

## Design Trainee

Little Angel Theatre is excited to offer a year-long Design Traineeship. We are really keen to hear from Global Majority applicants as well as those from other groups who are currently under-represented in this sector. This is a paid opportunity which combines on-the-job learning with specific, related training from experts in the field.

Inspired originally by shows such as *War Horse* and *The Lion King*, puppetry is enjoying an explosion of popularity at the moment, with much demand for puppets in film, TV and theatre. This has created a flourishing puppetry sector in the Creative Industries with puppeteers in much demand.





## **Role Description**

A Puppet Maker is someone who creates and dresses puppets and uses them to stage a live performance. Puppetry is the art of making puppets and presenting a puppet show to an audience.

This traineeship will give you an understanding of the design process as well as allowing you to develop puppetry design skills through designing sets and puppets and supporting

professional designers. We will also teach you how to make the sets and scenery used in puppet shows.

Puppet makers are employed within many different organisations and settings across the Creative Industries including film, screen and community arts settings. The technical and craft skills acquired during the traineeship will be transferable across the Creative Industries.

## **What we will offer you**

- A 12-month paid puppetry internship which combines intensive training with on-the-job opportunities to use the skills you have learnt.
- You will get the chance to build your skills, confidence and experience with a series of master classes from industry experts on making and working with puppets.
- One to one pastoral support from our In-House Designer.

## **What will you be doing?**

The trainee will support our In-house Designer in bringing to life both designs for our live shows and our digital programme on YouTube (Watch, Make and Share).

This will include:

- Constructing puppets from a variety of materials, such as paper, wood, papier mache foam, wire, metal, rubber etc, using hand tools and machine tools. These could be for live or digital productions
- Making sets, costumes and props for puppets as necessary, by hand or using machines
- Ensuring that all sets, puppets and props adhere to Health & Safety standards required
- Maintaining puppets from previous productions to ensure they are kept safely for future use



Other activity will include:

- Supporting the delivery of our Foundation Puppetry Course (weekly, for 10 weeks)
- Supporting the delivery of our Intermediate Puppetry Course (weekly, for 10 weeks)
- Assisting in the delivery of our short courses and classes (either online or in person)
- Exhibiting puppets in locations around the theatre and in exhibitions as and when they arise
- The opportunity to perform in at least one LAT show
- Assisting in the delivery of puppetry projects in schools
- Designing downloadable crafting guides to accompany our digital shows
- Administrative duties as required.

Towards the end of the 12 months, you will be asked to design the set, puppets and props for your own digital short for Little Angel's YouTube Channel. There is a budget for this which you will have to manage, as well as creating the physical aspects of the production.

As part of a small team at The Little Angel Theatre you may be required to take part in other tasks to support the work of the theatre, within the scope of a five-day working week. These could include the marketing, administration and ushering of shows.

## **Training**

Training will largely be on the job, with support and mentorship from our In-house Designer, and through participating in the professional development and adult courses that they assist on. You will also receive the following intensive training weeks:

- Intensive one to one training in puppetry performance techniques (rod, hand, muppet, shadow, solo & multi-person manipulation)
- Intensive training in puppetry making with Little Angel's In-house Designer
- Intensive 3-day course on making puppetry mechanisms
- One to one training in sculpting a table-top puppet

You will also receive masterclasses in marketing, fundraising and other relevant skills. Your time at Little Angel will give you an immersion in the puppetry and theatre communities as well as offering many networking opportunities.

During the 12 months you will undertake this online course on being a freelancer in the creative industries:

<https://www.open.edu/openlearn/history-the-arts/a-freelance-career-the-creative-arts/content-section-overview?active-tab=description-tab>



### What we are looking for:

- Demonstrable interest in performing arts or art/design
- Awareness of puppetry on stage, on TV/film, online
- Ability to think in 3D! This may be through hobbies such as: making role play costumes, comic con costumes, Lego construction, model making or sculpture with any materials
- Willing to get stuck in and try things out
- Willing to be flexible
- Curiosity to explore the world of puppetry and set design
- Strong organisational and planning skills
- Able to manage conflicting demands to meet deadlines
- Good team worker - able to manage relationships effectively and work collaboratively within a diverse team
- Effective written and verbal communication skills
- Interest in pursuing a career in the creative industries
- Understanding the importance of company values, policies, procedures and guidelines, including Health & Safety guidelines

You **must** be over 18 on the start date.



### **Qualifications Required**

- BTEC or A Level ideally in an arts subject but not essential

### **Terms and conditions**

Reports to:	Little Angel's In-House Designer
Nature of Contract:	Fixed term for 12 months
Commencement Date:	From early November 2022
Salary:	£23, 175 a year (£445 per week before tax)
Holiday:	26 days a year plus statutory Bank Holidays
Hours:	35 hours per week.

Working days are normally Monday-Friday but the nature of the job may require you to work in excess of these hours and on non-standard workdays from time to time. There may be some weeks when you work more than 35 hours, you will take these additional hours as Time Off In Lieu (TOIL). This means that you can take the time off but with pay.

### **What careers could this lead to?**

Puppet maker, scenic artist, model maker, designer, prop maker, stop motion work e.g.; Aardman Animations Ltd. Puppetry work in theatre as well as TV and film.



## **Previous trainees**

Little Angel Theatre has previously provided opportunities for several trainees. Not only did they improve their puppetry making ability, we supported them in taking their next steps into the arts industry - learning good work etiquette, time-management, autonomous working, organisation skills etc, alongside their making skills.

We have seen success with our previous puppetry trainees, two went on to university, one went on to drama school and one is working as a costume fabricator and a freelance puppet maker. They have since worked on productions and projects such as: *Frozen*, (the musical), the BFI Network Short Film Slate film: *Canned Laughter* and *A Christmas Carol* in the Painted Hall, Old Royal Naval College, Greenwich by Goblin Theatre.

Have a look at these films about some of our past trainees as well as other puppeteers who work for us:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=svQ\\_wuRa0N8](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=svQ_wuRa0N8)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F13ndBp0TB8>

<https://www.littleangeltheatre.com/online-show/people-behind-the-puppets/>

## **About Little Angel Theatre**

Little Angel Theatre is a home for puppetry. Since its doors first opened in 1961 the theatre has been dedicated to creating and sharing inspiring stories. Puppetry is at the heart of this innovative theatre, from igniting the imaginations of the youngest minds to equipping tomorrow's puppeteers with the tools they need to succeed.

As well as an internationally recognised theatre with productions touring throughout the UK and across the globe, Little Angel Theatre also has its roots in Islington and works with its local, diverse community to break down barriers to arts engagement so all can benefit and enjoy this remarkable art form.

### **What is the process for application?**

We are really keen to hear from Global Majority applicants as well as those from other groups who are currently under-represented in arts and puppetry sector. For further information or to discuss access requirements for your application contact us at: [recruitment@littleangeltheatre.com](mailto:recruitment@littleangeltheatre.com)

Please head to our website to see how to apply for the position:

<https://www.littleangeltheatre.com/about-us/jobs-and-opportunities/>

### **Important dates:**

Closing date for applications: 5pm on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> October 2022

Interviews: during week of 17<sup>th</sup> October 2022

Start date: early November 2022



We look forward to receiving your application!

<https://www.littleangeltheatre.com/>