

Freelance Seamster - 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 seamsters 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 'Seamster' we mean a sewing machine operator, responsible for stitching together fabrics and other materials to create finished products. We also require skills to inspect and repair previously made items.

Other duties may include threading needles, changing thread colours, and loading fabric onto the machine and assisting the Designer in the best approach to construct an item.

The seamster will be responsible for selecting appropriate materials, thread, and needles, and setting up the machine to achieve the desired result. They must inspect their work for accuracy, adjust machines and make repairs as needed, and ensure that the finished product meets quality standards of the Designer.

WHAT EXPERIENCE DO I NEED?

ESSENTIAL

- Operate a domestic sewing machine and overlocker
- Measure, cut and join fabric pieces to form garments

- Perform sewing operations to construct or repair garments
- Inspect garments for defects and perform repairs as necessary
- Select appropriate threads and needles
- Maintain sewing machines and equipment
- Knowledge of fabrics and textiles
- Ability to use scissors and other hand tools
- Ability to work with a team
- Ability to perform basic sewing tasks
- Ability to troubleshoot and adjust machine settings
- Ability to use various types of fabrics and materials
- Has attention to detail and good communication skills
- Demonstrate sewing work in a professional context, this may be costume making, textile design or experience as a Sewing Machine Operator.

DESIRABLE

- Owns a sewing machine
- 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 who identify as working class, those who are neurodiverse, those who are Disabled.

FEE

£160 per day. Minimum commitment of 5 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

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www.theherdtheatre.co.uk

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