

An Exciting Opportunity for a Storyteller...



The Shakespeare Birthplace Trust, working in partnership with Writing West Midlands, is looking for an emerging storyteller to work in Birmingham on a new outreach initiative for primary schools.

From pre-school to PhD students; for leisure learners; academic and teaching professionals; day-trip visitors and Shakespeare pilgrims; families and communities the Shakespeare Birthplace Trust (SBT) offers learning and participation options for people at every age and stage of interest.

Through formal and informal learning opportunities that are tailored to the needs of participants and underpinned by meticulous research, we seek to inspire curiosity and encourage exploration and enjoyment of Shakespeare's life and times; his works on the page; his plays in performance and his evolving global cultural legacy.

Our active approach involves conversation, sharing and participation. It invites participants to reflect on their own life and experiences and those of others to build understanding. It encourages participants to make discoveries and associations of their own and fosters a sense of shared experience and commonality with those from the past. SBT's pathways include on-going, regular, long-term and one-off projects and programmes that are delivered in a range of locations in Stratford-upon-Avon, via outreach and on-line.

From April 2018 until March 2022 the Trust is using Arts Council England funding to support an exciting new outreach initiative, The Shakespeare Birthplace Trust Hubs project for primary schools. The Trust has already established regional Hubs in the following areas: Merseyside, Birmingham, Oxfordshire, London, Nottingham and the North East. A further six Hubs will be established over the next two years.

Each Hub comprises six to eight schools, with each school receiving exciting, creative learning experiences delivered by commissioned arts professionals, all with a Shakespearian twist. By 2021 the Shakespeare Birthplace Trust will have provided opportunities for 20,000 children.

<https://www.shakespeare.org.uk/education/education-projects/hubs-primary-schools/>

In 2019-20 the Trust is delighted to be working in partnership with Writing West Midlands in the Birmingham Hub. Writing West Midlands is the writer development agency for the West Midlands region. It works with writers across the region to help them sustain their creative careers.

Working in The Shakespeare Birthplace Trust Birmingham Hub

The SBT wishes to commission a West Midlands based emerging storyteller to devise workshop content suitable for a Key Stage 2 (KS2) audience and based on one of Shakespeare's plays. The successful applicant will be mentored by the Shakespeare Birthplace Trust and Writing West Midlands.

To qualify you must:

- Live or work in the West Midlands
- Have an interest in and knowledge of Shakespeare's works, and / or life and times
- Be looking to develop and broaden your storytelling career
- Have done some storytelling for children (although not necessarily in a formal educational setting)



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- Have excellent communication skills and be confident talking to children and teachers
- Be available for approximately 5 days (or 10 half-days) between September 2019 and March 2020 for planning and delivery of a workshop in 7 schools
- Be prepared to undergo an enhanced DBS check

We envisage a workshop that

- Is developed in conjunction with the Learning Department at the Shakespeare Birthplace Trust and Writing West Midlands
- Offers children a fun and educational early encounter with Shakespeare
- Reflects the Shakespeare Birthplace Trust's educational ethos
- Is inclusive and accessible for all
- Provides a memorable learning experience for children and teachers
- Is delivered within a maximum budget of £1300, including artist's fees, props and travel expenses

To support this work the Shakespeare Birthplace Trust and Writing West Midlands will provide:

- An introduction to primary schools in Birmingham
- Access to SBT's archives, Collections and historic Shakespeare family homes

Additional benefits include:

- Access to the expertise, experience and specialist knowledge of SBT's team
- Mentoring and support including participation in Room 204 Writer Development Programme delivered by Writing West Midlands
www.writingwestmidlands.org/writers/room-204-writer-development-programme/

Application process

If you wish to apply for this role please email your CV, your proposal (no more than 400 words) and a covering letter, explaining why you want to take up this opportunity, to the Shakespeare Birthplace Trust at sbt.education@shakespeare.org.uk

Your proposal should include:

- Outline of the Shakespeare play chosen, with details of how to bring the play to life for a KS2 audience. (Please avoid *Romeo and Juliet* as the children have already experienced this play)
- Proposed props, costumes or equipment
- Duration of the workshop
- How the proposed project responds to the brief
- How audiences and participants will engage with it
- A budget breakdown

We do not wish to limit an applicant's thinking so a detailed role description will be created with the successful applicant to reflect their proposal.

The closing date for applications is 17.00hrs on Monday 19 August 2019 and interviews will take place on Friday 30 August.



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