



Dramaturg/Artist Support - Call Out – Anansi the Spider

Anansi The Spider is a new participatory project co-produced by [Anansi Theatre Company](#) and [Unlimited Theatre](#) for wxmen of colour to create new retellings of the Anansi Spider Story. The project is led by Anansi Artistic Director and Unlimited Core Artist, [Lauren Nicole Whitter](#).

Anansi is an [Akan](#) folktale character. Taking shape as a spider, he is the Akan God of knowledge, wisdom and stories. He is one of the most important characters in West African, African American and Caribbean folklore. Originating in West Africa, these spider tales were brought to the Caribbean during the transatlantic slave trade. Anansi is most well known for being able to outsmart and triumph over more powerful opponents through the use of cunning, creativity and wit.

To create these retellings Lauren is working in partnership with ARC in Stockton and Derby Theatre to lead workshops with local wxmen of the Global Majority to develop ideas through personal stories, creative workshops and staged pieces of performance, unpacking the themes within the Anansi mythologies.

We are looking for a Dramaturg / Artist Support to work with and support lead artist Lauren Nicole Whitter to help her to facilitate the workshops and research & development sessions and develop the story world inspired by this ancient African folktale.

The project will draw from research into West African, African American and Caribbean folklore but also the experiences of the creatives and participants involved, so we are particularly seeking a female or non-binary individual who identifies as Black or from a Global Majority background. The role is not age specific.

THE ROLE:

Responsibilities will include:

During the workshops:

- Being a sounding board to lead artist Lauren Whitter – helping her create ideas to develop
- Supporting the creative team (performers, participants and lead artist) to develop new story worlds based on the Anansi fable

During the research and development weeks:

- Support dramaturgy during the 2 research and development weeks that follow the workshops - as part of the creation of a new touring show that incorporates movement, music and storytelling

ABOUT YOU:

Essential:

- Experience working as a professional artist, storyteller or as a dramaturg in theatre and/or participation settings

- Experience facilitating creative processes and/or workshops
- Excellent interpersonal skills including an ability to interact effectively with a wide range of individuals in a variety of settings
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills
- Integrity and ability to work sensitively with a wide range of individuals with a range of backgrounds, abilities and experiences

Desirable:

- Ability to speak more than one language – such as Urdu or Punjabi

DATES:

Autumn 2022 – Stockton

w/c 21st November

- Wednesday 23rd November - prep day
- Thursday 24th & Friday 25th November – participant workshops at 10am and 2pm

w/c 28th November

- Wednesday 30th November - prep day
- Thursday 1st & Friday 2nd December - participant workshops at 10am and 2pm

w/c 5th December

- Monday 5th - Friday 9th December – research and development

Spring 2023 – Derby

w/c 6th February

- Wednesday 8th February - prep day
- Thursday 9th & Friday 10th February - participant workshops at 10am and 2pm

w/c 13th February

- Wednesday 15th February - prep day
- Thursday 16th & Friday 17th February - participant workshops at 10am and 2pm

w/c 20th February

- Monday 20th - Friday 24th February – research and development

There is opportunity to alter the above schedule so if there are any dates that you're unable to do, please let us know.

PAYMENT:

The rate of pay for the role as described above is £650 per week. If 1 or 2 sporadic days are worked, it is £200 per day. Any necessary travel and accommodation will be booked and paid for by the company and per diems will be paid for nights away from home at ITC agreed rates.

HOW TO APPLY:

If you're interested in the above role, please get in touch with Javairya Khan at javairya@unlimited.earth with:

- your full name
- your contact number
- up to 3 examples of any current/previous roles, training or qualifications that supports your ability to fulfil this role
 - these can be written or you can send an audio/video file
 - you're also welcome to include any relevant web links

After emailing Javairya, please also complete our anonymous equal opportunities monitoring form: <https://unlimitedtheatre.wufoo.com/forms/equal-opportunities-monitoring-form/>

The deadline to apply is 10am on Wednesday 16 November 2022. We anticipate holding initial zoom meetings with shortlisted candidates on Thursday 17 November. We will get back to you shortly after the deadline date to confirm whether we'd like to take the conversation further.

If you have any questions, please get in touch with Javairya using the email address provided above. She'll be happy to help!

ACCESS & EQUALITY:

We believe in equality of opportunity and enabling access for all. If you are invited to join the project, you will be given the opportunity to identify your access needs or any barriers you may face in fulfilling the role. We will take all reasonable steps in our power to meet your needs and remove barriers.

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. We are actively anti-racist organisations (you can read more about the detail of Unlimited's 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, trustees and advisors 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 global majority ethnicity 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 ANANSI THEATRE COMPANY & UNLIMITED THEATRE:

[ANANSI THEATRE COMPANY](#) is a Derby-based CIC, born out of Artistic Director Lauren Nicole Whitter's vision to create a theatre company which incorporates issues of importance in our current culture and society. A strong advocate for the destigmatisation of mental health, Lauren wants all women of colour to have a space to create, share and feel safe in doing so. The work aims to transcend through all levels of society including hard to reach intersectional communities and young people, giving opportunity for everyone to be part of the solution in making our society safer, diverse, accessible and inclusive. Intersectional women are at the heart of the company. With a brilliant team of creative women of colour who identify within multiple other protected characteristic groups, Anansi Theatre Company is ready to change the world.

[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.