

BA ENSEMBLE DIRECTOR 2022 (freelance)

The Higher Education programme at NCCA

The Higher Education department provides a two-year Foundation Degree and a one-year BA top up that prepares students for all aspects of the UK circus ecology and the international circus landscape. We aim to be inclusive and this is reflected in our admissions and audition processes as well as our course content and assessment strategies. We have a diverse group of students with regards to physical abilities, previous backgrounds and circus discipline and have strong support structures around areas such as neuro-diversity and ADHD.

At the point of this production the BA students will have focused their studies on their specific circus discipline for 2 years, physical preparation and maintenance, as well as performance techniques and aesthetics. They will have studied topics such as critical analysis as a way to merge these different threads of the course, and are presented with varied opportunities to create work as individuals but also within an ensemble setting internally and public facing. At this point the expectation is that the student will have a good level of autonomy.

The HE team supports the students both pastorally and academically. This support will continue throughout the production period and the team will be the primary point of support and communication for the Director.

Requirements and outputs

- Lead on the creation of the BA ensemble production ensuring that it aligns with the general and specific learning outcomes of the module, based on a theme generated by you and is an appropriate connection to the BA ensemble performance. To be agreed on with the BA Ensemble Director, NCCA Producer and Head of HE delivery. **(See module specification CA307)**
- Work with the production team in order to ensure the resulting production matches the working practices and values of the NCCA as an organisation.
- With the assistance of the production team and Course Managers, plan set and implement a timeframe that includes a rehearsal and production schedule. Dates for the creation & production week are set and applicants must be available for these dates.
- Ensure that the BA students are an integral part of the creative process in accordance with the module specifications and empower them to input ideas.
- Attend production meetings outside and within the production period.
- Gain an understanding of the specific module related to the production and ensure the production complements students' learning experience.
- When necessary, work alongside the Head of HE delivery, Higher Education Course Managers, teachers and support staff, both technical and admin, to ensure that your artistic vision can be supported appropriately.
- Abide by all National Centre for Circus Arts' policies and procedures, specifically including those associated with both Safe from Harm and Health and Safety. In conjunction with both the Production Manager and other key staff directly working on the performance play a key role in ensuring that the health and safety of all those involved in the production is assessed and appropriately monitored.
- Communicate with all members of the creative and production team – including but not limited to the Production Manager, Stage Manager, Lighting Designer, Set Designer, Circus Skills Teachers and members of the Higher Education Team.
- The performance must be suitable and accessible for a broad range of audience members.
- Complete a written academic assessment of each student's process in accordance with the assessment criteria for the module attached to the production.
- This is a hands-on role, which includes working directly with our students, production and Higher Education team in a creative and educational environment foremost.

What we are looking for

Essential

- We welcome practitioners from a range of disciplines, but a background in physical performance is an advantage.
- Experience of and commitment to working with students in Higher Education and engaging them in the creative process.
- Strong project management skills.
- Able to demonstrate previous professional directorial or choreographic experience.
- A proven track record of delivering work of high artistic quality within the Higher Education context.
- Experience in providing cohesive written feedback/assessment at the Higher Education level.
- Ability to create a clear cohesive artistic vision and communicate this effectively.
- Able to incorporate the creative propositions of the students.
- Availability for the creation & production week is non-negotiable.

Desirable

- Experience of working within a small to medium size organisation.
- Experience of working with a wide range of Circus skills.
- Experience with the assessment process at the level of Higher Education

Key project information

Project Contract: 17th January – 12th February 2022

Production week: week commencing 7th February 2022

Weekend rehearsals: TBC

Production meetings: TBC

Performance dates: 10th, 11th, 12th February 2022

Student assessment writing: deadline to be established with Head of Academic Administration and student support.

Performance venue: Jacksons Lane

Rehearsal venue: TBC

Production budget: TBC

Fee: £3,500

Application Due Date: 14 October 2021

Interviews held: Week commencing 18 October 2021