Next Door But One - Casting Callout - *When Robins Appear* (Schools and Community Tour) 2026

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

About '*When Robins Appear*'

This winter, 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 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 is a heart-warming, high-energy show created especially for young people and families. Packed with catchy songs, 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.

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 lived experience of disability, mental ill health, bereavement, caring responsibilities, 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 Charity 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.

Lowen:

A 12 year old who is navigating their first Christmas without their Gran who they loved dearly. They are trying to understand these feelings, learn how to talk to their dad about it whilst still trying to keep the joy and memory of their Gran alive. They are hopeful, energetic, yet often naive. They are quick to join in with anything fun and imaginative.

Notes on casting:

- Female presenting.
- Playing age of 12 (doesn't need to look 12 just confident to play this and have a childlike energy).
- Strong singing voice (Range: G3-C5)
- Confident mover and able to learn choreography.

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.

This will be a busy tour, with an acting team of 3 and a stage manager. We are looking for an enthusiastic team player, willing to help with get-ins and get outs. Experience touring into schools (particularly SEND settings) and non-theatre venues would be desirable.

Timeline

Friday 31st July	Applications Open
Monday 17th August, 9am	Applications Close
Wednesday 19th August	Shortlist invited to in-person workshop audition
Tuesday 1st September	In person Auditions (Central York)
Wednesday 9th September	Roles Confirmed by this date
Monday 16th November-Friday 27th November	Rehearsals
Saturday 28th November-Sunday 20th 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), and travel whilst on tour.

Application process

Please send a self tape of:

- The following side to camera.
- You singing an upbeat childrens/pop/christmas song that demonstrates your voice/range (30 seconds-1 minute max)

Send this along with your CV/Spotlight (or similar) to hello.ndb1@gmail.com by 9am on Monday 17th August

If you are shortlisted for an audition, we will contact you by the end of Wednesday 19th August

Auditions will be held as a workshop in small groups. Further details of this will be sent to those who are shortlisted.

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. We've made the side as short as possible, but we don't expect you to learn it - reading from the page for your self tape is absolutely fine with us! 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 - Lowen

(Lowen is in their house. It is full of boxes from Gran's old house. They have been trying to find Gran's fairy lights so they can put them up.)

Lowen:

My dad keeps saying 'We'll find room for everything soon enough.' But we need to find the fairy lights first. We can't have Christmas without them. We have to at least try and make it bright this year. Putting the fairy lights up is our tradition. It's already too new this Christmas. It's gloomy. We need to find the lights.

(They look outside, in awe.)

It's snowing! An untouched blanket of white covering everything. The roofs. The pavements.The roads. Even the park at the end of the street. The only other thing to be seen is a little trail. From my front door. Heading off into the distance. Not of footprints like mine…But of 3 tiny lines…The path of a little bird. It surely couldn't…

What use would a bird have with fairy lights? How could a bird lift a box like that…

(Thinks. Looking at the trail)

It's worth a try I guess. I've got nothing to lose by following it…

Dad!

I'm going out.

(They set off. Following the footprints.)