



The Classroom Stage Associate Artist Recruitment Pack

Stan's Cafe is an internationally acclaimed theatre company with a history of creating inventive and playful productions. It boldly addresses timeless and contemporary themes and is happy to twist theatre out of shape in order to do so.

We are excited to be inviting applications for four new freelance **Associate Artist** roles. We are looking for theatre makers with a passion for education to join our team and deliver ***The Classroom Stage***, a creative learning project running in Birmingham primary schools across academic years 2020-21 & 2021-22.

Funded by the **Paul Hamlyn Foundation's Teacher Development Fund**, *The Classroom Stage* will share rehearsal room techniques drawn from Stan's Cafe's practice with teachers in order to develop students' English skills.

Working on *The Classroom Stage* you will receive training and support from Stan's Cafe's core team to develop and deliver English focused drama projects in collaboration with a small group of teachers in your allocated school. As well as helping teachers expand their horizons and develop their practice you will be honing your skills as a theatre artist working within education.

The fee for the **two year** project is **£11,400**

- **Based on a fee of £200 per day for 57 days of delivery in school and Continuous Professional Development & Learning (CPDL) time**
- **The CPDL times will be fixed and dates for the first of these are given below (they involve everyone coming together).**
- **The school delivery days can be scheduled by you and the school with which you are working - there is flexibility here!**

Funding for this project and the contracts associated with it are secure and artists can rest assured that it will be going ahead. However, in the light of the ongoing health crisis there will inevitably need to be some flexibility around the timing and methods of delivery.

If timings have to change then we will do everything we can to find alternatives with you and we are sure you will want to do the same. If timings become impossible then you will be paid for the sessions for which you are contracted.

THE PROJECT TIMING - When you will need to be free.

We are seeking to fix dates for training days that bring together all Artists and Teachers from the ten schools whilst leaving dates for Artists in school flexible for people's mutual convenience.

Notwithstanding those logistical changes you will need to be available for:

Induction & Training - 16th November 2020

An "Icebreaker" Day In School

This is a day of activity in the school to which you will be attached. Schools are currently choosing their days, which will be between **23rd November 2020 and 11th December 2020**. We won't be able to specify which day you'd be required until the full team is recruited.

CPDL Events

<u>2021</u>	7th January 2021 or 11th January 2021 25th February 2021 22nd April 2021 26th April 2021 10th June 2021
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<u>2021/22</u>	6 Dates to be confirmed.
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WHO WE ARE LOOKING FOR - A brief person specification.

Stan's Cafe's objective to produce excellent work rests on working with company members who are representative of the full diversity of contemporary UK, and we are committed to equal opportunities for all staff and applicants. **We welcome applications from anyone who is:**

- Able to bring theatre acting, devising or directing skills to the project, whether a new and emerging Artist or someone with a track record.
- Committed to working in Birmingham in the medium to long term.
- Available for the specified dates.

- Energised by working with primary-aged children.
- Committed to supporting children's learning through the arts.
- Great at communicating and collaborating.
- Hungry for personal development.
- Keen to work with Stan's Cafe and aligned with our ethos as set out below.

We are aiming to create a balanced team featuring a mix of members with different ranges of experience. There are spaces for 4 new Associate Artists and we won't simply be offering these to applicants with the most dense CVs.

All Associate Artists must be in possession of an Enhanced DBS Clearance no more than 3 years old, or be willing to obtain one (we will cover the cost of this).

WHAT WILL ARTISTS BE DOING? - A description of the role.

As an artist on the Classroom Stage Team your role will involve:

- Participating in CPDL Days at the start of each term (5 in total). These days will set the framework for the following sessions in school.
 - Participating in CPDL half-days half way through each term (6 in total)
 - Learning about the teachers you'll be working with and the children they teach, their challenges, their strengths and aspirations in relation to the English curriculum.
 - With your partner teachers and their Senior Leaders and Stan's Cafe core team identify research questions that you will address through the project.
 - With the support of the Stan's Cafe core team, developing and leading projects in the classroom.
 - Working collaboratively in the classroom with your partner teachers to make use of theatre techniques to support the delivery of the English curriculum.
 - Participating in an evaluation process in order to pass on our learning.
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STAN'S CAFE AND CREATIVE LEARNING

Stan's Cafe's Creative Learning programme centres on long-term partnerships with a small number of Partner Schools. We work alongside teachers, using creative thinking and artistic practice to help schools address their improvement targets. This can mean working on whole school or individual class projects. It can mean helping change a school's culture or helping learning in a particularly difficult corner of the curriculum in any subject.

