

Freelance Fabricator - Job Description

ABOUT THE HERD

The Herd brings children and families together in playful spaces to share exceptional arts experiences. We play alongside children to create shows, installations, workshops and events that celebrate, interrogate and nurture the joy of childhood. We believe in the transformational power of family arts and create experiences that children and adults can share together. Our vision is for a society that respects children and the importance of their play. By creating high quality theatre and play experiences for young audiences we show children that they are valued.

We are a company deeply invested in our home city of Hull, with a growing, nationally significant, output. We are passionate about reaching children and families who are excluded from the arts, with a focus on working class people and disabled people.

Since 2016 The Herd have reached a national audience of over 85,000 people, and worked directly with over 3000 children and young people. We produce high quality early years theatre, made with children, including commissions from Hull Truck and transfers to The Royal Exchange. In 2023 we're commissioned for The Southbank Centre to create REPLAY, a play installation made from 100% recycled materials that has reached 45,000 people. REPLAY has been programmed as part of the Bradford City of Culture programme in Autumn 2025.

ROLE INFO

We are recruiting a pool of Arts Fabricators based in Bradford and the surrounding area for our upcoming project REPLAY. We'll be using waste, scrap and spare material gathered from factories, Theatre shows, fashion shoots etc and repurposing them for play materials for the exhibition REPLAY.

By 'Arts Fabricator' we mean a professional who works with artists and designers to create and preserve artworks. In our instance these artworks are the objects and set pieces in our play exhibition.

They Fabricator will be responsible for a variety of tasks, including:

- Able to work to Artists vision: Working alongside the project artists and production manager to assist in the realisation of the work.
- Varied skill set: We're interested in talking to people with experience in general making and/or people with specific skills in working with a range of materials. You might have experience or training in theatre design, prop making, sculpture, textiles, carpentry, painting, or something completely different.
- Materials knowledge: Selecting and preparing materials to achieve specific artistic effects
- Precision and attention to detail: Ensuring that items created to the highest standards

- Preservation and conservation: Ensuring that items are properly cared for, cleaned and maintained over time.

WHAT EXPERIENCE DO I NEED?

ESSENTIAL

- Diverse practical skills and knowledge of making in your medium.
- Experience in using a wide range of mediums, experience working with textiles, upholstery and carpentry is preferable.
- Knowledge of materials
- Ability to use scissors, staple gun and other hand tools
- Ability to clean materials
- Ability to work with a team
- Has attention to detail and good communication skills
- A resourceful maker with creative, positive, open outlooks

DESIRABLE

- Has an interest in sustainable practice
- Already working as a freelancer in this context
- Available all the dates of the project

PROJECT DATES AND LOCATION

- 15th September - 10th October 2025
- Monday - Friday
- 9.30am - 5.30pm each day

You don't have to be available for all dates in this period.

You'll be working from our installation site in Bradford, location TBC, most likely city centre.

APPLICATION DETAILS

To apply for this role please send your CV and an expression of interest, and availability during the above dates to ruby@theherdtheatre.co.uk by Friday 15th August 2025.

If you'd prefer to send us a video talking us through these things, then great.

The Herd Theatre is an equal opportunities employer and encourages applications

from anyone regardless of age, disability, sex, gender, sexual orientation, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief. We want to make sure our teams are made up of people who share the backgrounds of the children we reach. We actively encourage applications from people from the global majority, those with Eastern European heritage, those who identify as working class, those who are neurodiverse, those who are Disabled.

FEE

£160 per day. Minimum commitment of 3 days across the period.

CONTRACT

This is a freelance contract with The Herd Theatre. You will be responsible for your own tax and national insurance contributions.

CONTACT

ruby@theherdtheatre.co.uk

www.theherdtheatre.co.uk

@theherduk