

Actor / Groupworker Recruitment – Information for Applicants



Introduction

February 2024

Closing date: 8th April at 10am

Since 1987, Geese Theatre Company has been at the forefront of arts in criminal justice and social welfare settings. Geese works across the UK in secure settings including prisons, secure children's homes and secure hospitals. We also work in community settings with people with complex needs including addiction and mental ill-health.

Our work generally falls into three categories:

- Performances - dynamic, interactive pieces for service users or professionals using our trademark masks
- Groupwork - theatre-based workshop inputs focussed on issues such as offending, resettlement, managing emotions, maintaining recovery etc
- Creative Projects - where participants co-create theatre pieces for audiences of staff and peers

Geese also delivers a range of staff training and consultation inputs for sector professionals.

The company currently consists of eleven members of staff, including 5 Actor / Groupworkers, all of whom work for Geese permanently. The average length of service for an Actor / Groupworker with Geese is approximately 15.5 years. If you would like more detail about our work, you can look at our website at www.geese.co.uk

“

I would completely
recommend the Geese
experience to every
prison in the country!

- Governor, HMP
Grendon

”



The post

The post for which we hope that you will apply is that of Actor / Groupworker, working across the broad portfolio of our work. You will be expected to employ a variety of skills, and, over time, the full range of the company's activities will be open to you. Upon successful completion of an initial six-month probationary training period, this will be a full-time, permanent position. For this round of recruitment, we are looking to appoint one Actor / Groupworker who is able to play a range of male characters in an authentic way. Examples of the characters you might be playing include:

- A male perpetrator of domestic abuse against a female partner
- A male prisoner with a history of trauma using violence against other male prisoners
- An adult male grooming a teenager for involvement in child sexual exploitation
- A male social worker attempting to build rapport with a child who has experienced parental conflict

Working for Geese Theatre Company

The position of Actor / Groupworker within Geese is an all-encompassing one. It requires a multi-skilled person – to be both an actor and groupwork facilitator and to be able to work alone and as part of a team. You will need to be confident, resourceful, and self-organised.

The focus of each day will be different, and the varying combinations of Geese staff add further variety. You could be performing; rehearsing; facilitating a group on your own; facilitating a group with a co-worker; travelling; working in the office; delivering staff training; preparing and planning future work; researching; spending time involved in staff development or at company meetings. Clients can be professionals from a range of criminal justice agencies, male or female prisoners, vulnerable people in community settings or young people in secure children's homes. Our work involves delivering projects with people who have committed a wide range of offences, including violence, domestic abuse, and sexual offences against both children and adults.

This means that the environment is both challenging and stimulating, but long hours and a constant stream of work can also make it stressful and tiring.



The company works nationally and occasionally internationally, and travel away from home is a regular part of the working pattern. Therefore, the company is looking only for individuals who want to make a commitment to this area of work and who are creative, inquisitive, and able to cope with the long hours and challenging work / environments.

In return the company offers stimulating and exciting work, in settings that many people will never experience and with an extremely diverse range of people. There is also the prestige of working for a company that is at the forefront of its field. During the six-month probation period, training will involve observing work and rehearsing into some of our productions, before progressing onto co-working. There will be some theory sessions and basic computer training (if needed).

Person Specification

The following list indicates the skills, attributes and experience that an Actor / Groupworker will need:

Essential	Assessment
Theatre training / experience	Application; self-tape; audition; interview
Excellent performance and improvisational skills	Self-tape; audition
Facilitation skills (delivering workshops / groupwork)	Audition
Ability to quickly and efficiently create and play grounded, believable male characters in our repertoire	Audition
Enthusiasm for the area of work	Application; audition; interview
Ability to work flexibly in response to audience / participant interaction and input	Audition
Excellent communication and interpersonal skills	Audition; interview
Able to reflect and evaluate own practice	Audition; interview

Desirable	Assessment
Experience of working in criminal justice settings; with marginalised, vulnerable and/or at-risk groups	Application; interview
Devising skills	Audition
Able to conduct research around a specific brief	Interview
Good organisational skills	Application; audition; interview

Further information

Salary: £23,000 per annum, paid monthly, rising to £24,000 following successful completion of the probation period. There is scope for further salary rises as the company member gains experience, on average rising to over £30,000 over 5 years.

Pension: There is a company pension scheme.

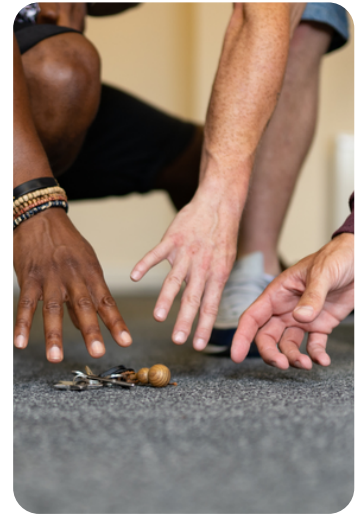
Working hours: Office days are generally 10.00 to 17.00 Monday to Friday but please note this role requires significant travel nationwide and often unusual hours, including early starts and evening work.

Annual Leave: 35 days plus statutory holidays.

Probationary period: Six months.

