

The Greenhouse Rep – Audition Information Pack



THE GREENHOUSE
THEATRE

"Keep an eye on this young company. They're the future. Happening now." – The Zero Wastrels, Ed Fringe 2019.

The Greenhouse Background

Despite caring deeply about climate change, most people feel helpless to affect its progress. [In a recent study by the BSA](#) the average person believed there was just a 44% chance that their own actions would have an effect on climate change. But in the same study, 70% of people said they are worried about the impact that climate change will have on their lives. Clearly, the information is out there – people know we are in trouble – but they feel that their actions just won't have an impact.

We're not talking about protest or political action here. Those things are incredibly important, but they have a tendency to shift the focus – not unfairly – away from individuals and on to institutions and governments. In a way, that contributes to the widespread sense of helplessness. Large institutions should be held accountable, but we need to remember that change can and must happen at every level. We want to empower individuals, and help them remember that small changes can still help in big ways.

So, we focus on the personal, day-to-day decisions. Choosing a plant-based meal, mending old clothes, recycling some waste-paper. [According to the New York Times](#), if each individual American reduced their meat consumption by just 25%, we would save about 82 million tons of greenhouse gas emissions annually. It's a small action at an individual level, but clearly it adds up to have a big impact. Which is exactly what we need – and fast.

Enter *The Greenhouse*, the first ever zero-waste theatrical project in the UK. Created for the Edinburgh Fringe 2019, this project engaged with over 160,000 people online and sold over 2,000 tickets. It was featured in The Guardian, The New York Times, and on Radio 4, as well as winning the *Three Weeks Editor's Choice Award* and the *Theatre Weekly Best Venue* festival award. And all to promote one simple message:

Your individual actions can make a HUGE difference!

What we do

Shows – *Emotional Connections* – *The Greenhouse* presents a rotating programme of shows from many different genres. This year, we're presenting six shows – everything from dance to Shakespeare to fairy-tales. Each is created to discuss our relationship with the natural environment in a unique and immediate way, sparking an emotional connection amongst a wide variety of audiences. They are presented in a way that encourages '[intimacy](#)' between audiences and creatives, humanising the climate change debate. The venue is naturally lit and set up in-the-round, meaning performers share the space with the audience. Creatives hang around for ten minutes after the show to meet audiences, answer their questions, or just talk. No fear, no facts and figures, and most importantly, no lecturing. Simply a considerate, '[welcoming](#)', deeply human exploration of why the planet is worth protecting and what these individuals can do to protect it, encouraging debate and allowing audiences to reach their own conclusions.

Workshops – *Practical Skills and Tools* – Once audience members have begun building emotional connections with the natural environment, our programme of workshops gives them practical skills and tools to do something about it. Generally, our workshops are aimed at supporting people to be more sustainable in their everyday lives, although some are specifically aimed at creating sustainability within the arts. Examples of workshops from *The Greenhouse 2019* include *Zero-Waste Construction*, *Zero-Waste Marketing*, and *Storytelling from Nature*. We believe one of the reasons people feel helpless to affect the course of climate change is because they feel they don't have the relevant skills. This part of the project sets out to combat that idea. We are also dedicated to sharing the skills and experience we have developed by working on this project, and our workshop programme is just one of the ways we are able to do this.

Social Events and Outreach – *Building a Community* – It's much easier to feel significant when you're part of a group. In the same BSA survey mentioned earlier, the average person believed there was a 58% chance that collective action could have an effect on climate change. Our events programme brings people together in a sustainable setting – from nights of live music to nature walks – to remind them that there are plenty of other people fighting the good fight. This sense of collectivism inspires hope, helping people to realise that it's not just them against the climate crisis – they are one of hundreds, thousands, millions of people across the world who, together, can make a huge difference.

Our outreach focuses on organisations rather than individuals, bringing artists together under a set of common, incentivised goals to create a community of organisations with a demonstrable commitment to building a greener future.

The Greenhouse is a holistic project. That means we practice what we preach. It's not enough to just encourage environmental practices, we put our money where our mouths are and lead the way in making those practices a reality. For more information on how we do this, head to our website: www.thegreenhousetheatre.com

Crucially, absolutely everything about this project, from our shows to our marketing policies to our venue itself is completely zero-waste.

Auditions - The Basics

Who we are: The Greenhouse is the first-zero waste venue in the UK. It was piloted at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival 2019, with eight shows that each addressed the climate emergency.

The Schedule: In 2021, we are expanding with a four-week run in London (28th May – 20th June). We will then be opening in Bedford in partnership with *The Place, Bedford* for found months, from October 2021 to January 2022.

The Programme: We will programme three shows to run in rep for our run in London (10 performances each). These shows will then transfer to Bedford in October, where they will each run for one week (7 performances).

The Shows: The Greenhouse is committed to programming work that addresses our relationship with the environment and the climate crisis. All of our shows should discuss this issue in some way. Furthermore, we take this one step further, imbuing sustainable practice throughout the organisational and rehearsal process. With our support, you will commit to making your show in a completely zero-waste way. We are looking for shows that are:

- Hopeful: Underpinning everything we display is the idea that things can be different.
- Active: Work at *The Greenhouse* will make active partners out of passive spectators.
- Connected: Visiting *The Greenhouse* will bring a sense of togetherness and belonging.

Check out our [Guiding Principles](#) for more information, or look at our [blog about our Artistic Direction for 2021](#).

What we're looking for: *The Greenhouse* is currently looking for 7 to 8 performers, of all genders, ethnicities and abilities to join us in helping to make the world a greener place.

