



Grosvenor Park Young Company

Call for... actors, directors, stage managers, technicians, designers, composers, choreographers, producers and costume makers...

Are you aged 16 – 24 years and have an interest in creating theatre?

Chester Performs is looking for aspiring performers and theatre makers from Cheshire and the surrounding area to join Grosvenor Park Young Company.

The Young Company is a team of ambitious young actors, writers, directors, designers, stage managers, choreographers, composers and producers– everyone required to make and stage a performance.

This year's summer project will include the creation of a series of 5-10 minute performance pieces, staged in and around Grosvenor Park Open Air Theatre by the Young Company in August. Led by three professional directors, John Young, Freyja Winterson and Thomas Frith the Young Company will be guided through workshops and rehearsals to create these short performance pieces. Some will be devised during the rehearsal process, others will be scripted specially for the summer project by Young Company writers.

To enhance the experience further, regular mentoring sessions will take place with Grosvenor Park Theatre Company, each member of the Young Company will be paired up with a professional actor, stage manager, writer or creative specialist.

Grosvenor Park Young Company has been developed to inspire, nurture and challenge young performance makers. This is a fantastic opportunity for anyone interested in creating work for the stage and developing their skills in this area. The following opportunities are now open to applicants (if you are interested in a role not listed below, please do let us know as we may be able to create other opportunities):

- Actors, performers
- Production team - stage managers, producers, production managers, technicians
- Directors
- Costume – makers and designers
- Music - musical directors and composers
- Movement and dance choreographers

The Summer Project forms part of the 2015 Grosvenor Park Open Air Theatre season

Grosvenor Park Open Air Theatre

The forthcoming Grosvenor Park Open Air Theatre season includes *Romeo and Juliet* which opens on Friday 3rd July, *The Wind in the Willows* (Saturday 11th July) and *The Merry Wives of Windsor* (Friday 24th July).



The Merry Wives of Windsor is a madcap tale of mischief and misbehaving, cuckoldry and humiliating revenge. *Romeo and Juliet*, the greatest love story of all time, is arguably Shakespeare's most famous play. Glyn Maxwell has written for Grosvenor Park several times in the past – most recently, 2013's incredible adaptation of *Cyrano de Bergerac* – and returns this year to adapt Kenneth Grahame's *The Wind in the Willows*. The season will be performed in rep by a talented cast of 15 actors and musicians.

Artistic Director Alex Clifton is back for a sixth season: *'This is a hugely ambitious and exciting programme for our 2015 season. I adored seeing our theatre so full of families last year, and hope they will want to come back and see The Wind in the Willows and the brilliant, and very silly, Merry Wives of Windsor. These, plus the unsurpassable Romeo and Juliet, will create a season of great storytelling, high humour, and fiery passion. Our beautiful park is set to transform into the hot-headed streets of Verona, a sunny English riverbank and the parlour of a very English Shakespearean sitcom.'*

Chester Performs – Background

Chester Performs is a highly diverse producer of theatre, music, festivals and site-specific art. We are a unique arts organisation in that we directly produce most of our own work. That includes running in-house companies such as Grosvenor Park Open Air Theatre (the only full-time professional open-air theatre company outside London) and Ensemble Deva (a new international-class chamber ensemble), the latter forming the backbone of the MBNA Chester Music Festival.

In 2010 we founded Grosvenor Park Open Air Theatre, widely acclaimed as the finest of its kind outside London and described as the 'the northern alternative to Shakespeare's Globe and Regent's Park' by The Guardian. We have continued to develop our home-designed theatre since its debut and, in 2014 we welcomed over 20,500 theatregoers to the intimate 400 seat wooden "O". Seating capacity will rise to 500 in 2015, with 27,500 seats on sale.

Our other projects include the Essar Chester Literature Festival, live art spectacular Up the Wall, the delightful outdoor cinema Moonlight Flicks, the free, fun and informal Family Saturdays, newly acclaimed pop-up empty shop programme Rogues' Galleries and new festival of reading, writing and sharing WayWord.

We are building a ground breaking, £37m cultural centre for the city, in partnership with Cheshire West & Chester Council, and in late 2016 Chester Performs will take over the management of the newly opened centre, which will feature proscenium, thrust and studio theatres along with an integrated library and a cinema programme. The vast majority of our programme will move to the new centre in 2016.



Key Dates:

Thursday 18 th June	Application deadline (actors/performers)
Friday 26 th June	Application deadline (production and creatives)
Sunday 28 th June	Auditions (Actors / Performers)
w/c 6 th July	Interviews (production and creatives)
Monday 27 th July – 17 th August	Skills workshops and rehearsals
Monday 17 th August	Public Performance

Other things you need to know

- Young Company applicants should be aged 16 – 24 years old (on the application deadline date)
- Priority will be given to those from Cheshire and the surrounding regions (North West, Shropshire, North Wales)
- You need to have a keen interest in creating theatre and work for the stage. This does not mean you need to have previous experience. However, an understanding of why you want to take part and what you hope to get from joining the company will inform our decision on whether you are invited to interview / audition.
- A number of 5-10 minute performance pieces will be specifically written for the summer project, others will be devised during the three week rehearsal process.
- The work created will be written and staged by members of Grosvenor Park Young Company in and around our open-air theatre.
- Some work may also be staged in other Chester venues.
- If you are offered a place on the project you will need to be fully available from Monday 27th July through to (and including) Monday 17th August.

To date, the focus of Grosvenor Park Young Company has been on a single annual project. We are keen to extend beyond the summer and wish to involve members of the company to explore how this may develop.

Chester Performs is a supporter of the Arts Award qualification so if you are thinking of, or working towards your Arts Award at School or College this project would be a perfect addition to either the Bronze, Silver or Gold. Chester Performs recommends that you discuss your involvement with the Young Company with your Arts Award advisor to find out how it can be of benefit. For more information on Arts Award visit: www.artsaward.org.uk

How to apply

To apply to join Grosvenor Park Young Company please click on the hyperlink to complete the online application form: [Young Company Application Form](#). You will need to tell us which role you are interested in, why you want to take part and any previous experience you may have. If you have any requirements which will help you access the application process more easily please let us know by contacting nicola@chesterperforms.com or call 01244 409 113.

Further information about the season can be found at www.grosvenorparkopenairtheatre.co.uk
Find out about previous Grosvenor Park Young Theatre Company projects at www.chesterperforms.com/youngtheatre