



Mortal Fools is recruiting. WOULD YOU LIKE TO JOIN OUR TEAM?

WHO WE ARE

Mortal Fools is a theatre, drama and creative learning company, with people at its heart. We believe in the importance of positive connections between people: peers, communities and organisations.

Our work uses dynamic theatre and drama to:

- ❖ **Build Understanding** – of people and of our world, building empathy and support for one another. For example, our current Youth Theatre production, *Brainstorm*, demonstrates how the teenage brain is different to an adult brain and allows a group of young actors to explore and share their perspective with audiences.
- ❖ **Overcome Challenges** – by supporting people to try new things, build confidence, skills and resilience. For example, supporting young people with autism to build emotional literacy and resilience by connecting with characters and stories through the process of making a play.
- ❖ **Create Shared Experiences** – creating spaces and opportunities for people to come together. For example, beginning to build community pride by creating a temporary theatre in an area with low aspirations and deprivation.
- ❖ **Connect People** – bringing people together through all of the above, supporting stronger communities and tackling isolation. For example, in our adult skills training where people realise we're all struggling with the same things and together find new ways to tackle them.

We are based in Prudhoe, Northumberland in North East England, are a registered charity and limited company with a core team of four and a team of twelve freelance associate artists that we work with regularly. We are a company who are passionate about the performing arts, and especially for using high quality, exciting and relevant arts experiences for the development and wellbeing of children and young people.

WHAT WE'VE BEEN UP TO

Some highlights from the last 12 months include:

- **MELVA** – temporarily transforming a disused shop unit on a rural town's High Street into a studio theatre and producing an alternative family Christmas show in the venue. The play, MELVA, was about a 10-year-old girl's struggle with anxiety and her journey to overcome her worries.

We sold out 90% of performances and the project was featured on BBC Look North. Here's a snippet of what audiences thought:

"My daughter and I absolutely loved Melva. Beautifully written and acted. Can't wait to see more of their productions. Hopefully it will become a regular thing for them to preform locally and for us to watch. 10/10. Fantastic."

- We worked with young theatre-maker, Sian Armstrong, to produce her first solo show called, **STUPID**. This show is about trying to figure life out whilst battling through the challenges life throws at you along the way. With our support, Sian undertook a second phase of R&D for the show and performed the final production at three regional venues. The show is currently being developed for national tour.

- **ILLUMINATE** was a promenade Youth Theatre production led by our Young Leaders group to celebrate the 5th birthday of Tyne Valley Youth Theatre (our flagship YT). It involved performances at four outdoor and two indoor settings, film, and a visual art installation. The Young Leaders involved were nominated for two Key Awards for their efforts on the project.

WHAT OUR PLANS ARE

Our programmes are:

Creatives of the Future – a theatre-making strand which includes:

- Youth Theatre, where young people work as co-creators with professional theatre artists
- Professional theatre for young and family audiences
- Support, mentoring and training for early career artists, including producing their projects

Future Ready – a strand which uses a theatre production process as the setting to support teenagers with special educational needs and disabilities to develop the skills, confidence and attributes they need to make a successful transition from school into adult life.

We are in the process of using this strand as the setting to develop a delivery practice model for work with children and young people in a range of settings.

Unlocking Potential – this strand aims to build the confidence and aspirations of primary school children from areas of deprivation. The project has two main elements: a) it uses drama to bring a curriculum topic to life in a way which evokes emotional responses from the children e.g. live interactions with actors in relevant roles. b) A new play script is created from the children's original writing and performed for them by professional actors.

Adult Skills Training – through this strand we work with organisations from across sectors in practical workshops using techniques from theatre practice and social sciences for skills development. We have a training partnership with Northern Stage in Newcastle called, *Drop The Act*, and in the last year have worked with clients including Virgin Money, Sintons Law, Newcastle University, Prudhoe Community High School and National Trust.

WHAT WE OFFER YOU

Mortal Fools is a highly energetic and fast-moving organisation. In a rapidly changing and challenging world, we aim to be agile and responsive, together with building resilience for the long-term. Every single person who works with Mortal Fools is responsible for our continuing success.

It can be very lonely as an independent artist / practitioner. We want everyone who works with us to feel that they belong in this company and that their efforts and talents are appreciated. We support our artists both in delivering the work of Mortal Fools and in the development of their practice as artists and facilitators.

Whilst all of us at Mortal Fools work very hard, challenging ourselves and our participants, we also want to create a working environment which is fun. We believe that this gives everyone an opportunity to thrive, which is good for us as individuals, and great for us as an organisation.

We'll support you with one-to-one feedback, group training and development sessions and creating an environment where you're able to bring your ideas, enthusiasm and talents to fruition. We also aim to foster an ethos of support within our team, helping each other out creatively, occasionally volunteering as an extra pair of hands for get-ins and get-out on shows, and seeing each-other's work.

WHAT WE'RE LOOKING FOR

We're recruiting for three main roles:

- **Facilitator / Directors for young people's projects**
- **Project Managers / Producers for a range of projects**
- **Facilitators for adult training workshops**

You may apply for any, or all of these roles. For each one, we expect you to demonstrate:

Attributes:

- ✓ Up for a challenge and to work hard
- ✓ Passionate about inspiring and supporting others to unlock their potential
- ✓ Keen to develop your own practice
- ✓ Able to positively contribute to a team and to share your expertise and experience
- ✓ Keen to learn along with everyone else
- ✓ A passion for your work and lots of energy
- ✓ Able to leave your ego at the door

Experience:

- ✓ A degree in a related subject (or relevant experience)
- ✓ A proven commitment to work in participatory settings

Practicalities:

- ✓ Based in the North East
- ✓ Have access to reliable transport and are willing and able to travel. Please be aware that we work across the counties of Northumberland and Tyne and Wear. This means that access to own transport is preferred, and/or ability and willingness to use public transport and travel promptly to venues is *essential*.
- ✓ Availability for work, including some evenings and weekends
- ✓ Have public liability insurance to the value of £5million or higher, or are willing to get it before commencing work with us.

For roles working directly with young people, we also require:

- ✓ Positive about working with young people aged 5-19
- ✓ Experience of working with young people
- ✓ Experience of facilitating sessions
- ✓ Experience of a devising process
- ✓ Regular availability for evening and weekend sessions during term time and some intensive weekly projects in school holidays
- ✓ An enhanced DBS check dated within the last 24 months, or are willing to undertake one (we will process this for a fee)

WHAT YOU NEED TO DO NEXT

To find out more about Mortal Fools, please visit our websites www.mortalfools.org.uk and www.tvyt.org.uk and our Facebook pages.

APPLICATION: If you think you can offer what we're looking for, and want to apply to work with us in any of the above roles, please send:

- A covering letter (no more than 2 sides of A4 please) explaining why you are interested in working with us, what you would bring to the company and how your skills and experience suit the role(s)
- Your CV
- Details of two references who know your work well

We are always interested in hearing from creative folk, so please do consider applying even if you don't fit every single requirement.

Please send completed applications to Zoe Anderson, Programme Coordinator, at zoe@mortalfools.org.uk **no later than 5pm on Thursday 29th March.**

If you have any questions, please contact Zoe on 07595 828979 or via the email address above.

SHORTLISTING: Those people shortlisted from the applications will be invited to a recruitment day on: **Friday 20th April, 2-7pm*** in the Tyne Valley.

***Please do not apply if you are not able to make this date, as we are unable to consider you.**

APPOINTMENT: Successful applicants will be notified within one week of the recruitment day, subject to references and relevant requirements being met. You will then be invited to meet to discuss work available.