

Director Call-Out: Headgate Young Company (HYC) – *THE TRIALS*

Headgate Theatre is seeking a passionate young director for their next production, *The Trials* by playwright Dawn King. The production will run during the week beginning 7th September 2025.

About the Play:

In a future where the air has become unbreathable, three adult Defendants fight to clear their names. They are being judged by a Jury of twelve teenagers, those paying the price for the environmental crisis caused by their elders. This will be an amateur production, and performing rights have been agreed.

About Headgate Young Company (HYC):

HYC has worked hard since 2021 to provide a safe, creatively inspiring space for young people aged 16-21 with an interest in the arts. We've sought to develop skills and knowledge in all things performance and production. We nurture, inspire, and elevate young people to reach their full potential in the arts and in life. Alongside theatre workshops, this has included 4 full-scale productions and 3 Colchester Fringe Festival productions. Now, we would like YOU to direct the next full-scale production under mentorship from an experienced Director.

Person Specification:

Passion for Theatre

A deep passion for theatre and the arts, with a strong commitment to creating transformative and impactful experiences for audiences.

Collaboration and Teamwork

Ability to foster a positive, creative, and collaborative environment with actors, the production team, and technical staff.

Resilience and Adaptability

Ability to work under pressure, adapt to last-minute changes, and maintain focus on delivering high-quality productions.

Inclusivity

A commitment to diversity, inclusion, and accessibility in all aspects of theatre-making, ensuring that all voices and experiences are heard and valued.

Innovative Thinking

Creative thinking that challenges boundaries, explores new ideas, and brings fresh perspectives to productions.

Creative Vision/Approach

Strong ability to conceptualize and communicate a clear artistic vision for the production, while being flexible and adaptable in collaborating with designers, performers, and other creatives.

Communication

Excellent verbal and written communication skills for effective interaction with the entire creative team.

Problem-Solving and Decision-Making

Ability to navigate challenges during rehearsals, live performances, and in collaboration, making decisions swiftly and effectively.

Organizational and Time-Management Skills

Ability to manage multiple aspects of the production simultaneously, ensuring that deadlines are met and rehearsals run efficiently.

Willingness to Learn

An eagerness to learn and be mentored by experienced members of the Headgate Theatre.

Responsibilities:

- **Liaison and Communication:** Communicate effectively, and respectfully, with the Headgate Young Company Administrator, the production mentor, and the Headgate Theatre staff and volunteers.
 - **Rehearsal Planning:** Plan and schedule rehearsals in collaboration with the HYC administrator.
 - **Efficient and Professional Production Management:** Ensure that rehearsals and performances are carried out in a professional, safe, and creatively freeing manner, guided by the production mentor.
 - **Artistic Preparation:** Undertake necessary artistic preparatory work for the production, guided by the Production Mentor.
 - **Punctuality and Preparedness:** Arrive on time and fully prepared for all rehearsals and performances.
 - **Assisting with Communications:** Support the HYC administrator with logistics, communications, and social media/marketing content when appropriate.
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To Apply:

Headgate Young Company is committed to the development of young people. As such, prior directing experience is not essential for this production—only a strong desire to learn and direct. Age is not a limiting factor, but you must be able to evidence that you are able to relate to young performers and the issues that they are dealing with in real life.

Before applying, please ensure you have read the play. In a document of no more than **two sides of A4**, please include:

1. **A Brief Overview of Yourself as a Creative:** Highlight any relevant experience (e.g., leadership roles, artistic projects) and explain why you want to direct this production for HYC.
2. **Your Interpretation of the Play:** Provide a brief overview of what you think *The Trials* is about, and what it personally means to you.

3. **Technical/Production Overview:** Provide insights into how you might use set design, music/sound, lighting, props, and costumes to bring your vision of *The Trials* to life.
4. **WHY THIS?:** In your own words, explain why you believe this play should be staged, by you, now, and in Colchester.
5. **WHY HYC?:** Why do you think HYC is the right company to produce this play?

TIP:

1. It's important to us that the director of this production is fully invested. We encourage you to bring *YOU* to this project. There are currently no production budget limitations, so be ambitious, take risks, and don't hold back—be as creative and "out there" as you like in your application!
2. You needn't feel alone in this opportunity, Headgate would welcome a pitch from co-directors or a director and assistant.
3. If you are not familiar with the Headgate space, we strongly recommend that you come pay us a visit before completing and submitting your application.

A note from the Associate Director:

'Had I not had the opportunities granted to me by the Headgate Theatre and my involvement with Headgate Young Company, I would not have gone on to complete my Postgraduate in Directing at Bristol Old Vic Theatre School, and would not have gone on to pursue a career in directing. It is an opportunity I highly recommend. This institution gives you real autonomy and support in your creative journey and invests in you.' Richard Bland

The person appointed to take on this role will need to successfully apply for an enhanced DBS.

This is not a paid role but an expense allowance will be discussed with the successful applicant. Please send your application to headgateyc@gmail.com.

Please put 'YOUR NAME - SUBMISSION THE TRIALS' In the subject field, and submit by 9am 28th February 2025.