school workshops, birthday parties and other events for additional fees.

Person Specification

Competency	Essential	Desirable
Experience of devising and producing innovative creative performances in contemporary circus arts.	Yes	
Ability to perform and teach a variety of circus skills across four circus disciplines : Juggling and Manipulation Equilibrastics Acrobatics Performance	Yes	
Experience of teaching people of all ages, abilities and backgrounds	Yes	
Ability to teach in a creative way and to encourage creativity in others	Yes	

Ability to create and manage the dynamic of a group, taking care of the physical & emotional safety of the group and the individual	Yes	
Excellent communication skills and ability to work cooperatively	Yes	
Other competencies		
Ability to work in Portsmouth and a 20 mile radius for sessions between 1 and 8 hours.	Yes	
Full Valid driving license	Yes	
Own transport		Yes
Emergency first aid		Yes
DBS check (or be willing to undertake one)	Yes	
Knowledge of safeguarding	Yes	
Specialist training and /or experience in one or more circus arts disciplines		Yes

How to Apply

Please email info@topbananacircus.com

- A copy of your CV, demonstrating your competence and previous experience in relation to the job description and person specification
- Contact details for two referees
- A short recording (not exceeding 5 minutes) demonstrating your work.
- A covering letter outlining your approach to the role (1000 words max)

If you wish to have an informal discussion about the role, or have any queries you can phone Melanie on 07767 260288.

Applications close on 23 October 2017 12.00pm

Start Date: 1st November 2017

[Download Job Description \(pdf\)](#)

This position is supported by Arts Council England



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