

Nottingham Playhouse Call Out for Writer and Composer

The Little Mermaid

Every Christmas, Nottingham Playhouse produces a family show aimed at children aged 3-8 in the Neville Studio. The production then tours to primary schools, libraries and other community settings in the region.

We are very proud that this production provides a vital experience for younger children, many visiting a theatre for the first time. It is a core part of our Christmas programme and has been building a reputation year on year.

"A fun, high energy show." The Reviews Hub (*Little Red Riding Hood*, 2021)

"The sweetest and most perfect little Christmas show for the littles and their not-so-little parents" East Midlands Theatre (*Goldilocks and the Three Bears*, 2022)

"A joyous, simplistic, up-beat show, with lots of interactive moments crafted for excitable small children." Beyond the Curtain (*Hansel & Gretel*, 2023)

For the 2025/26 production we are producing *The Little Mermaid* and we're looking for a Writer and Composer to commission.

You may be:

- A playwright
- A composer
- Part of a writer and composer duo
- A writer and a composer

We welcome applications from all of the above. You can apply individually or as part of a duo. Please make this clear in your application.

The Director will also be recruited via an open callout.

The Brief

The play must run at around 50 minutes.

The final version will include original songs. If applying as an individual writer or composer, who writes the lyrics will be discussed at the interview stage.

There will be two actors in the production. The logistics of this should be taken into account.

The play must be suitable for children aged 3-8, and their families.

The production tours to school halls and often has 30 minutes to set up.

The above parameters aren't intended to limit your imagination, but keep the feasibility of this at the back of your mind.

For the last four years, we have included elements of embedded access such as integrated creative captioning into the production and will do so again this year.

For the fourth year, the production will be designed and produced following the sustainability standard Baseline, as outlined in the [Theatre Green Book](#).

Fee

The contract offered will be in line with the ITC Theatre Writers' Commissioning Agreement for a play of under 70 minutes, currently a minimum fee of £6,110, split between the writer and composer as appropriate.

Please note that this is the basic fee and depending on the split of writing, lyric writing, music writing and musical direction as part of the show, it will be subject to an increase, up to a maximum of £8,300, if split between a writer and composer. The final fee and split will be worked out with the successful applicants.

Reasonable expenses will be payable in addition to the fee if applicable. Travel expenses will not be paid if the Writer or Composer lives within 25 miles of Nottingham Playhouse.

The Writer

We are looking for a professional writer.

The successful writer will be expected to deliver to agreed deadlines, collaborate with the director and creative team, attend key rehearsal dates and make amendments to the script as necessary.

The Composer

We are looking for a professional composer who has experience of working with professional performers as either a lead artist or assistant.

The composer also acts as the production's Musical Director and will be required to teach the cast the songs and create any necessary backing tracks.

The Composer will also be responsible for sound effects and the small-scale sound design for the Production.

The successful Composer will be expected to deliver to agreed deadlines, collaborate with the director and creative team, attend key rehearsal dates and make amendments to the music as necessary.

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

The Little Mermaid is a well-known tale. It's up to you to choose what to focus on, how you tell the story and what to leave out.

If you are a writer, please submit:

- A treatment/rough outline for your adaptation of *The Little Mermaid* (no more than one side of A4 in length).
- One scene (between 2-5 pages) from any part of the story.
- A previous play (produced or unproduced) as an example of your writing, (this can be any length or genre).
- A completed Equal Opportunities Monitoring Form, downloadable from our website.

Please indicate if you are applying jointly with a composer.

If you are a composer, please submit:

- Approx. 300 words on why this specific production (*The Little Mermaid*) interests you as a composer.
- A couple of sentences indicating any previous Musical Directing experience.
- A link to some examples of your previous work as a composer
- A completed Equal Opportunities Monitoring Form, downloadable from our website.

Please indicate if you are applying jointly with a writer.

If you are applying jointly or as a writer-composer, please submit all of the above.

The Equal Opportunities monitoring form will be separated from the 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 obtaining information about disability required to make reasonable adjustments for meetings. 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 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 3 February 2025 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 submissions 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.

Dates

The deadline for submissions is **Monday 3 February 2025 at 12pm midday.**

The deadline for the first draft of the script will be late May 2025.

The rehearsal draft (including songs) deadline will be at the start of September 2025.

Rehearsals begin 10 November 2025.

Dress rehearsals, previews and press performance will be the week commencing 1 December 2025.