

CASTING CALL

About Hospital Doors

Hospital Doors is a work-in-progress script developed through a series of interviews and workshops with community groups of disabled people, unpaid carers and LGBTQ+ adults. Now with Act 1 drafted by our CEO and Artistic Director, Matt Harper-Hardcastle, the script is ready to go into a period of R&D, to shape the characters, dialogue and structure further, with the aim of presenting a rehearsed reading to an audience of community members and industry professionals.

The Story

The play explores family dynamics and the roles we all take up or are handed to us. Its current format explores the relationships between 3 very different siblings as they grapple with the care needed for their terminally ill father. This aims to be relatable, poignant, and to make conversations around care, disability, sexuality and societal stereotypes accessible, compelling and relatable to its audience.

"Matt Harper-Hardcastle has developed a touching and heartfelt play adapted from community groups to talk about the weight of care responsibility across a family to have an honest conversation about who we see as carers." (Kelly Culver, Grand Opera House York/ATG)

Casting Breakdown

Next Door But One is looking to recruit 1 actor for this R&D (the other 2 roles have been cast).
The ideal candidate will be based in Yorkshire and have equally strong backgrounds/interests in performance, workshopping and script development.

Role - Andi (M, 35-40)
Andi hasn't been home for years; as the queer, middle child in a turbulent household he took the first opportunity he could to create a new life for himself away from it all. Now he's home. In a town that couldn't accept him, with an older sister that still can't understand him, and with a need to not shrink back into the timid teenager he once was. He's worked on himself far too much to let that happen. Andi is feisty, assured and playful, but with a tenderness and vulnerability that rises to the surface when faced with shadows of his past.

As we shape the characters, their voices and their narratives, we want the actors to inform the development of them through lived-experience (both personal and profession). With this, we are aiming to cast an actor who is representative of the character's full identity and therefore want to meet queer, male (including non-binary) actors, with a playing age between 35-40.

Dates And Fees

- R&D Dates: Monday 6th November - Friday 10th November.
- Rehearsed Reading Date: Sunday 12th November.
- Location: Theatre @ 41, Monkgate, York, YO317PB.
- Fee: £550, inclusive of travel. This is a freelance contract and actors will be responsible for paying their own tax.

About Next Door But One

We're an award-winning LGBTQ+ and disability-led theatre company based in York, promoting creative skills and encouraging community cohesion, particularly with those who face barriers to accessing theatre. Our established programme focuses on workshops and performances for and with cohorts of the community with disabilities, mental ill health, those experiencing bereavement, those who are carers and individuals from the LGBTQ+ community. Our activity ranges from workshops to touring performances, training programmes and professional development opportunities. We currently work in partnership with The Snappy Trust, Camphill Village Trust, Converge, York Carers Centre, York Explore and Clifton Green Primary School. Our mission is to connect people to their creativity and community through the theatre we make and the stories we tell. Our vision is for the arts to play an integral role in unleashing the true potential of every community; to tell every story, to hear every voice and champion the contribution every person makes. Through theatre we can show a world where everything is possible!

As an equal opportunities and Disability Confident Committed employer, and PiPA Charter Partner we are always happy to discuss solutions that allow people to balance and contribute all aspects of their identity with their working life. We will always endeavour where possible to put in place practices for all our company members to contribute their fullest. If you need any support in applying, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

www.nextdoorbutone.co.uk

To Apply

Please complete this Equal Opportunities Monitoring Form, and send the following to ndb1arts@gmail.com:

- CV or Spotlight link/equivalent
- Showreel (optional)
- Selftape of the short character speech (see appendix). Please note this can be read and does not need to be learned.

DEADLINE FOR APPLICATIONS: FRIDAY 8th September, 5pm

Appendix

Text for Role - Andi

ANDI

(Talking to his sister Jo, as they look out of a hospital window, across the town they both grew up in, but had very different experiences of)

That park, I ran through after school, because the 6th Formers would chase me and shout 'pufter'. I had my first kiss with Michael Ray in the changing rooms at Topman, and mum's friend Lynette worked there and I was petrified for a month after, that she'd seen us and she'd say something. I only ever went to the arcade with Scouts and I hated it; every time we'd sit on the motorbikes and talk about which girl from school we fancied most, and I'd clam up, like everything would tighten and I'd just say 'Rosie Fielding' because most other boys did. And do you remember my 18th night out? I made such a fuss about staying at the bottom end of town. Toby used to drink with Dad and every time I'd see him he'd say 'So which football team are you supporting now?' and when I said 'none' he'd look at dad and say 'he's soft your kid'. Dad didn't say anything. Sometimes he'd laugh along. And then when I started getting the bus home from school, when mum was sick, it'd drop me outside his pub. And he would always be outside smoking and he'd wave at me and say 'Here he is - Andi Pansy'. Ali and Duncan from the year above heard one day, and then shouted it every time I got off the bus until they left school.

This place looks a whole lot different to you and me. You fit. I got pushed. That's why I don't come back. It's not that I can't be bothered. Or don't care about you. It's because I can't. My body tightens just like it used to.

I get what you mean about dad. I do. But I spent 18 years here making myself smaller. So small I almost disappeared. Seriously. We'll figure something out. But I won't do that again. I've worked so hard since then to move away from it.

END