

CASTING CALL - COUNTING SHEEPS

The Herd are casting an exciting new show for babies

ABOUT THE SHOW

Counting Sheeps tells the story of two sheep, who despite their reputation for sleep expertise, are having a really tough time nodding off. They're just about at their wits end when a westerly wind carries a strange looking, crumpled sheet of paper up into the night's sky, and down into the sheep's field. They investigate. It's a human made leaflet - an NHS guide to getting a baby to sleep. Bingo. It's just what the sheep need.

Treating the leaflet as gospel, they embark on the super simple step-by-step guide to sleep, bath, pyjamas, book, bed. Nothing could be easier. The audience follow our sheep on a journey through the magical, nourishing, exasperating, tedious, land of baby bed time. Relevant for both children and adults - who both, play a part in this story every day, but from very different perspectives.

This will be a sensory show that combines theatre and play installation, with live music and communal singing, that encourages connection, play and communication between babies and the adults in their lives.

ABOUT THE ROLE

We are looking to employ a company of 4 actors to bring our story to life. We are not looking for specific casting types, more performers who are excited by this kind of work.

We'd like to meet performers who are playful, have strong comedy instincts and are comfortable performing without words. We are looking for performers who are unafraid to be in the moment. This is a predominately non verbal show and we want to work with performers who are able to imaginatively build and tell a story physically, using their bodies to convey new discoveries and shifts of thought. Perhaps the performers have experience of clowning, of making their own shows, of drag, of cabaret, live art or of acting. They do not necessarily need to have experience of performing for children. All ages, all ethnicities, all gender identities welcome.



PRODUCTION DETAILS

We're trailing a new way of making work - more akin to a European model, in which we have longer to make the work before it embarks on a UK Tour. We're also a bit disillusioned by Touring as the best way to reach new audiences at the moment. Counting Sheeps will tour in Hull for the first week of every month, for a period of six months. Touring in this way will reach audiences who face barriers to coming to theatre (we hope) We'll be working with arts organisations, libraries and community centres.

We appreciate this is a harder gig as an actor to commit to as its not full time work throughout the 6 month period. So, we wondered about creating a show in which a company of actors could rehearse and then cover each other if other jobs came along. But trying to not have the hierarchy of 'understudy' more a company of actors who do their show in their own way - with story and action created together. COUNTING SHEEPS will rehearse and tour in Hull, UK.

Rehearsal Dates

Monday 15th July - Friday 2nd August 2024

Performances Dates

Week 1 - Monday 5th - Saturday 10th August 2024

Week 2 - Monday 9th - Saturday 15th September 2024

Week 3 - Monday 7th - Saturday 12th October 2024

Week 4 - Wednesday 23rd - Saturday 26th October 2024

Week 5 - Monday 4th - Saturday 9th November 2024

Week 6 - Monday 2nd - Friday 6th December 2024

Week 7 - Monday 6th - Saturday 11th January 2025

FEE

£600 per week (rehearsals and full performance weeks) and £165 for one-off performance days. Travel days will be paid and all accommodation, travel and subs covered for performers working away from their base.

AUDITION DETAILS

We'll be hosting auditions on **Tuesday 18th and Wednesday 19th June in Hull.**

Please send any of the following- Your CV OR a link to your spotlight OR a link to a video of something you've performed in OR a video of you saying hello and why you would like to meet with us about the part. To RUBY@THEHERDTHEATRE.CO.UK

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.

ABOUT THE HERD

The Herd bring children, young people and families together in playful spaces. We work with children to make our shows and use play as the basis of all our explorations. We are committed to accessible art for all and use producing models to reach under-served families.

Our work has toured across the UK to community spaces and venues including the Royal Exchange, the Southbank Centre and Northern Stage. The Herd's celebrated production of SLIME (****The Stage, *****3weeks) was recommended by The Guardian.

Previous performers and associates of The Herd include Lua Bairstow (China Plate National Tour) Finlay McGugian (Lyric Hammersmith/Regents Park Open Air/ The Unicorn) and Jessica Murrain (The Globe / The National Theatre)

The Herd are led by Director Ruby Thompson and Writer and Composer Sam Caseley. Ruby's credits include Snowmen (UK Tour) REPLAY (Southbank Centre), Ducklings (Hull Truck/ RoyalExchange), SLIME (National Tour) Bump (Kiln Theatre Young Company), Transmission Space (The Yard Theatre), Take The Stage (Donmar Warehouse), Ten Foot Tales (Hull Truck) and Happy Birthday Without You (Paines Plough's Roundabout/ Kiln Theatre).

Sam's writing credits include for CBBC, Fast Food Megaverse (Freedom Festival) Miracle on the Humber (Hull Truck), Hidden Winter (Freedom Festival), Ducklings (Royal Exchange), SLIME (National Tour), Ten Foot Tales (Hull Truck), and Poda Poda (British Council Sierra Leone Exchange Project).

As well as theatre shows, The Herd have created play installations, published a picture book, deliver schools programmes, made an app to accompany a show, created an Audio-Story walk, and have taught theatre making for early years at Drama Schools, Colleges and Universities.

www.theherdtheatre.co.uk

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