

Griot/MC Call-Out - Ancient Futures

Unlimited Theatre & Upswing would like to meet performers/storytellers with experience of MCing for their new outdoor show - ANCIENT FUTURES.

Conceived and directed by Vicki Dela Amedume (Upswing) and J Spooner (Unlimited) with new music by grime artist Afrikan Boy, *Ancient Futures* is inspired by West African folklore, Afrofuturism and sound system culture. We are creating a durational event for festivals that fuses dance, circus, parkour, music and storytelling.

At the centre of the event is our Afronaut leader (a Griot, MC and storyteller) who leads our ritualistic dance party from their place at the top of a giant sound system structure, inviting the audience to join them and build a better, safer, more inspiring future than we might otherwise be heading towards.

The Griot will be delivering and improvising with the words written by our writer Oneness Sankara and our musical collaborator Afrikan Boy.

Please read the full description that follows before applying, here: <https://unlimitedtheatre.wufoo.com/forms/ancient-futures-griotmc-application/>

ABOUT YOU:

Essential skills:

- An experienced storyteller/performer
- An experienced MC/rapper

Desirable skills:

- Comfortable with basic choreography/movement
- Some experience in delivering participatory activities

We are keen to meet performers of all ages and genders.

You will enjoy working in a co-devising process with the rest of the creative team, made up of 5 performers, 2 co-directors: Vicki Dela Amedume (Upswing) and J Spooner (Unlimited); with a writer, music maker and designers.

While we are specifically looking for company members to join us for Ancient Futures, these sessions are also an opportunity for us to meet new artists for other future projects as well.

DATES:

We are holding 2 days of casting workshops - 1 in Leeds and 1 in London. Based on your location, we'll invite selected participants to one workshop on either Tuesday 27 September in London or Wednesday 28 September in Leeds.

The workshops will be held in 2-hour sessions and timings set in line with availability and access needs - during the morning, afternoon or evening. You will work with the co-

directors of Ancient Futures, J Spooner and Vicki Dela Amedume, and fellow workshop attendees.

As a result of these workshops, we will invite 1 Griot/MC and up to 5 other performers (Afrinauts) to join the company for a paid development week taking place either w/c 21 November or w/c 28 November 2022.

Full rehearsal and production takes place in spring 2023, followed by a season of touring to the UK's major outdoor arts festivals between May - September 2023.

We always pay performers in line or above the current ITC/Equity rates.

ACCESS:

We believe in equality of opportunity and enabling access for all. If you are invited to attend a casting workshop, you will be given the opportunity to identify any access needs you have or barriers you may face in attending the workshop. We

will take reasonable steps to meet your needs and remove barriers, including paying reasonable expenses to remove barriers which impact your ability to participate in the workshop.

HOW TO APPLY:

If the above description excites you, please head to our application form here:

<https://unlimitedtheatre.wufoo.com/forms/ancient-futures-griotmc-application/>

The application is just a series of basic questions:

- Personal details – name, email, phone number
- Link to a short (1-2 minute) video/self-tape of you rapping or performing some spoken word of your choosing
- Links to appropriate examples of your work – those that give the best sense of you, your work, your background and your interests

- If selected, your preference between joining casting workshops in Leeds or London

After submitting your response, please also complete our equal opportunities monitoring form:

<https://unlimitedtheatre.wufoo.com/forms/equal-opportunities-monitoring-form/>

Deadline for submissions is 6pm on Monday 19 September 2022. We will invite a shortlist of applicants to the casting workshops (see *Dates*) by 6pm, Wednesday 21 September 2022.

If you have any questions, then please email Alice Massey on alice@unlimited.theatre who will reply or arrange a phone call if you prefer.

UNLIMITED THEATRE & UPSWING are Co-Producers of Ancient Futures

We are fiercely committed to promoting and creating equality and fairness and to reflecting the diversity of the

communities we serve in our staff, freelancers, Board, artistic output and the audiences we reach. Unlimited is an actively anti-racist organisation (you can read more about the detail of our anti-racist work [here](#)) and we welcome, respect and value all people from all backgrounds irrespective of their gender, sex, sexuality, race, heritage, skin colour, disability, religion or anything else that mainstream society considers 'different'. We support and celebrate 'difference' and we expect all our employees, freelancers and Trustees to join us in promoting these values; to treat each other with sincere respect; to support and take care with each other; to be mindful of personal experiences and circumstance and, further, to bring attention to, report or call out behaviour that is hurtful, degrading or disrespectful in any way - no matter how 'small' or unintentional those instances may be.

We are working particularly hard to ensure this opportunity reaches people from communities that are currently under-represented in the arts. If you're reading this and can help us reach more people who identify as Black, Brown or another

minority ethnic background then we would be very grateful for your passing it on.

Unlimited is a [Disability Confident employer](#) and is signed up to the [Oil Sponsorship Free](#) commitment that 'We do not take any oil, coal, or gas corporate sponsorship for our cultural work and we call on our peers and institutional partners to refuse fossil fuel funding too.'

ABOUT UNLIMITED THEATRE & UPSWING:

[UNLIMITED THEATRE](#) is a company of multi-disciplinary artists and producers making new work for live performance that inspires audiences to join them in helping change the world for the better. Based in Leeds UK they make work for theatres, festivals, galleries, museums, the streets of your city, on the internet and for broadcast. Unlimited is an Arts Council of England National Portfolio Organisation that tours extensively in the UK and has presented work at international festivals and venues in the Republic of Ireland, Germany, Zimbabwe, The Philippines, Papua New Guinea, Ukraine,

Singapore, South Africa, the USA and even into space.

[UPSWING](#) is an award-winning contemporary circus company founded in 2006. We use the human body as an expressive tool to entertain, inspire curiosity and ignite a desire to build connection. We tell new stories in extraordinary ways, amplifying and celebrating the skills, creative talents and stories of diverse artists and communities. Difference and diversity is at the heart of our practice. In 2019 we reached over 25,000 across the UK, with over 1,300 participating in creative engagement opportunities in libraries and arts venues. We develop and train artists, both established and emerging through our Artistic Development Programmes.