

THEATRE & ARTS PRACTITIONER – OPEN CALL TO JOIN FREELANCE POOL

The Proteus Network is a scheme for practitioners at all stages of their career.

The Proteus Network exists to connect with practitioners of all specialisms and to assist the development of new creative relationships. We are looking for compassionate and enthusiastic practitioners from a range of disciplines including; theatre, visual, music, storytelling, poetry and digital arts or technology to widen our existing pool.

We support all practitioners through a vibrant host of events and workshops designed to bring practitioners together, spark ideas and let projects develop. We are seeking expressions of interest from practitioners of all career stages and specialisms to connect with us, and join our pool of freelancers as founding members of The Proteus Network.

We are keen to forge meaningful and lasting links with practitioners both on our doorstep and further afield, to find opportunities to bring practitioners together to network, share skills and support one another, and for us to signpost new opportunities, to take a lead in artist development and to provide a space to create. The network will host regular meets and socials, designed to be self-led in response to member needs, interests and ideas. This may be an evening to see a play, chat over drinks in the Creation Space or through skills-sharing workshops and play readings.

You may be an emerging producer, director or movement specialist, or perhaps specialise in outreach, learning and participation. Likewise, you may be an actor, musician, playwright or composer looking to apply your skills in a new way, or you might be looking for a return to the industry and seeking to connect with your local arts community.

You might be looking to meet others in your industry, or have very specific skills that you'd like to share and develop. This particular opportunity is specifically about connecting with the wider theatre and arts community, and to develop a peer group of professionals with varied abilities and ambitions.

We want to form an eclectic network of practitioners to provide a space for collaboration, skills development workshops, opportunities to share work and upcoming projects, and to connect with one another to provide a safe, positive space for the creative community.

Wherever you are in your career, whatever your specialism, we would love to hear from you.

Why join?

The Proteus Network will provide a vast range of benefits for practitioners.

- Ticket deals for Proteus-produced shows and R&D's from visiting companies.
- Exclusive skills 'top-up' workshops and other learning opportunities.
- Free professional development meetings.
- Signposting towards CPD and creative opportunities
- Be one of the first to hear about Proteus opportunities to develop or present work through Performance Lab and in-house projects.
- Regular Proteus Network emails with upcoming events, workshops and opportunities.

Your commitment

We ask members of The Proteus Network to make the commitment to come along to events, engage with each other and be an active member of the creative community we forge.

We want to be as open and accessible as possible, but also provide a professional space for practitioners to get the support they need. We ask members to be open to learning from one another, wherever they are in their career, and welcome established, emerging and aspiring professionals. By aspiring we mean demonstrating a commitment to pursuing a career in the performing arts.



About Proteus

We are an award-winning producing theatre company that believes the audience is as important as the artist. Quality, integrity and innovation are the values at the heart of all our work, and the criteria by which we judge our success.

Proteus is an organisation full of passion and possibility, proactive and reactive in response to its audience and collaborators, creating radical, innovative, surprising, varied and excellent theatre-inspired performance art.

Resident in Basingstoke, at the Proteus Creation Space, we have more than 30 years' experience of creating high quality work, touring nationally and internationally. We play a key role in the provision of performance and participatory opportunities for our community, regularly reaching a target audience of over 35,000 people through our work. We create three professional productions each year; a family show touring in the winter, a production for adult audiences touring in either the spring or autumn and a Christmas show for pre-school children and their families which is performed at the Creation Space. We also champion new and emerging artists and work as co-producers for a number of smaller companies who have work available 'off the shelf'. We tour to a range of venues; arts centres, theatres, schools, community centres, village halls and outdoor spaces.

Each year, we host a variety of events including performances, both at the Creation Space and other locations in the Borough, exhibitions and interactive children's shows. A variety of classes and workshops are also held at the Creation Space, as well as many of the shows that Proteus produce touring nationally.

Our established engagement programme provides a creative space dedicated to transforming the arts for young people and adults across North Hampshire and beyond, providing the vital opportunity to explore the world of theatre. Our engagement work offers a place to connect, learn, laugh and create. We collaborate with inspirational theatre-makers of all disciplines to develop artistic, personal and social skills. Our ethos is deeply rooted in inclusion - we value the thrill of *making* theatre, we thrive on collaboration with our peers, we take risks, test ideas, and we're always looking for new ways to be creative.

Our varied engagement programme includes:

- Proteus Youth Theatre (from 6 - 25yrs)
- Projects for adults and children with physical and learning disabilities
- Programmes of work with vulnerable, hard-to-reach and disadvantaged community groups
- Adult acting company, The Proteans
- Formal education programmes, including schools partnerships, one-off workshops, and careers development and access opportunities
- Artist Development opportunities, including our flagship Performance Lab programme.
- Holiday workshops and specialist masterclasses
- Bespoke, targeted reactive programmes of work, exploring issues pertinent to our communities; in the past this has led to large-scale projects including those looking at issues of domestic violence and post-traumatic stress disorder in returning military personnel

Alongside our participatory work, Artist Support sits at the heart of our work. Proteus supports a wide range of artists, both in terms of art form and where they are in their individual careers. From early-career circus performers to established visual artists, Proteus plays a vital role in the development of the artistic community in both Basingstoke and beyond. This aspect of our work includes Performance Lab, our open-access, performing arts development programme.

Each year we support a number of artists to try out new ideas or explore new directions in their practice. Whether you're just starting out or pretty well established, Proteus is here to support you to take risks and grow as an artist. We work with a wide range of artists – from playwrights to performance poets, circus artists to choreographers, live artists to puppeteers.



To Register Interest

To register your interest in joining the network, please send a short biography detailing your work and interests, and why you'd like to join, to Alex Lonsdale, Engagement Producer, on engagement@proteustheatre.com.

Practitioners will be invited to meet us at a welcome event at the Creation Space to discuss their work and interests, find out more about Proteus and to meet one another and Proteus staff and hear more about Proteus' current programme and future ambitions – there will be an opportunity to ask questions, share ideas and explore opportunities to collaborate.

We also require members to be over the age of 18. Our engagement programme has lots of brilliant opportunities for anyone under 18 so do check out this part of our website for more information.

We want to be as open and accessible as possible and provide a professional space for aspiring and established artists to get the support they need. Diversity is part of who we are and we welcome expressions of interest from practitioners of all communities – we want everyone to have the chance to experience creativity, and to achieve their potential.