

The Giant and The Bear

A collaboration between Unlimited Theatre, Hide&Seek and Layla Rosa (Shunt)

CASTING CALL

Unlimited Theatre and West Yorkshire Playhouse are auditioning for a brand new circus and theatre spectacular in Summer 2012, created by Unlimited, Layla Rosa and Hide&Seek.

ABOUT THE SHOW

The Giant & The Bear is a theatrical event for families that incorporates storytelling, gaming and circus performance. The show will take place on and around the Quarry Hill area of Leeds in June/July 2012, in co-production with West Yorkshire Playhouse and imove (Yorkshire's Cultural Olympiad), and will be part of the official London 2012 Festival.

Roll up! Roll up! The Giant's traveling circus arrives on Quarry Hill, and you're invited to come and play. The Giant and The Bear is an extraordinary family event for all ages, experiences and levels of daring, Join the rollerskating bear and create your own adventure from a pick 'n' mix of experiences including New Versions of Traditional Seaside Games! Guided Mystery Tours! Hula Hooping! And a flying Ballerina in a breath-taking finale in a Big Top. Psssst! Secret levels and missions will be available.

The Giant & The Bear will be an extraordinary event, filled with old-fashioned virtues of fun and wonder in a fresh and contemporary form that incorporates choice, participation and engagement for all the whole family:

DATES OF ENGAGEMENT

20/21 February Auditions, London

Some performers will be asked to join us for the following (based on specific skills and availability):

19/20 April Initial two-day workshop, exploring circus performance and finale, London

26-28 April Three-day workshop, playtesting games and structure of show, Leeds

All performers will need to be available for:

w/c 21 May Development week, choreographing and planning the finale (location tbc)

w/c 11 June Rehearsals, Leeds

w/c 18 June Rehearsals, Leeds

w/c 25 June Production week and initial previews (from 29), Leeds

w/c 4 July Performance week, Leeds

*dates subject to change

CASTING

We are now looking to cast our Circus Family: a 10-strong troupe of circus artists and performers. We are interested in seeing aerial artists, aerial duos, handbalancers, acrobats, hula-hoopers, trick bikers and jugglers and performers with unusual variety acts or skills. All performers should have some degree of acting ability. We are also interested in performers who can play a musical instrument.

At this stage, we are particularly looking for:

- A multi-skilled male performer (juggler, unicycler, trick biker, etc), with presence and flair and good physical / musical skills.
- A ground based duo - clowns or contortionists, or actors with physical skills, probably one male, one female, and possibly with some puppetry skills.
- Two aerial performers, or an aerialist double-act.
- A 'variety' girl – a female performer with circus skills or cabaret / variety routines.
- A handbalancer or acrobat.
- A BMX biker, or trick biker, skateboarder or stunt-man.

However, as the piece is still in development, and all performers will be involved in some level of devising as part of the creative process, there will be some opportunity for our Circus Family to develop to include the specific skills of the performers we choose to work with, and as such, there is some flexibility in the roles outlined above.

If you are interested in the piece, and would like to be considered, please contact us on the details below, letting us know which of the above skills you can offer – or what you could offer alternatively.

Overall, we are looking for engaging, playful and hard-working performers to join us as we create this exciting, ambitious piece. Due to the demanding nature of the work, it will also be important to find performers who are prepared to play a part in realising the production / operational sides to the show with us during the four-week period on site in Leeds, in terms of mucking in, helping out and taking on responsibilities outside of specific performance roles.

AUDITIONS

To be considered for the show, please send your CV with a brief cover note and any relevant links, to **Ric Watts** on ric@unlimited.org.uk by 12pm, Thursday 9th February

Auditionees will be notified by end of play Tuesday 15th February.

Auditions take place in Central London on Monday 20th and Tuesday 21st February.

Please contact Ric Watts on ric@unlimited.org.uk with any additional questions.

Unlimited Theatre is an equal opportunities employer and welcomes applications from all people

