

DANCE AMBASSADORS

Job Description
Dec 2013

Re:Bourne

“One of the driving forces behind creating Re:Bourne was to help and nurture young people regardless of background or experience with a passion for movement. I am convinced that the work of Re:Bourne can change lives through the discovery of the next generation of dancers and choreographers.”

Matthew Bourne, Artistic Director, New Adventures



Lord of the Flies, Theatre Royal Glasgow, 2010

Matthew Bourne's New Adventures repertoire has, over the last 25 years, changed the dance landscape in the UK and around the world. Powerfully blending art forms from ballet to musical comedy to film, Matthew Bourne's productions continue to enthrall re-inventing classics such as Swan Lake, Nutcracker, Cinderella and more recently Sleeping Beauty or creating new dance theatre pieces such as Edward Scissorhands and Dorian Gray for our modern age.

Re:Bourne, the charitable arm of New Adventures, was founded in 2008. In its initial years the charity established itself as the principle delivery arm for all the education and learning activities that supported the New Adventures productions that were touring around the UK and overseas. Growth came quickly to Re:Bourne with turnover increasing year-on-year both in terms of financial income and expenditure but also in terms of participation and reach. Helen Prosser ran the organisation in the role of General Manager joining the charity from the National Theatre. The charity is now delivering over 300 workshops per year, working with over 7,000 children, young people and emerging artists and delivering ground-breaking dance theatre projects in the UK and overseas.

In 2012 James Mackenzie-Blackman joined Re:Bourne as Executive Director. James' background is in fundraising, arts sector management and policy. Soon after arriving in the business Helen Prosser's role was changed to that of Producer – leading on the day-to-day creative

management of all our projects and activity. The charity is very much collaboratively led by both James and Helen.

The charity aspires to be a crucial mechanism for finding and developing the next generation of dancers and choreographers who are culturally diverse, highly skilled and committed to training themselves and others, both on and off the stage.

Our Core Values

- To nurture and support young people with a passion for movement
- To encourage young people who think that dance is beyond them to participate
- Break down possible perceptions that dance is often seen as unfathomable, elitist, over technical and intimidating
- Use dance as a mechanism to improve self-esteem and confidence
- Work within the communities where our productions perform in order to build the socio-economic spread and volume of our audiences
- Deliver projects to specifically inspire young men to participate in dance
- Create large-scale productions for audiences that blend professional and non-professional companies

Dance City

Dance City is a dance organisation with a mission to lead and support a thriving dance ecology in the North East of England, which embraces professional practice, education and participatory work. Since 2005, we have been based in a purpose built dancehouse in Newcastle upon Tyne.

Since being opened in 1991, Dance City has been the lead dance organisation in the North East of England. We create opportunities to engage with dance in many ways: as audience, as informal participant, as aspiring dancer and as professional dance artists. We achieve this through our performance, classes and workshops programme, our CAT (Centre for Advanced Training) and links to courses at Northumbria University and Gateshead College, and through our professional activities.

Dance City provides excellent facilities, excellent performances, excellent artist support, excellent teachers and excellent opportunities for all to be involved in dance. We enable everyone we work with to constantly improve and to achieve the highest standards they can. This desire has been possible partly through our move into a new £7.6m purpose-built dance house in 2005.

We believe in dance reaching as many people as possible, and as many people as possible reaching dance. We want dance to be an inclusive activity and design our programmes to reach the maximum range of people and communities. Through this we hope to encourage a diversity of dance practice, by people of all backgrounds and abilities, and promote our work accordingly.

Dance City aims to:

- * Support professional dance artists to reach their full potential
- * Promote the artform of dance
- * Enable the people of North East England to engage with dance practice of the highest quality
- * Foster excellence in dance education and practice

Ambassadors

Lord of the Flies is a large scale touring project that brings together non-professional young talent with professional dancers from Matthew Bourne's New Adventures. The production is being developed in at least 10 cities across the UK in 2014. Young people are at the heart of the project and the role of the ambassadors is crucial to its success in each city. We are looking for passionate early career dancers/choreographers who can inspire boys and young men to participate in dance whatever their level of experience or background, to take part in activity for Lord of the Flies in the lead up to the tour and beyond.

This is an ideal opportunity for anyone between the ages of 18 and 25, to work with the UK's leading dance theatre company, develop a strong relationship with the partner theatre and to create a network of contacts that can offer potential employment or training pathways beyond this project.

Principle Duties

Project Delivery

With the support of Helen Moffitt, Dance Engagement Coordinator at Dance City

- To identify potential schools, groups and organisations in the area raising awareness of dance activity
- To market and publicise the project with as wide a reach as possible through the theatre and local authority contacts as well as other groups and organisations
- Plan, schedule and deliver workshops on behalf of the project partners, with a target aim of working with around 120 boys and young men in total through the identified schools, groups and organisations
- Attend meetings as and where necessary
- To be an advocate for Dance City, Theatre Royal, LOTF and Re:Bourne
- To work with the LOTF Resident Director towards/during the audition/workshops that will be held to cast the production
- To maintain a network of communication through social media with the other ambassadors, participants and wider community
- To be a bridge between the participants and the project partners
- To be a part of the legacy of the project
- To support participants in enabling them to identify future pathways and life skills

Personal Development

- Opportunity to develop your own skills in reflection, analysis, facilitation and evaluation
- Develop teaching and presentation skills
- Develop as a local arts leader

Statistics and Data for Evaluation

- To collate anecdotal and statistical data from the participants and other aspects of the project
- To work with the project's external evaluators where necessary

Knowledge, Skills and Experience

- Experience in dance, ideally vocationally trained or equivalent.
- An ability and genuine passion to deliver workshops in a variety of settings with young people from a wide variety of backgrounds.
- Communication skills to build close working relationships with Dance City, the theatre, the schools, groups and organisations in the area, the other ambassadors and Re: Bourne.
- Be presentable, friendly and confident with an approachable manner.
- The ability to draft/write letters, make/receive telephone calls, create and respond to e-mails etc.
- IT literate and confident of using all the tools available through a PC.
- Some experience of setting up, using and maintaining social media (Facebook, etc).
- An ability to ensure accurate information is collated and maintained for distribution to partners and external agencies .
- Well organised with a flexible and proactive approach to work and the ability to work to deadlines whilst prioritising a varied workload.
- Willingness to work independently as well as a team member.
- A willingness to work evenings and weekends and travel locally and regionally.

Summary of Main Terms and Conditions

Salary:	Fixed fee £1,500
Hours of Work:	To be confirmed. Training in London 17-24 Feb. Planning days 3, 4, March 7, 8, 9, April 1, 2 May. Main delivery of w/s in June - Sep (up to 20 workshops). Audition days for young men 20, 21 Sep. Rehearsal week 27 Oct-5 Oct (not compulsory), 2-5 Nov Get in at Theatre Royal, 5-8 Nov performance.
Probationary Period	1 week
Subsequent Notice Period	1 month
Identity checks	The successful applicants will need to provide official documents to confirm they have the right to work in the UK and will need to go through Disclosure and Barring Check in order to work with young people

Responsible to

- Re: Bourne as the project's producer

- For the day to day running of the project Helen Moffitt, Dance Engagement Coordinator, Dance City

Ambassador Boot Camp, London (Feb 17-24 2014)

All appointed ambassadors must be available for the boot camp training which will include:

- Learning repertoire from Lord of the Flies
- Training in delivering workshops in different settings and environments, including safe touch and management around young people at risk
- Communication, advocacy and networking skills
- Peer Evaluation