

CALL OUT FOR DESIGNER

***Punch* – Community Talking Circle**

In May 2024, Nottingham Playhouse will produce the world premiere of a new play by James Graham called *Punch*, based on the book *Right from Wrong* by Jacob Dunne.

Working closely with Jacob, we will work with partners to design, build and host a Community Talking Circle which will run alongside the production at Nottingham Playhouse and in other venues around the region. Nottingham Playhouse is seeking a local Designer to design the physical structure of the Community Talking Circle.

Background

10 years ago, 19 year old Jacob Dunne drunkenly threw a single punch that tragically ended the life of James, a stranger enjoying a night out. After Jacob was released from custody for manslaughter, he took part in a process called restorative justice with James's parents. Restorative justice brings together both victims and perpetrators of crimes in a supported space to talk about the consequences and harm that has been caused, and what needs to happen for all parties to move forward positively.

This healthy dialogue had a profound impact for everyone involved and Jacob subsequently spent the next decade rebuilding his life and working towards reducing violence and hate with the support of his victims. He has developed many interventions, worked on numerous public campaigns, and has written a book and a podcast about his experiences. But what stimulated and maintained Jacob's change, and helped his victims heal, was their shared exposure to healthy dialogue, something he feels we are starved of culturally.

Communication or relational skills are often the most overlooked soft skills we depend on. They are the antidote to division, hate and violence. But you have to be exposed to healthy loving relationships and communities to acquire them - and sadly fewer and fewer people have the safe spaces to learn and practice these skills.

Jacob's biggest regret is that something tragic happened in his life that could have been easily prevented with basic dialogue. However, despite this, all parties impacted by his offence were still able to find a positive way forward through sitting in a circle and engaging in healthy dialogue. So why not create spaces for the public to communicate more healthily with each other and find resolutions to local issues - a Community Talking Circle.

Aims

To provide a space in the public realm that:

- Encourages healthy debates/ participation, resolves conflict and strengthens community ties between different groups.
- Offers a place for people to reflect, grieve, celebrate, listen and learn from other residents.
- Challenges prejudices and encourages people to speak with people they may not ordinarily engage with.
- Raises awareness of restorative justice, and the impact of violence.

Brief for the Design of the Community Talking Circle

- The physical structure of the Community Talking Circle should be in the form of a circular / amphitheatre-style design which incorporates places for people to sit and have conversations.
- The structure should be both weatherproof and easy to assemble and move to different locations (indoors & outdoors). We are looking for something functional, robust and eye-catching, rather than technically complicated.
- The structure must seat a minimum of 8 people.
- There must be a QR code displayed somewhere on the structure which links to a page on the Nottingham Playhouse website which has resources and supporting information to educate people on how to have healthy dialogue, resolve conflict, become active listeners and other relational tools.
- The structure should be designed to be as environmentally friendly as possible.
- Design budget £5,000.

The Community Talking Circle Designer

We are looking for a Designer who has experience of theatrical set design and/or outdoor/site-specific installations. They should also currently reside in, or originate from, the East Midlands or Midlands.

The successful Designer will be expected to work with Jacob Dunne, Nottingham Playhouse's Director of Participation and Producer to design the Community Talking Circle structure, working to fulfil the brief and meet design deadlines as set by Nottingham Playhouse, and working within the available budget and resources.

For all work associated with designing the Community Talking Circle, we can offer a fee of £2,000.

Timeline

- Window for Applications Opens: Monday 4 December 2023
- Deadline for Applications: Monday 18 December 2023 at 12 noon
- Interviews: w/c 1 January 2024
- White Card: w/c 15 January 2024
- Final Designs: w/c 5 February 2024
- Building: w/c 4 March 2024
- Painting: w/c 11 or 25 March 2024
- Install at Nottingham Playhouse: w/c 29 April 2024
- Open to the Public: Saturday 4 May – Saturday 25 May 2024
- Tour the Region: Dates and Locations TBC

Selection Process

- Your application will be assessed by a panel of theatre professionals, including Artistic Director, Adam Penford.
- We may then invite selected candidates to meet to discuss their application.

How to Apply

Please submit:

1. Approx. 300 words on why this brief interests you and how you would approach it as the Designer.
2. A single page CV. Please include a line explaining your connection to the East Midlands or Midlands.
3. Examples of your previous design work. This could take the form of a PDF document, a link to a website or similar.
4. A completed Equal Opportunities Monitoring Form, downloadable from our website.

The Equal Opportunities Monitoring Form will be separated from your application and does not form part of the selection process. Information obtained from the form will not be available for the people preparing the shortlist, with the exception of information about disability required to make reasonable adjustments for interview. Data obtained from the forms will be used solely for monitoring purposes and no one individual can ever be identified.

If you require an alternative way to make your submission, such as via video, please contact recruitment@nottinghamplayhouse.co.uk or ring 0115 947 4361 to discuss a suitable format.

Submissions should be emailed to: recruitment@nottinghamplayhouse.co.uk

Please send as a Word document or PDF. Do not send as a zip file or use file sharing services such as Sky Drive. Apple/Mac users should export their submission to a Word document or PDF before sending.

Alternatively, submissions may be sent by post marked *Private and Confidential* to:
Recruitment, Administration Office
Nottingham Playhouse
Wellington Circus
Nottingham
NG1 5AF

The deadline for submissions is **Monday 18 December 2023 at 12pm midday.**

All applicants will be notified of the outcome of their submission.

Nottingham Playhouse is committed to a policy of equality of opportunity and working with people representative of the diverse communities we work with. We actively encourage applications from the Global Ethnic Majority and Disabled people. Nottingham Playhouse is part of the Parents in Performing Arts (PIPA) campaign and welcomes submissions from people who have caring responsibilities.

If you would like this information in an alternative format, support in completing your application, or have any questions about the application process, please contact us at recruitment@nottinghamplayhouse.co.uk or ring Stage Door on 0115 947 4361 to discuss.