



Next Door But One - Casting Callout - *When Robins Appear* (Schools and Community Tour) 2025

Next Door But One are seeking an actor to join the team for their new winter show, *When Robins Appear*. We are looking for an actor experienced in children's theatre, is a confident singer and enjoys a creative and collaborative rehearsal process.

About '*When Robins Appear*'

This December, get ready to step into a world of wonder, sparkle and festive fun as Next Door But One brings a brand new play to life, bursting with music, puppets, and glitter.

Something feels a little different this year... The snow has fallen, the winter stars are twinkling, but the sparkle of Christmas seems to be missing. Can two friends, facing big changes like moving house, starting new schools and a first Christmas without grandma, find the magic again?

With the help of a magical robin, they're whisked away on a joyful journey through their favourite Christmas memories! From festive food and colourful fairy lights, to joyful songs and thoughtful gifts, they soon discover that the real sparkle of Christmas isn't found under the tree — it's in the laughter, love and unforgettable moments we share together and that can live forever in our hearts.

When Robins Appear will be a heart-warming, high-energy show created especially for KS2 students. Packed with catchy songs, enchanting puppetry and plenty of audience interaction, it's a festive celebration that gently explores big feelings around change, loss, friendship and what really makes Christmas special.

Co-created with children and young people from across our community - including young carers, those in care, youth theatres, and disability and mental health support services, this show is as inclusive and meaningful as it is magical.

Our robin will be bringing the festivities to libraries and primary schools across York in December.

About Next Door But One

Next Door But One (NDB1) are 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, unpaid carers, girls and women from lower socioeconomic backgrounds, and individuals from the LGBTQ+ community. Our activity ranges from workshops to touring performances, training programmes and professional development opportunities. Our partners currently include The Snappy Trust, Camphill Village Trust, Converge, York Carers Centre, University of York, Menfulness, Our Time 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!

In 2023 we joined Arts Council England's Investment Programme as a National Portfolio Organisation, became a Visit York Tourism Award Winner in 'Resilience and Innovation', and recently won the award for 'Outstanding Talent' in the York Mix Hero Awards, 'Community Changemaker' and 'Inclusive Business' at the 2024 York Enterprise Awards, and 'Practising Well' in the Culture, Health and Wellbeing Alliance Awards. For more information visit: www.nextdoorbutone.co.uk

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 have any questions or would like support applying, please email janew.ndb1@gmail.com.

Role.

The script is currently in R&D and will only be finalised once the full cast is formed. The show is a three-hander and will include multi-roling. 2 of the actors have already been cast and we are therefore casting for the remaining actor; roles will be assigned when casting is complete, and possibly within the rehearsal process. We are therefore looking for an actor who enjoys multiroling (playing a 12 year old to a grandparent!), thrives in a collaborative process, has a child-like energy, who is a confident singer and has experience in children's theatre.

We are particularly interested in meeting Disabled, LGBTQ+ and Global Majority actors.

Due to the local touring model we are looking to cast an actor based in York, has a base in York or is within commutable distance.

Timeline

Sunday 7th September, 10am	Applications Close
Wednesday 1st October	In person Auditions (York - Friargate Theatre)
Friday 10th October	Roles Confirmed by this date
Monday 24th November-Friday 12th December	Rehearsals
Saturday 13th December-Sunday 21st December	Tour

Fee

Fees are based on £610 per week, plus additional payments for extra days, longer calls or other amendments to scheduling (such as shortened lunch breaks).

Application process

Please send a self tape of:

- The following script (reading either role).
- You singing an upbeat childrens/pop/christmas song that demonstrates your voice/range (1 minute max)

Send this along with your CV/spotlight (or similar) and a short statement as to why this role/production is of interest to you, to hello.ndb1@gmail.com by 10am on Sunday 7th September 2025

If you are shortlisted for an audition, we will contact you by Friday 12th September.

The auditions will be held in York on Wednesday 1st October. (please note: these will be group/workshop auditions)

Notes on self tape: We are not looking at your filming skills or your set up, we just want to see and hear how you would approach the script, character, and singing. However you want to incorporate the lines of the character opposite you is up to you - have someone read in off camera, pre-record the other lines, leave gaps where the other line is. We'd prefer self tapes to be sent as files, Youtube links (or similar) or cloud storage links (e.g. Gdrive) as platforms like WeTransfer have expiration dates and we would hate to miss out on downloading your self tape(s).

Contacts:

Questions to janew.ndb1@gmail.com

Applications/submissions to hello.ndb1@gmail.com

Side for Self Tape (read either Ellis or Lowen - both 12 year old)

Ellis: Watch where you're going, will ya?!

Lowen: And a Merry Christmas to you too.

Ellis: Oh and you can stop it with that as well.

Lowen: With what?

Ellis: All that 'Merry Christmas' stuff. It's not gonna be, OK?

Lowen: OK, yes, I know!

Ellis: No you don't.

Lowen: Erm, yes I do.

Ellis: Yeh right!

Lowen: Yeh right.

Ellis: Prove it.

Lowen: What?

(pause)

Ellis: We've just moved, so our house is just full of boxes.

Lowen: Yeh, so is mine, but it's my Gran's old stuff.

Ellis: There's no decorations anywhere.

Lowen: We can't even find our decorations!

Ellis: I can't find any of my things.

Lowen: My dad keeps giving our things away to charity shops.

Ellis: I miss all my friends from where I used to live.

Lowen: I really miss my Gran.

Ellis: I'm worried about starting a new school in January.

Lowen: I'm worried about my dad.

Ellis: I'm worried about my mum. All the time.

Lowen: I'm really sad

Ellis: I'm more sad!

(pause)

Lowen: Are we seriously arguing about who's got the worst Christmas?

Ellis: I guess so...

(they laugh a bit)

Lowen: I'm Lowen.

Ellis: I'm Ellis.

Lowen: OK then. Well. Merry...

(Ellis gives a look to Lowen)

Lowen: Have... a... 'not so bad December'

Ellis: Yeh. You too.