



Emerging Artist – Hoot! Children’s Comedy Festival

Dirliebane Theatre Company

Introduction

This Emerging Artist opportunity is part of HOOT!, the new Children’s Comedy Theatre Festival created and produced by **Dirliebane Theatre Company in collaboration with Perth Theatre**. Dirliebane specialise in clown theatre for babies, children, young people, and their families, creating gentle, character driven clowning that is naïve, optimistic, fun, light, and full of heart. Their work centres on strong, engaging characters that young audiences can connect with, laugh with, and see themselves in.

The Hoot! Children’s Comedy Theatre Festival marks an exciting new chapter for Dirliebane as they expand this ethos working with a wide variety of companies and artists, and creating their first Artist-in-Residence programme, celebrating humour, creativity, and the power of laughter. This programme places professional artists directly into schools to inspire pupils and co-create joyful, original work.

About Dirliebane Theatre Company

Dirliebane Theatre Company was created by Fiona Ferrier and Rachel Colles in 2016 to make theatre clown performances and creative engagement programmes with and for babies, children, and young people.

Dirliebane develop their shows in collaboration with children and young people, using their voices, ideas, and experiences to shape stories that resonate at key stages in their lives. Their engagement programme is rooted in creative and immersive clowning, inviting young people to explore their imaginations, emotions, and perspectives through play.

“That was perfect. It was a perfect show. There is nothing else out there like it. The children loved it, you were the kids and they were you” – Depute Head East Craigs Primary School

Over the last year we have developed a Learning and Engagement programme across Perth & Kinross to engage children and their families in creative, immersive play based in clowning, working with a wide range of participants. We aim to grow this programme to be long term and sustainable.

We also began our Clown Play programme running weekend workshops for artists, practitioners, teachers, and anyone else who is interested in learning about theatre clown and how they can use it in their own practice.

We are a small team with a large family of long-term artists. We believe strongly in family & carer friendly working and support this through our production planning. We create strong partnerships and benefit from our long-term collaboration with Perth Theatre and Starcatchers alongside many groups and organisations in the communities we work in.

In 2024 Dirliebane became Perth Theatre’s Children’s Theatre Company in residence. We are part of Creative Scotland’s Multi Year Funding portfolio.

You can find information, photos, trailers, and feedback for all our work on our website www.dirliebane.org.uk

Dirliebane Theatre – CLOWN, CONNECTION and COMMUNITY

Role Overview

We are seeking an enthusiastic, curious, early career arts practitioner to join the Hoot! Children's Comedy Festival as an Emerging Artist. You will work closely with the Artist in Residence, supporting comedy focused workshops in primary schools and contributing to the development of a brand-new performance for the festival. We are looking for two emerging artists who want to create work with and for children and young people, want to gain experience in participatory work, facilitation and workshop delivery and have a developing practice in comedy, theatre, clowning, storytelling, or related performance disciplines.

Alongside hands on creative experience, you will receive four dedicated training days designed to support your artistic development, build confidence, and deepen your understanding of clowning, comedy, and participatory practice with children and young people.

Who we are looking for

This role is ideal for a performance artist at the early stages of their artistic journey who is excited to learn, collaborate, and grow within a supportive, playful environment. Your career could be based in theatre, dance or music.

There is no age barrier to applying. We recognise that artists emerge at different times and through different routes, and we welcome anyone who identifies themselves as emerging in this field.

We are actively seeking people local to Perth and surrounding areas, and welcome applications from people who feel they've had fewer opportunities because of the financial circumstances of their background. This includes, though is not limited to, people who:

- had a parent or carer who was unemployed or in low paid or insecure work
- received free school meals or other forms of financial support
- Have experienced financial barriers linked to caring responsibilities
- lived in areas with limited access to arts, culture, or extracurricular opportunities
- come from families who received benefits e.g. universal credit

We will not ask you to share personal details. We simply want to make clear that your lived experience is valued, and that we are committed to reducing barriers for people from low socioeconomic backgrounds.

Key Responsibilities

Workshop Support

- Assist the Artist in Residence in delivering engaging, age-appropriate comedy workshops in schools.
- Help create a playful, inclusive environment where children feel confident to explore and express themselves.
- Support workshop preparation, delivery, and reflection.

Creative Development

- Contribute ideas and creative input to the development of a new performance piece to be performed by the children at the Festival
- Participate in rehearsals, sharing sessions, and festival events.
- Observe and learn from the Artist in Residence and Artistic Directors.

Administration & Communication

- Maintain clear communication with the Artist in Residence, festival staff, and schools.

- Contribute to evaluation processes, including feedback forms and reflective sessions.
- Uphold safeguarding, health & safety, and festival policies at all times.