- We are looking for performers of all experience levels, but are particularly interested in working with creatives aged 16 to 25.
- Performers who have experience at the Edinburgh Fringe, or fringe theatre environments more generally.
- Creatives who care deeply about the environment, and believe the arts have a crucial role to play in mitigating the climate crisis.
- People who are personable and friendly. Willing to engage audiences in meaningful discussion about your show, the project, and the climate crisis more generally.

The Role:

- You are auditioning for a place in *The Greenhouse's* Rep company for 2021.
- That means you will rehearse for a two-week period, after which you will perform in two shows at *The Greenhouse London*. These will be performed on varying dates across the month of June.
- Those two shows will then transfer to Bedford in October.
- The exact shows and roles available have not yet been selected – they will be confirmed in March 2021.

What we offer

- £1,050 for your work in London. This includes two weeks of rehearsals (April 2021), **and performing in two shows**. Each show will be performed 10 times.
 - If extra rehearsals are required in this period, you will be compensated at a rate of £9.20 an hour.
- £700 for your work in Bedford. This includes 15 hours of ‘top-up’ rehearsals, and up to 7 performances (October 2021). Again, this is for rehearsing and performing in 2 shows.
- Accommodation organised and paid for in Bedford as required.
- Casting from our 2021 reparatory pool of actors.
- Mentoring from *The Greenhouse’s* Executive Team.
- Support for the development of your show from all members of our team.
- Support in creating a zero-waste, environmentally friendly show.
- Exclusive talks and workshops to help you develop your sustainable practice.
- Regular internal social events – from drinks to scavenger hunts to group meals – to meet and socialise with *The Greenhouse* family.
- Build connections with other young and emerging creatives who have an eye for art and social responsibility.
- The chance to make a real impact on the sustainability of both the theatre industry, and the world as a whole.
- Preferential invitation to auditions and other creative opportunities in the future.

What we expect:

- Good time-management, arriving promptly for rehearsals and call times, and adhering to the venue manager’s instructions.
- Where applicable, you may be asked to help out with basic organisational or practical tasks for the delivery of the project overall.
- The work you make should follow our zero-waste practices. Furthermore, we expect participants in the project to take a curious approach to sustainability, and to actively improve their personal sustainability where possible.
- We expect all members of the Greenhouse team to act with kindness and care to everyone. Please see our Equal Opportunities Policy for more information.
- The Greenhouse is very much a collective effort. We expect everyone to take responsibility for working to make the project as awesome, far-reaching, and important as it can possibly be.
- Play an active part in *The Greenhouse’s* internal community, supporting other members of the team and helping to create a positive, friendly atmosphere within the project.
- Attendance at mandatory meetings/events. This will include an induction, informational events to share project details, and health and safety meetings.
- Whilst attendance at other events (internal or external) is not mandatory, we would highly encourage it as a fantastic way to get to know the team!

Audition Process

Our auditions will have a two-stage process.

Stage 1:

- Please send the following information to auditions@thegreenhousetheatre.com in whatever format is most suited to you (whether that be written, video or audio presentation) before **23:59 on Friday 12th February**.
 - Your CV
 - A photo of yourself
 - An application form
 - Any other supporting materials you feel may be relevant
- We will respond with acknowledgement of receipt within two working days.
- We will contact you before 24th February if we would like to invite you to audition.

Stage 2:

- Auditions will take place in either the week commencing the **22nd of Feb**, or the **1st March**.
- If possible, auditions will take place in-person with appropriate COVID safety measures. They will likely take place in London.
- If you are not able to attend auditions in London, or if COVID restrictions prevent in-person auditions, you will be asked to audition online via Zoom or self-tape.
- Following auditions, we will respond to you with the result of your audition within a week!

Rehearsal and Performance Process

Then, we will begin our process for rehearsal and performance.

- **Internal casting** – once shows have been selected, directors will choose their cast from the reparatory company. No-one will be cast in more than two shows.
- **Rehearsals** – rehearsals will take place over a two-week period in April, amounting to a total of 60 hours work. This will likely be 12th – 25th of April. If selected for *The Greenhouse Rep*, please keep these two weeks free.
 - Rehearsal dates will be confirmed with you at least two weeks in advance.
 - If any extra rehearsal is needed beyond the pre-agreed 60 hours, it will also be confirmed with you two weeks in advance. Your director will work with you to find a time that suits your schedule. You will be compensated a further £9.20 per hour for any further rehearsals.
- **Performances (London)** – the venue will be open in London from 28th May – 20th June. Each show is expected to last 60 to 90 minutes, and is performed 10 times. You receive £25 per show performance. Shows will be performed in rotation, with the following schedule:
 - Show 1: Monday and Friday evenings, Sunday Matinees.
 - Show 2: Wednesday and Saturday evenings, Friday Matinees.
 - Show 3: Thursday and Sunday evenings, Saturday Matinees.
 - N.B these days are subject to change based on availability of performers and creatives

- **Rehearsals and Performances (Bedford)** – the shows you perform in will then transfer with The Greenhouse to Bedford, where they will be performed for one week each (7 performances, including 1 matinee). You will rehearse for 15 hours in the week before your show opens. You will be paid £30 per performance.

Other Information

The Greenhouse Theatre C.I.C. are committed to providing and promoting equal opportunities in every aspect of their work. Our Equal Opportunities Policy is available for download with this information pack.

The Greenhouse is committed to giving new voices a platform to develop their ideas and practices. The application process is open to all, but we particularly encourage applications from young creatives, ethnic minorities, disabled candidates and communities currently under-represented in the theatrical community.

If you feel that this application process is not appropriate for you, or would like any of our information in another format, please get in touch either by emailing sarah@thegreenhousetheatre.com or by calling 07570 113 151.