

TURNED ON ITS HEAD

DANCERS RECRUITMENT PACK

Turned On Its Head Early Years Dance Theatre are seeking two dancers of **global majority heritage*** with relevant professional performance experience to join the exciting journey to re-imagine their hit show 'Shiny' for 0–4-year-olds and their adults which is touring the UK during 2026/27.



Our story, our mission...

Access, inclusion and equity are the heartbeat of our work. During a recent tour of our work we noted that the majority of our audiences were of global majority heritage. We therefore decided to set out, supported by appropriate advisers, to re-work the choreography and imagery of 'Shiny' to better represent, reflect, respect, welcome and value these audiences.

And one of the key ingredients in this, naturally, will be to offer them performers who look and feel familiar to them.

Though the work already exists in one form we will be re-visiting its movement, look, sound and props with regular guidance from our advisers, to make the work more recognisable and relevant for our audiences. We imagine that the dancers we work with will also be a pro-active part of this process actively sharing some of their cultural knowledge and lived experience during devising. This includes meeting and supportive interaction with our advisers, the Culture and Equity Group (CEAG) - who are from a range of global majority heritage backgrounds and share our passion for arts, dance, education, creative parenting and social change.

Turned On It's Head is not global majority-led, therefore whilst still holding and taking responsibility for the whole process, we are keen to learn from generous, patient and positive dance artists/performers who are excited about and open to the idea of what we are setting out to do and similarly value inclusion, access and equity with an authentic interest in co-creation and collaborating with very young children.

In other words, we want to welcome this cast of 'Shiny' into the company as fellow creatives first and foremost and understanding cultural background and personal experiences are crucial to the new life of this work. Our commitment is to treat them and our cast with respect,

support and courageous listening, rising to the challenge of genuine, committed, long-term allyship.



**By global majority heritage we mean: People who identify as having full, partial or mixed heritage/s from indigenous peoples of the global south, the African Diaspora, MENA+ (Middle East and North African + adjacent countries/SWANA (South West Asian and North African) region and/or who may describe themselves as dual or mixed heritage, Black, Brown, South Asian, East and South East Asian (ESEA).*

We understand that not everyone uses the same terminology in this sphere and in our communications we aim to happily embrace the verbal or written language dancers prefer to use to describe themselves and their identities.

Job Description

Essential Qualities

Turned On its Head's unique and highly developed approach needs dancers who can value & be receptive to, the play of very young children, able to enter into improvised dance with them through performance. Essential qualities are being:-

- Adaptable and approachable with a strong sense of fun and adventure
- Perceptive and able to 'tune in' to other people
- Able to work in a collaborative, multi-disciplinary creative team
- Open to learning and committed to developing their craft/ practice

Essential Skills/Experience

We are looking for two dancers any gender expression and age group with:-

- Experience of contemporary dance technique/devising processes
- Experience of working with young children (By young children we mean under 6 years old - this could be in regular classes you teach or assist with or single significant projects which built your skills in this area)
- Contact improvisation skills and/or experience in dance involving disabled people
- Professional dance training/performing experience in shows/projects/works
- Skill in a percussive rhythmic practice e.g. Kathak, Gum Boot, Tap.

Timeline

Dancers must be available for all of the dates for the project/s applied for.

Performance/creation dates:

23rd-27th March 2026 1st residency Pen Green, Corby, Northamptonshire

5-10th October 2nd residency Stretford, Manchester

23rd-27th Nov Rehearsals (Manchester)

1st-4th Dec Rehearsals (Manchester)

5 th and 6 th December	Performances Wonder Arts (St Helens)
9 th Dec	Rehearsal (Manchester)
10 th Dec	Tech and get in Z Arts, Manchester
11 th -13th Dec	Performances Z Arts
17 th -20th Dec	Performances Z Arts
22 nd -24 th Dec	Performances Z Arts
5 and 6 th Feb 2027	Performances Made With Many, Corby
10 th -14 th Mar 2027	Performances Polka Theatre, London
17 th -21 st Mar 2027	Performances Polka Theatre, London
12 th -16 th Apr 2027	Performances Playground, Kent

Fee & Expenses

Our rates of pay are £800 per full week plus travel, per diems and accommodation are provided when on tour/working away from home.

Weeks that are less than 5 days will be worked as a day rate of £160 a day.

How to apply.

Turned On Its Head is an LGBTQIA+ friendly organisation and we welcome applications from D/deaf, disabled, neurodivergent dancers and groups of people who have been traditionally under-represented in the arts.

Please send us:-

1. A CV, headshot and show reel showing your performance experience/skills
2. A short statement of **500 words maximum OR video/vimeo/audio link of 5 minutes total (separate from your showreel)** telling us about yourself in relation to the essential qualities and skills listed above and answering the following questions:

- What draws you to this role?
- What would the 3-year-old you liked to have seen in a participatory performance for children?
- Tell us about the connection you see between our project vision and your cultural heritage/practices? What do you want to share with our audiences?

We encourage you to get in touch to discuss any access needs and if there is anything further we can do that would make applying easier.

Recruitment timeline:

Mon 2 nd Feb 9am	Deadline submit above documents (or video)
Mon 9 th Feb 5pm	Notification
Stage one - early Feb	Selected dancers will be invited for video call with Liz Clark, Artistic Director of Turned on Its Head and Louise Katerega, TOIH Cultural Ambassador & CEAG lead Times to be arranged with individuals Notification mid Feb.
Stage two - 23 rd -27 th March	Selected dancers invited to paid residency work with Turned On Its Head, spending time immersed in our working methods and interactions with children 0-4 and their adults

30th March

Decision and job offers made.