



## **History Trail: Theatre Troupe Callout**

### **Who are Windswept Workshops?**

Windswept Workshops is a Birmingham-founded Community Interest Company which uses multi-disciplinary creative activities to empower communities to share compelling stories through workshops, performances, publications and events. The company was set up in December 2019 by two freelance writers and facilitators, Erin Gilbey and Gabriella Songui, who now work as a team of three alongside Charlotte Hooper. During the pandemic, they have run countless successful projects and events, as well as fronting the campaign for the reopening of Selly Oak Library. Over the last two years, we have run countless successful projects and events, as well as publicising the campaign for the reopening of Selly Oak Library. We also facilitate a Writing Community, with publication and performance opportunities; a Storytellers' Club for home educated young people in Coventry; external workshops in storytelling, creative writing and puppetry; and an Emerging Freelancers Programme for clients including University of Birmingham and Open Theatre. Professionalism, accessibility and authenticity remain at the heart of their organisation.

### **What is the History Trail?**

The Bournbrook History Trail is a celebration of local heritage that will leave behind a framework for future cultural activities in Bournbrook. The project was co-planned from scratch with the local community in spring 2021, and our community will remain at the centre of the project, as we invite Commonwealth Games visitors from across the world to see the global significance of our area.

The event will be based in the Bournbrook area of Selly Oak, and will consist of a launch event in August 2022 with tours and entertainment, followed by monthly tours that will continue until August 2023. The content of the tours will envelop Selly Oak's rich cultural history, drawing on



the diverse stories of citizens, as well as sharing forgotten local history to restore pride in the area. It will also look at iconic buildings such as the old Selly Oak Library and the Water Tower.

The History Trail will be immortalised through a permanent audio-tour. The audio will be accessed through metal QR code links on posts at key sites throughout the area, and the audio will be subtitled for accessibility. We want to ensure that the civic pride cultivated during the day of the History Trail has a lasting impact on the whole community.

### **The Role**

Our History Trail launch day (13th of August) will involve a 15 minute performance by a small theatre troupe. We envisage the troupe consisting of one director and two actors, however this is flexible and the fee will remain consistent regardless. Windswept will produce and assist the process creatively and we would also be able to provide two more actors if necessary. The performance will be a devised piece about the history of Selly Oak using research provided by the Windswept team. The performance can be any style of theatre (dance, verbatim, comedy...).

The total fee for the theatre troupe would be £1800 (ideally 1 director and 2 actors), so about four rehearsal days and one performance day. Windswept will also provide props, costumes and a final venue.

The theatre troupe can be new and emerging, so does not have to be an established company.

### **Essential Criteria:**

- Confident and professional performers
- Flexible and open to constructive criticism
- Organised and good time-keeping



- Takes initiative
- Interested in working with historical research as a stimulus
- Ability to travel into Birmingham

### **Desirable Criteria:**

- A keen interest in community and/or local history
- Previous experience with acting/directing
- A Brummie Accent
- Based locally

### **Fee**

The fee will be £1800 for the theatre troupe. We envisage this covering the fees of one director and two actors with five days each, but this is flexible and the fee won't be reduced for smaller troupes. Props and costumes will be covered.

### **How to Apply**

To apply please send a CV and up to three samples of previous work to [windsweptworkshopscic@gmail.com](mailto:windsweptworkshopscic@gmail.com).

The closing date for these applications is **Monday 13th of June at 12pm**. We will get back to all applicants.