

ANCIENT FUTURES – COSTUME DESIGNER CALLOUT

Ancient Futures

Afrofuturism inspired outdoor spectacular that blends contemporary circus and storytelling with Sound System culture and West African folklore.

Unlimited Theatre & Upswing are inviting a Costume Designer with skills in creating work for outdoor contexts to join us to become part of the creative team for a major new outdoor commission entitled - **ANCIENT FUTURES**.

Our Costume Designer will ideally have both design and making skills and will create bespoke costumes that respond to the Afrofuturist aesthetic of *Ancient Futures* and enable a group of 6 highly physical dancers to perform aerial and circus skills - over successive touring dates in summer 2023, and beyond.

The commission would include a budget for a Costume Supervisor to support the making and delivery process.

Ancient Futures is commissioned by the UK's most significant outdoor festivals and will tour to at least 6 locations over the course of summer 2023.

Please read the full description following before applying here:

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

Ancient Futures will draw from wider research and conversations but also the experiences of the artists and creatives involved, so we are particularly seeking costume designers 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* is 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 'Afronaut' 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.

The Costume Designer will realise the costume designs for our company of 6 Afronauts - a group of visually fabulous strangers who 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:

- A demonstrable track record designing and creating costumes for mid to large-scale outdoor contexts
- An affinity with the themes being explored within *Ancient Futures*

Desirable skills:

- Previous experience as a costume supervisor and maker

You will enjoy working in a co-devising process with the rest of the creative team, made up of 6 other performers, 2 co-directors: Vicki Dela Amedume (*Upswing*) and J Spooner (*Unlimited*); with a writer, music maker and other 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 designers for future projects as well.

DATES:

Creation and Production weeks will take place across the following period and the start date for implementation of designs will ideally begin at the beginning of March, at the latest.

We will establish a mutually agreeable schedule that will include being on first call for the production during production week and opening weekend at Brighton Festival.

w/c 1 May: Creation Week 1

w/c 8 May: Creation Week 2

w/c 15 May: Creation Week 3

w/c 22 May: Production Week

26 - 28 May: Tech and opening performances at Brighton Festival

FEE: Up to £3,000 NET plus costume budget and support in the making and realisation.

ACCESS:

We believe in equality of opportunity and enabling access for all. If you are invited to interview, you will be given the opportunity to identify any access needs you have or barriers you may face in attending. We will take reasonable steps to meet your needs, including paying reasonable expenses to remove barriers which impact your ability to attend the interview.

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-costume-designer-application/>

The application is a series of basic questions:

- *Personal details - name, email, phone number*

- Links to personal website and or portfolio of your work - including relevant examples that will give us the best sense of you, your work, your background and your interests

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 **midnight on Friday 10 February 2023**. Depending on the number of applications we receive, our intention is to shortlist and invite successful applicants to a zoom interview with Co-Directors, J Spooner and Vicki Dela Amedume on Tuesday 21 February between 1pm - 6pm and Wednesday 22 February between 2pm and 6pm.

If you have any questions, then please email Alice Massey on alice@unlimited.earth 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 or from the global majority, 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](#).

