

## Performer Call-Out - Ancient Futures

Unlimited Theatre & Upswing are inviting performers with a range of specialisms to join the creation of a new mid-scale outdoor commission entitled - **ANCIENT FUTURES**.

We are looking for Circus performers who can pick up simple choreography as well as highly physical dancers who may be able to learn some basic aerial or circus skills. We are keen to meet people with high level skills in any of the following practices - Chinese Pole, pole dance, Afro-Urban dance styles, Parkour, Cyr wheel, tumbling/acrobatics, aerial rope, aerial hoop and trapeze.

Please read the full description following before applying here:

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

The show will draw from wider research and conversations but also the experiences of the artists and creatives involved, so we are particularly seeking artists who identify as Black or from a Global Majority background. All the roles are for people of any gender identity.

### ABOUT ANCIENT FUTURES:

Inspired by West African folklore, Afrofuturism and sound system culture *Ancient Futures* will be a high energy performance that fuses dance, circus, music and storytelling.

Conceived and directed by Vicki Dela Amedume (Upswing) and J Spooner (Unlimited) *Ancient Futures* is a durational event for festivals and public spaces that builds, throughout a whole day, to an immersive evening climax.

We are working with writer and 'quantum poet' Oneness Sankara to create the story-world and mythologies that underpin our 'Afrinaut' culture. New music will be made by renowned Grime and Hip Hop Artist, **Afrikan Boy**.

*Ancient Futures* will feel somewhere between a sound system clash, a dance party and a launch into an alternative universe.

We are now looking for 5 performers to embody our community of Afrinauts - a group of visually fabulous strangers who will arrive at each event and, through interactive participatory experiences, lead audiences towards an explosive climax at the end of each day.

*Ancient Futures* aspires to not only entertain and celebrate West African culture but also to activate, inspire and build a pathway to imagine a more positive future for us all.

## **ABOUT YOU:**

### Essential skills:

- An experienced physical performer
- Have specialisms / interests in one or more of these skills: Chinese Pole, pole dance, Afro-Urban dance styles, Parkour, Cyr wheel, tumbling/acrobatics, aerial rope, aerial hoop and trapeze

### Desirable skills:

- Some experience in delivering participatory activities
- Some experience as an MC/storyteller

You will enjoy working in a co-devising process with the rest of the creative team, made up of 4 other 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 up to 5 people 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.

## **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 resonates with you, we want to make this as easy for you to apply for as possible. Please head to our application form here:

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

*The application is just a series of basic questions:*

- *Personal details - name, email, phone number*
- *Links to personal website and/or showreel of your work - including examples that will give us 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/>

The deadline for us to receive your application is **6pm on Friday 2 September 2022**.

Depending on the number of applications we receive, our intention is to shortlist and invite successful applicants to the casting workshops by 6pm, Wednesday 7 September 2022.

If you have any questions, then please email Alice Massey on [alice@unlimited.theatre](mailto: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**

Unlimited is a company of artists and producers making and telling inspirational stories for live performance in public spaces - theatres, festivals, galleries, museums, the streets of your city, on the internet and for broadcast.

Our projects are born from the passions and obsessions of our six Core Artists who share a vision to tell stories that inspire audiences to join them in changing the world (for the better). You can find out more about our work and our Core Artists [here](#).

### **UPSWING**

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. We engage people of all ages and abilities, working closely and creatively with them to research and develop our productions; bringing people together in movement – professional artists, children and their carers, scientists...our ideas develop from the collision of different worlds and life experiences. You can find out more about Upswing [here](#).