

Home Made Circus: Lead Artist Call-out

Upswing, a multi-award-winning contemporary circus company, is looking for a London-based **Lead Artist** to work with us throughout 2023 on *Homemade Circus*, a Circus-based residency programme created in partnership with Anchor Hanover Care Homes and Excelcare Homes.

Homemade Circus is a groundbreaking project that has emerged from 10 years of work developing Circus practice for and with older people. The project will bring our playful practice and the excitement and adventure of Circus into our partner care homes offering staff and residents together an opportunity to discover hidden talents and potential in themselves and in each other.

Lead Artist:

The Lead Artist will work with Upswing to develop and oversee the creative delivery of the *Homemade Circus* programme including a series of multi-sensory circus workshops with residents, CPD training for care home staff, training/mentoring of other Circus practitioners; and participating in sharing our work across both arts and care sectors. We will be working in care homes across London and the South East.

The Lead Artist will work with Upswing's Artistic Director and specialist advisors to expand existing activity structures and to refine the training programme for a team of up to 6 Circus practitioners who will deliver workshop activity and staff training with our Care Home partners.

If you are a Circus practitioner who wants to develop skills in Circus practice for and with older people, or if you are an artist/performer who already has significant experience of engagement and participatory work in a care home environment we would like to hear from you.

Essential skills:

- A good skill level in a physical or circus skills-based practice (e.g juggling, acrobatics, dance, magic, singing, object manipulation, clowning)
- A knowledge and passion for Circus
- Experience teaching to a wide range of people and an interest in developing practice with older people
- The ability to lead a small team and to work co-operatively with others
- Friendly and confident with the ability to build good relationships with colleagues and project partners
- Ability to remain calm and respond to unexpected situations professionally at all times
- Good organisational skills
- Understanding of Safeguarding

Desirable:

- A good skill level in at least one ground-based circus discipline
- Experience teaching older people (60+)
- Experience working with adults with Dementia or in a care setting

Project Milestones:

- September 2022 onwards: Project planning with Upswing team
- December 2022: Audition Day for Circus practitioners
- Early January 2023: Training for Circus practitioners
- January - August 2023: Project delivery in care homes

Lead Artist Fee:

£5000 for approximately 20 days roughly broken down as 5 days September – December 2022 and 15 days January – August 2023.

This is a London-based project; travel, accommodation, per diems will be covered for any required work outside London. Non-UK based performers must have the right to work in the UK.

To Apply:

Please send us a CV or performance/work history and a cover letter (up to 2 sides A4) explaining your interest in this work. Please refer to the list of essential skills above and tell us specifically how your experiences, skills and interests meet what we're looking for and what you can bring to the project. Please email your application to: recruitment@upswing.org.uk with HOMEMADE CIRCUS in the subject line.

If you would like to send your application in another format, i.e audio or video please [contact us](#)

Please also complete Upswing's Equal Opportunities Form alongside your application by clicking on this link <https://forms.gle/hsHR7ubv4mGn31QaA>

Deadline for applications: Monday 1 August, 5pm

Shortlisted applicants notified by: Monday 8 August

Interviews: Tuesday 16 and/or Wednesday 17 August

Upswing celebrates, amplifies and platforms the skills, creative talents and stories of diverse artists and communities. We strongly encourage applications from artists of all backgrounds and experience.

For more information about Homemade Circus [click here](#)

The Upswing team would be very happy to talk about the overall *Homemade Circus* project and to answer any questions you might have before applying – please [contact us here](#)

If you have any questions, email: recruitment@upswing.org.uk

www.upswing.org.uk