Notice period: 1 week within probation period. 2 months thereafter.

Usual place of employment: The Geese office is based in Moseley, Birmingham. The successful applicant will be expected to live in the Birmingham area.



How to apply

If you would like more information about the post and the work of Geese Theatre Company, then we will be hosting a Recruitment Q&A at 1pm on 13th March via Zoom. If you would like to attend, then please [sign up here](#). Please note that you do not have to attend this session to make an application.

To apply for the position of Actor / Groupworker with Geese Theatre Company, then please ensure that you complete **both** of the following tasks:

1: Complete the online application form via [this link](#).

2: Create and upload a self-tape film of one short monologue which you will [find here](#). This film does not need to be professionally created and can be filmed on a phone. We will not be assessing the quality of the film but will be assessing the performance in terms of your ability to create an authentic, believable and grounded character with a range of emotions. Once you have completed your application form, we ask that you send your video file via [WeTransfer.com](#) to recruitment@geese.co.uk ensuring you put your name (as it appears in your Application Form) clearly in the message. This is a free service and you do not need to create an account to use WeTransfer. For information on how to use WeTransfer visit their website [here](#).

Please note – you must submit both a completed application form and a self-tape film of the provided monologue for your application to be assessed.

We would appreciate it if you could take the time to complete the **online Equality Monitoring Form** (although if you choose not to, this will not affect your application). Equality Monitoring Forms will be separated from applications prior to short-listing.

Please do not send any other additional information – e.g. a CV – as they will be disregarded.

Completed applications must arrive at our offices by **10am on 8th April**.

Auditions will take place **week commencing 15th April 2024** with dates to be negotiated with shortlisted candidates. Call-back dates TBC.

Auditions and call-backs will take place at a location in Birmingham.

Regrettably, we cannot offer to reimburse any travel expenses for those invited to audition.

If you make a full application, we will reply to you. We will not be contacting anyone before 10th April, so please wait to hear from us.

Important dates

Recruitment Q&A Session: 13th March at 1pm.

Deadline for applications: 8th April at 10am.

Notification of successful applicants: by end of day 10th April.

Auditions: Week commencing 15th April.

Call-backs: TBC

Start date: TBC

"I was surprised how well we communicated and were able to laugh together. I feel more confident. Geese prepared us well. Lots of staff and inmates have complimented me since and it makes me feel good. It was good that the play had emphasis on how victims feel."
- Participant, HMP Maidstone



Additional Information about Geese Theatre Company

Values

Responsibility: We support and encourage the notion of personal responsibility.

Belief in change: Geese upholds and promotes a belief in the potential and possibility of individual change.

Rigour: Every aspect of our work is grounded in robust evidence and theory to ensure the highest quality.

Artistic Excellence: Geese strives to develop and deliver theatre and drama practice of the highest quality to people and places with the least engagement in the arts.

Innovation: Geese is continually developing new performances, projects and services for new audiences, offering alternative approaches to reducing offending.

Partnership: Geese aims to create an ethos of collaboration and partnership, which values contributions from all members, employees, partners and clients (service users) in order that our work has the greatest impact.

Inclusion: Geese aims to treat all individuals with respect and to approach each other and those we work with in an inclusive and non-judgemental manner.

Accessibility

As part of our commitment to promoting and supporting diversity in the workplace we welcome applications from people who are neurodivergent and people with a disability or long-term health condition. Auditions will be held in an accessible venue, but our offices are on the first floor and only accessible by a single flight of stairs. We will invite you to inform us about any adjustments or arrangements for every part of the recruitment and selection process and will do everything we can to accommodate the needs of applicants at audition, and if appointed, in their role. These could include, but are not limited to:

- providing the application pack in audio form
- offering communication support in the form of BSL interpreters at audition
- considering flexible working arrangements

If you would like to have an informal, confidential conversation with a member of our Strategic Management Team about any aspect of the recruitment process or role with specific regards to access requirements then please email:

recruitment@geese.co.uk

Anti-Racism

At Geese we work at the intersection of two sectors: the arts and the criminal justice system. We acknowledge that there is significant under-representation of people who are ethnically diverse in the arts and significant over-representation within the criminal justice system. We are committed to becoming an anti-racist organisation but acknowledge that the process involves time and energy and will not happen overnight. We have signed up to the West Midlands More than a Moment pledge and have a **More than a Moment** working group consisting of three Board members and three staff members which meets regularly to unpick our approach to governance, leadership, recruitment, organisational culture etc. The More than a Moment working group took part in anti-racism training in 2021; the wider Company and Board have now also received training and the whole Company reconvened in October 2023 to consolidate their learning and discuss the next steps to Geese becoming an anti-racist organisation. You can read our Anti-Racism Statement of Intent and Vision [here.](#)

We look forward to hearing from you!

Geese Theatre Company champions equality and is committed to creating a culture that respects and values diversity, inclusivity, and equality. We welcome applicants from all sections of society and positively encourage applications from people who are underrepresented in our sector, including those from working class and ethnically diverse backgrounds or who experience racism, care leavers, people who are neurodivergent, people with disabilities and people from the LGBTQ+ community.





Geese Theatre Company registered in England.
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