**Casting Callout: Big School**

**Actor-Facilitator and Facilitator**

The Belgrade Theatre is looking for 1 actor-facilitator and 1 facilitator to be part of its upcoming theatre-in-education tour of *Big School* for primary schools.

### **Project Overview:**

*Big School* is an original theatre-in-education programme for children in Year 6 that combines live theatre with participatory activities and exploration. The show is designed to support young people in navigating their feelings about the transition to secondary school and equip them with useful strategies for handling change.

2025 marks the 60th anniversary of our TIE practice at the Belgrade. With that in mind, we will be **redeveloping the current iteration of Big School**, building on existing work to create a fresh and engaging new version of the story. We want the successful candidates to be an integral part of this development process, contributing their insight and expertise to help shape the new adaptation. They will be working in collaboration with our Education and Young Peoples Producer and Associate Director.

The theatre-in-education programme runs for approximately 90 minutes.

### **Roles Available:**

We are casting for 2 roles:

* **1 Actor-Facilitator** to play the character of Mo
* **1 Facilitator or one Actor Facilitator** to lead the participatory activity within the programme

### **Role 1: Actor-Facilitator (playing Mo)**

We are looking for an actor (male or male-identifying) based in Coventry or the West Midlands, ideally with experience in Theatre in Education (TIE) or working with children and young people.

Mo is an 11-year-old child who isn’t ready to make the move to secondary school but struggles to share his feelings with his mum and best friend, Ash. We need someone who can **embody the energy and natural playfulness of an 11-year-old** while delivering a nuanced and heartfelt performance.

As part of the redevelopment process, we are looking for someone who can actively engage in the evolution of the script and story, bringing fresh ideas to the table.

You will also support the participatory activity within the programme, assisting the facilitator in helping the children make sense of the story. Strong communication skills and a natural ability to listen and respond to young people’s contributions are essential.

### **Role 2: Facilitator/ Actor- Facilitator**

We are looking for a facilitator based in Coventry or the West Midlands with professional experience in TIE or working with children and young people.

You will lead the participatory activity, guiding children as they work together to make sense of the story and helping Mo prepare to face the changes ahead.

As we are **redeveloping this piece**, we want a facilitator who is excited to collaborate on refining the programme and who has the potential to play another role in the piece if required, bringing fresh perspectives on how we can best engage young audiences through the story.

You will need to be an **exceptional communicator**, able to respond dynamically to young people’s ideas and help them develop their thoughts into meaningful contributions to the experience.

### **Location & Touring Information:**

* The tour will take place in primary schools across Coventry.
* Rehearsals will take place at The Belgrade Theatre, CV1 1GS.
* Either the Actor-Facilitator or the Facilitator will take on responsibility for **driving the company van** to and from the theatre and schools. (Company vehicle and petrol provided. Nominal fee provided to the nominated driver).

### **Outline of Contract:**

This is a **5-week fixed-term contract**, consisting of:

* **2 weeks of rehearsal** (including development work on the new iteration of the piece).
* **3 weeks touring schools in Coventry.**

**Key dates:**

* Rehearsals: W/C 26th May & 2nd June 2025
* Dress Rehearsal/Preview Performance: 9th June
* Performances: 10th – 27th June
* Rehearsal hours: **10am-6pm**
* Touring hours: **8am-4pm (weekdays only)** with a 1-hour lunch break.
* Applicants must have, or be willing to obtain, an **Enhanced DBS check** and complete online Safeguarding training.
* Applicants should be **18 or over** and hold a **valid UK driving licence.**
* This contract is an **Equity contract** with a **weekly wage of £600/week.**
* Expenses available depending on proximity to the theatre.

### **To Apply:**

Please send the following to **casting@belgrade.co.uk**:

1. **Expression of Interest Letter** – Tell us about your experience working with children and young people and why you’re interested in this role. You are welcome to include any thoughts on what excites you about contributing to the redevelopment of *Big School*. (Max. 350 words, or a 2-minute voice memo/video).
2. **Up-to-date CV and headshot** (or Spotlight/Mandy link).

**Closing date:** Midday on Monday 7th April

**Auditions/workshops:** Friday 11th and Saturday 12th April

The Belgrade Theatre is an **Equal Opportunities Employer.** We are on a journey to diversify our staff and seek to encourage applications from those who are currently underrepresented in the theatre industry.

We look forward to hearing from you!