We currently work with around 3,000 young people each year. We wish to share knowledge of our high quality work more widely across both education and arts sectors and in so doing help more teachers and students. *The Classroom Stage* is part of this ambition.

“From the start, Stan’s Cafe has been a key partner in transforming the culture of our school.”

- Pete Weir, Headteacher, Saltley Academy

Stan’s Cafe’s Creative Learning projects are devised by our core artistic team of Artistic Director James Yarker and Associate Director Craig Stephens, and delivered by them along with a pool of freelance Associate Artists. These Associates come from a wide range of disciplines, from theatre practitioners, musicians and dancers, to film makers, visual artists, graphic designers, and even computer programmers. We match the most appropriate art form and artists in order to best address each school’s needs.

You can find out more about our previous creative learning work by visiting:

<http://www.stanscafe.co.uk/education-and-training.html>

THE STAN’S CAFE ETHOS

We believe in

- Collaborative working: devising productions as an ensemble and engaging audiences philosophically as co-creators.
- Devising and presenting work of outstanding originality and quality, demonstrating that radical art can engage large, diverse audiences.
- Taking this approach into its work with young people and giving this work equal weight to the artistic programme.
- Taking work that’s created in Birmingham across the country and around the world, bringing back to the West Midlands new ideas and provocations encountered in other places.

The company was formed in 1991 by Graeme Rose and James Yarker while eating an all day breakfast in Stan's Cafe. The company’s long history of theatrical experimentation has led to Bloomsbury-Methuen commissioning a book *Devising Theatre With Stan’s Cafe* (published 2017). The company’s sector-leading Creative Learning programme is the subject of a PhD studentship sponsored by the University of Warwick.

Stan's Cafe is a National Portfolio Organisation of Arts Council England, a company limited by guarantee, a member of ITC (the Independent Theatre Council), and is in the process of becoming a charity.

The company currently employs four staff:

James Yarker – Artistic Director/Joint Chief Executive
Roisin Caffrey – Executive Producer/Joint Chief Executive
Craig Stephens – Associate Director (part-time)
Dave Howard – Creative Learning Producer (part-time)

Stan's Cafe works with a pool of freelance Associate Artists, employing up to 60 people across all areas of the company's work each year.

PS: It's pronounced Stan's Caff.

THE APPLICATION PROCESS

You have a choice of ways to apply:

Method 1)

Please complete the following which can be downloaded via the links provided.

- **Your Current CV**
- **The Application Form:** [Download Here](#)
- **The Equal Opportunities Form.** This will be separated from your application. [Download Here](#)
- **Data Protection Form:** [Download Here](#)

Send the above to casting@stanscafe.co.uk

Method 2)

- **Your Current CV**
- Record a video or audio file in which you answer questions using the **Video & Audio Submission Form** as a guide: [Download Here](#)
- Complete the remainder of the **Video & Audio Submission Form**.
- Upload the video to a sharing or streaming site of your choosing (YouTube, Vimeo, WeTransfer, Dropbox)
- **The Equal Opportunities Form.** This will be separated from your application. [Download Here](#)
- **Data Protection Form:** [Download Here](#)

Send the above to casting@stanscafe.co.uk

**The deadline for receipt of applications is:
5:00pm on Wednesday 28th October 2020.**

THE SELECTION PROCESS

There will be two parts to the selection process:

- If you are selected for the first shortlist you will be invited to a Zoom interview on ***either* Monday 2nd November 2020 or Wednesday 4th November 2020.**

During this interview we will be asking you to expand on the short answers you've given in your application and we'll be looking forward to having a conversation around those. There won't be any other trick questions, although the discussion may lead to places that are interesting to both you and us.

- Following this, if you are selected for the second shortlist you will be invited to an "in person" group activity session which will be conducted under social distancing and Covid-secure conditions with other candidates and members of Stan's Cafe Core Team on **Monday 9th November 2020.**

FINALLY

If you have any questions about the role prior to applying please send an email to our **Creative Learning Producer, Dave Howard:** dave@stanscafe.co.uk

Thank you for your interest so far!

**Stan's
Cafe**



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