

What we are looking for and tour details

The Vultures' Song - we are looking for two skilled actors (male and female) to be a part of a cast of four for an hour long theatre performance that will tour nationally to theatre venues during Autumn 2019 to audiences aged 9 years +.

The style of the piece is playful, transformative, collaborative and physical and there is no 'off-stage' time for the actors. Those applying for both roles will need to be strong physical performers with a head for heights, comfortable with adopting a variety of roles convincingly and in quick succession. They will need to be skilled at working as a part of an ensemble and have experience of performing to young audiences. Experience of puppetry or animating found objects is also desirable. Both roles spend large sections of the performance as vultures who transform into a number of other characters as the story plays out. Whilst momentary, these characters need to be convincingly conveyed. The set is made up of discarded objects and two trees constructed from scaffolding poles which the vultures use to climb, crouch and sit on. All cast members will be involved helping with stage management duties such as unloading the van and carrying, assembling and dismantling a simple theatre set.

Male actor

The role involves portraying the principal storytelling vulture, who holds the thread of the narrative, he is at the top of the pecking order, but subject to bouts of playful, subversive and challenging behaviour from the other vultures. He is experienced and worldly. As the story unfolds, he transforms to become the following characters: a neighbour giving temporary shelter to two young sisters fleeing their home and the mob; an abductor who forcibly takes the older sister as she joins a line of people escaping the violence and a man planning to ambush one of the trains full of refugees

Female actor

The role involves portraying a vulture who listens to, plays along with, make demands of and questions the story told by the principal storytelling vulture. She vies, colludes and at times fights with the other vultures and is quick witted, resourceful and street-smart. As the story unfolds, she transforms to become the following characters: the older sister of the girl who is at the centre of the story – she is protective, a little bossy and has had to grow up before her time; an anguished woman who survived an ambush on the train and who berates the girl for being 'one of them'; an 'untouchable' child on a looting spree; a rich woman in the refugee camp seeking a replacement maid and the older sister in old age reunited with the girl, now also an old woman

During rehearsals, the rate of pay is £480 for a five-day week exclusive of any allowances. If relocation to Leeds is required during rehearsals the Company will pay an allowance for local accommodation. During touring, a daily rate of £125 will be paid. Accommodation and travel on tour will be provided and an allowance for travel days will be payable. Theatre Company Blah Blah Blah is an Equal Opportunities employer who welcomes applications from all sections of the community. The successful applicant will be subject to an Enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service check. All applicants must be eligible to work in the United Kingdom.

Please note that this opportunity is subject to successfully securing funding, with an outcome expected by mid-May 2019.

Please contact Deborah Pakkar-Hull with any questions: Deborah@blahs.co.uk

Proposed tour schedule

Venue/activity	Date	Notes
Rehearsal week	Monday 19 th August – Friday 23 rd August	Interplay Theatre in Leeds
Attenborough Arts Centre, Leicester.	Sunday 25 th August	2 shows
Further rehearsal day	Tbc beginning of October	Location tbc in Leeds
Washington Arts Centre, Sunderland	Thursday 10 th October	2 shows
Mind the Gap, Bradford	Friday 11 th October or Saturday 12 th October	1 show, early afternoon
HOPS (Community Centre), Leeds	Date tbc in October	1 show
Lighthouse, Poole, Dorset	Tuesday 29 October	2 shows, 2pm & 4pm; get in from 8am
Salisbury Playhouse, Salisbury	Wednesday 30 October	2 shows
Interplay Theatre, Leeds	7, 8, 14 or 15 November (tbc)	1 show
Square Chapel, Halifax	Tuesday 5 th November	1 show

All dates will be confirmed before contracting

Application and audition process

To apply for these roles, you will need to:

- Send an up to date CV or Spotlight link together with a covering letter of one A4 page in length detailing why you believe you are suitable for the role to deborah@blahs.co.uk. Please also complete a monitoring form which is available to download at: <http://www.blahs.co.uk/opportunities/> (this will be detached from your application form on receipt, or you can if you prefer send it anonymously)

Please note that applications will not be processed unless accompanied by a covering letter

The deadline for applications is **Tuesday 30th April at 5.00pm** and shortlisted candidates will be contacted by the end of **Friday 3rd May**. Please note we will only contact successful candidates.

Shortlisted candidates will be invited to attend a day long workshop audition in Leeds on **Sunday 19th May**. Auditions will consist of leading a warm up exercise, a two minute monologue of your choice and performing group and pair script extracts from the play. Further details will be given at the shortlisting stage.

Who is Theatre Company Blah Blah Blah?

We are Theatre Company Blah Blah Blah, a touring theatre company with roots in Leeds and an (inter)national outlook. We create stories inspired by events at home and abroad, and by looking to the past, bringing them to life for 21st century audiences. We work with multi-skilled artists and award-winning writers to create performances that will engage both the heart and the head and change the way you think about the world. With over 30 years of experience of creating participatory theatre in schools, we are now expanding to work with young audiences in theatres, community settings and museum venues.

“Theatre does something nothing else can. It allows children to find things out about themselves and each other and the world in a singular fashion. It involves language and ideas as well as physical expression and an opportunity to investigate behaviour Theatre Company Blah Blah Blah are an essential resource at a time when such things are dangerously undervalued”

Bill Nighy, Patron of Theatre Company Blah Blah Blah

Further information about *The Vultures’ Song*

The Vultures Song is a compelling and entertaining story of loss, survival and reconciliation. It follows a young girl’s journey to safety as she experiences the consequences of a land divided. A comical committee of inquisitive vultures narrate, poking fun whilst they loiter, observing and waiting to clean up. Along the way we meet the girl’s protective older sister, friendly neighbours who risk their own safety to help, people exploiting the situation for their own gain and other children who have benefitted from the changes in their country. Finally we see the girl happily reunited with her family, a joyful conclusion to an epic and transformative journey. Although inspired by the Partition of India in 1947, using stories collected from those involved, the script is not explicitly sited in a time or place, so resonates across cultures and generations.

‘When I was listening to the story my mind was just hooked and I was not paying attention to anything else, just the story.’ Young audience member

Written by Mike Kenny, one of the UK's leading writers specialising in theatre for young people and families, *The Vultures’ Song* has been developed over three years, with R&D taking place in both the UK and India. R&D partner Delhi-based Yellowcat, is one of the few theatre companies in India committed to producing stimulating, original work for young audiences. *The Vultures’ Song* initially toured schools and local community venues in Spring and Autumn 2018 and was one of three plays shortlisted early 2019 by the Writer's Guild of Great Britain as Best Play for Young Audiences

For further information about *The Vultures’ Song* including a link to a short promo film:
<http://www.blahs.co.uk/portfolio/the-vultures-song/>