



An Exciting Opportunity to Take Part in a Professional Production

Mermaid a bold reimagining of the story by Hans Christian Andersen **Participation Project**

Shared Experience

Shared Experience is an award-winning theatre company with an unrivalled reputation for creating inspiring, contemporary adaptations of classic literature.

Mermaid

Mermaid, a mythic coming of age story, will tour throughout the UK during spring 2015. The performance will involve a chorus of young women in each city who will conjure the unearthly sound of the mermaids. Participants will also take part in a national project exploring themes around identity, body image and self-esteem that are central to the production.

Taking Part

- The project is open to young women aged 14 to 19 years. They can apply to take part in the project by completing an application form that will be downloadable from Shared Experience's website from November 2014. From the applications received, 15 young people will be invited to join the Mermaid Chorus at each venue on the 2015 *Mermaid* tour.
- Chorus members will attend a day long preparatory workshop held on a Saturday two weeks before production week, led by two Shared Experience facilitators and lasting six hours including one hour for lunch. All participants will go on to take part in the *Mermaid* show.
- We are committed to working with a wide range of young people from a variety of backgrounds. Participants do not have to be the best singers, just enthusiastic and willing to get involved with a passion for drama.
- During production week the young people will become a member of the *Mermaid* team taking part in the technical rehearsal and performing in the show alongside the professional cast.
- Participants must be available to attend the technical rehearsal, which will take place on the Tuesday during production week, and five evening performances running from Tuesday to Saturday. (Watch out for tour dates coming soon). They will also be required to attend one midweek matinee and one Saturday matinee. Call times for Chorus members will be one hour before the show goes up. Show start times will vary depending on the venue. A full schedule will be provided.
- To perform in the show participants will be required to take two afternoons off school in one week.

Preparatory Workshop

- The workshop will be held on a Saturday two weeks before production week. It will be run by two Shared Experience facilitators and will last for six hours with one hour included for lunch.
- The workshop is split into two sessions. The first session will explore the *Mermaid* production and Shared Experience's rehearsal process. Chorus members will participate in exercises the professional cast use in rehearsals and they will have the opportunity to work on the opening scene of the play. The young people will create their own underwater world and gain an insight into how Shared Experience create the physical and theatrical worlds of their productions.
- The second session will look at the themes of self-image and identity that resonate in *Mermaid*. The workshop aims to draw attention to the pressures that challenge young women and the participants will be encouraged to unpick and challenge society's image of the so called 'perfect woman' to empower them to make their own choices about self-image.

For more information about how to take part please contact:

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