



GRAND
ARENA
YOUTH THEATRE

10
YEARS

2016-2026

GRAND ARENA YOUTH THEATRE WRITER COMMISSION

#MAGICOFTHEATRE



JOB DESCRIPTION

Role	Grand Arena Youth Theatre Writer Commission 2026/27
Working Relationships	Creative Engagement Manager Grand Arena Youth Theatre Facilitators
Role Summary	Commissioning a writer-facilitator to collaborate with our junior company (ages 9–13) to create a brand-new play for performance at Arena Theatre Wolverhampton on 7 & 8 July 2027.
Commission Fee	£2,000
Location	Sessions will take place at Arena Theatre, Wolverhampton

ABOUT GRAND ARENA YOUTH THEATRE

Grand Arena Youth Theatre is a partnership between Wolverhampton Grand Theatre and Arena Theatre Wolverhampton for young people aged 9–18 who want to make theatre, develop their skills and work with professional artists.

Since launching in 2016, the youth theatre has grown into a thriving community of young performers, giving young people the opportunity to express themselves through the arts. Members collaborate with professional artists, building confidence, developing new skills and creating original work.

As we approach our 10th anniversary, we are proud of everything our members have achieved over the past decade. To mark this milestone, we are commissioning a writer-facilitator to create a brand-new play for our junior group.



DUTIES & RESPONSIBILITIES

Grand Arena Youth Theatre is looking to commission a writer-facilitator to create a brand-new play for our Juniors (ages 9–13), which will premiere at Arena Theatre, Wolverhampton on 7 & 8 July 2027.

Working alongside the Theatre Practitioners and our Junior members, the writer will lead a series of facilitated research and development workshops to explore ideas with the group. These workshops will inform the development of an original script of approximately 60 minutes. While the process is collaborative, the writer will be responsible for delivering sessions and turning the group's ideas into a cohesive play and writing the final script.

The commissioned play should:

- Be written for a cast of around 30 young performers.
- Be flexible enough to accommodate different abilities, confidence levels and performance experience.
- Provide opportunities for every young person to contribute, without every role needing to be the same size.
- Be imaginative and engaging for performers aged 9–13.

Who We're Looking For

We are looking for a writer who can also facilitate and deliver sessions, who wants to create theatre with and for young people.

We welcome applications from writers at all stages of their careers and are particularly keen to hear from emerging and mid-career artists.

We are also keen to hear from those based in, or with a connection to, the West Midlands, particularly Wolverhampton, and from those whose backgrounds and perspectives are currently underrepresented in the arts.

Timeline - The envisaged timeline for the project is as follows:

- Application Deadline – Friday 14 August 2026, 11.00pm
- Shortlist Decisions Communicated – Tuesday 18 August 2026
- Facilitator workshop and writers meeting – Wednesday 26th August 2026
- Writer-facilitator appointed – Friday 4 September 2026
- Research & Development Sessions – September–mid October 2026 (up to three sessions to be agreed with the writer during the following sessions: 14 September, 21 September, 28 September, 5 October, 12 October. Sessions run from 6pm-7.30pm.
- First Draft Delivered – Friday 27 November 2026
- Script Feedback Sessions – Monday 7 December. (Writer may choose to attend this session)
- Second Draft Delivered – 21 December
- Final Draft Delivered – Friday 11 January
- Rehearsals – January–July 2027 (the writer will be invited to attend additional rehearsals during the term.)
- All-Day Rehearsal – Sunday 4 July 2027
- Dress & Technical Rehearsal – Tuesday 6 July 2027
- Performances – Wednesday 7 & Thursday 8 July 2027

HOW TO APPLY

To apply for this role, please send:

- A CV
- A covering letter (maximum one side of A4) outlining your practice, relevant experience, what interests you about this opportunity and your approach to working with young people.
- One or two extracts of previous writing (Maximum of five pages A4, font size 12)
- Please email your application to **engagement@grandtheatre.co.uk** by **Friday 14 August 2026**.
- Shortlisted applicants will be invited to our Writer/facilitator day in Wolverhampton on **Wednesday 26th August 2026**.

ANY OTHER INFORMATION

The commission fee is £2,000 for the creation of a new play of approximately 60 minutes, inclusive of research, drafting and delivery of the final script.

In addition, the writer will receive £160 per session for attendance at up to six sessions:

- Up to three Research & Development sessions.
- One Script Feedback sessions.
- Up to two rehearsal visits during the Spring term.
- The fee is inclusive of travel and accommodation expenses.
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Please note that you will be asked to undertake a Disclosure & Barring Service check before commencing employment. Any existing DBS disclosure will only be accepted by the theatre if it is less than six months from the date the disclosure was made.



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