Training & Professional Development

In addition to the clown training already timetabled in the schedule, you will receive four dedicated training days, tailored to your learning goals and supported by the Dirliebane team. These will include:

- Child Protection Training
- A one-to-one meeting to discuss your training ambitions, learning outcomes, and development plan.
- Visits to other Artist in Residence school sessions and workshops, observing different approaches to clowning and cocreation.
- A mid project review of your learning outcomes, with space to reflect and adjust goals.
- A final review session to consolidate learning and plan next steps.
- Additional shadowing or training opportunities as they arise, aligned with your development plan.

Person Specification

Essential

- Strong interest in working with children and young people.
- A developing practice in comedy, theatre, clowning, storytelling, or related performance disciplines.
- Curiosity, openness, and willingness to learn.
- Ability to work collaboratively and supportively within a team.
- Good communication and organisational skills.
- Local to Perth or surrounding area.
- Enhanced PVG (or willingness to obtain).

Desirable

- Experience assisting or delivering creative arts workshops.
- Experience or interest in creating new performance work.

What We Offer

- A supportive, nurturing environment with guidance from the Artist in Residence and Artistic Directors.
- Hands on experience in workshop delivery and creative development.
- Four dedicated training days tailored to your learning goals.
- Opportunities to observe, shadow, and learn from experienced artists.
- The chance to develop your artistic voice within a joyful, playful festival context.
- A meaningful role contributing to children's creative confidence and joy.

Terms and Conditions

Contract: Fixed term Residency – Freelance Contract

Location: Primary School in Perth and Perth Theatre, mostly in person

Reporting to: Artist in Residency / Freelance Producer / Artistic Directors

Fee: £2,750 for 25 days equivalent work @ £110 per day

Timeline

- 1 Days June 2026 – 16th TBC
- 1 Day July 2026 – 22nd, 23rd, 30th or 31st TBC
- Week beginning 10th August – 1 day TBC
- 17th August – 1 day
- Week beginning 24th August to 28th September – 2 days per week

- Week beginning 5th October – 5 days (1 TBC & 4 from 8th–11th October)
- Week beginning 19th October – 1 day
- Week beginning 26th October – 1 day
- Four additional days to be agreed as part of the development of a training programme

Final dates to be confirmed with successful candidates and our partner schools

Reasonable travel expenses provided and will be discussed with the successful candidate.

A PVG will be required for this role.

This is a freelance position. The appointed artist will be responsible for managing their own tax, National Insurance contributions, and any other statutory obligations associated with self-employment. Training and support to do this will be provided if you have not done this before.

How to Apply

To apply

1. Please submit a CV (maximum 2 A4 sides)
If you do not have a CV there is guidance around writing one here:
[How to write a CV | National Careers Service](#)
2. Please download and complete the Application Cover Sheet: [link here](#)
3. Please download and complete the Application form: [link here](#)
You are welcome to apply using video or audio instead of a written application, please respond to the questions on the form. This can be in any format that works for you: recorded on a phone, laptop, or other device. There is no expectation of high-quality production; we are interested in what you have to say, not how it is filmed or edited.
4. Please submit your CV, Application Cover Sheet and Application form to info@dirliebane.org.uk

by 12pm on Wednesday 6th May

If you need support or reasonable adjustments to submit your application in this way, please let us know.

As part of your application, we would appreciate if you could take a couple of minutes to complete the Equal Opportunities form. [Equality & Diversity Monitoring Form – Fill in form](#)

If you would like to chat to us about the role before applying, please email rachel@dirliebane.org.uk with Emerging Artist in Residence in the subject line.

Your application will be read by our Co-Artistic Directors, Rachel Colles & Fiona Ferrier and Sharon May our Freelance Producer

Interview Process

Date: **25th May 2026**

The interview will take place in person at Perth Theatre between 09:00 and 13:30

Candidates can claim up to £30 towards travel/childcare if called for interview. We can work around your schedule within the timings for the interview.

Commitment to Inclusion

We actively encourage applications from people who are currently underrepresented in the arts, including but not limited to global majority artists, disabled artists, neurodivergent artists, LGBTQIA+ artists, and those from lower income, working-class or nontraditional backgrounds. We recognise that people may have faced barriers linked to family circumstances, financial insecurity, limited access to cultural opportunities, or challenging school experiences. These lived experiences enrich our work, and we are committed to creating an environment where all artists feel welcomed and supported.

We're committed to ensuring our application and recruitment processes are inclusive and accessible to everyone. To help us take positive action where appropriate, we encourage you to tell us about any barriers you've experienced and their effects, if you would like to do so.

If you require any reasonable adjustments or accommodation for applying and/or interviews, please let us know. We are committed to building an inclusive workplace where everyone can thrive.

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Contact info@dirliebane.org.uk

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