



Next Door But One - Casting Callout - How to Be a Kid (JOE)

Next Door But One are seeking 1 actor for the role of JOE in the remount of our next touring production, How to be a Kid by Sarah McDonald-Hughes. The play will be directed by NDB1 Associate Director Kate Veysey.

We are looking for an actor experienced in children's theatre, and enjoys a creative and collaborative rehearsal process. The actor must be 18+ and able to take on paid work in the UK. If you are unsure whether you qualify, please email Jane Williamson (Company Manager) janew.ndb1@gmail.com

About 'How To Be A Kid'

Warning: Contains dancing, chocolate cake and an epic car chase.

Molly cooks. Molly does the dishes. Molly gets her little brother Joe ready for school. Molly misses her Grandma. Molly looks after her mum. Who looks after Molly?

Molly is only twelve, but she doesn't feel much like a kid any more.

Now her mum is feeling better, maybe things will get back to normal. Maybe Molly can learn to be a kid again.

A touching and funny story of family, friends and fitting in, Sarah McDonald-Hughes' play is ideal for seven to eleven year olds and their grown ups, who never want to let go of the magic of being a kid.

Presented by Next Door But One, in partnership with Our Time Charity and with funding from Arts Council England, this production meets big topics like care, mental health and growing up with an even bigger sense of imagination, creativity, joy and hope!

After an incredibly successful tour of the show in 2025, we are now working to tour a remounted version of this production in May and June 2027

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.

Roles

- Role: Joe (male, playing age 6).
Joe is an extremely energetic and hopeful young boy. He loves dinosaurs, superheroes, TV and food! He can become quickly excited by the prospect of playing games, loves stories and using his imagination, and will follow the instructions of his big sister, Molly without too much fuss. Due to his age he can often struggle to understand the big things that are going on around him in his life. He feels every emotion fully.

Please note that we are not expecting the actor to look the above age, just to be able to capture that energy.

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

22nd October 2026	Applications Open
27th November 2026	Applications Close
11th December 2026	Shortlist invited to in-person workshop audition
12th January 2027	In person Auditions (Central York)
19th January 2027	Roles Confirmed by this date
Monday 10th May - Friday 21st May 2027	Rehearsals
Monday 24th May - Sat 5th June 2027	Tour (confirmed)
Monday 7th June - Sat 19th June 2027	Tour (to be confirmed. Before offer)

Fee

Fees are based on £631 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. Send this along with your CV/Spotlight (or similar) to hello.ndb1@gmail.com by 9am on 16th November

If you are shortlisted for an audition, we will contact you by end of 30th November

Auditions may be held individually or 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 and character. 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

Sides For Self Tape

JOE:

I'm back!!! I'm Joe. I'm six, and my favourite dinosaur is a Triceratops. At carpet time I was being a Diplodocus and I didn't notice that everyone was already sat on the carpet till Ms Morahan said, 'We're just waiting for this dinosaur to join us,' and it was me! She really thought I was really a Diplodocus, can you believe it?

And I live at number twenty-two, Thornton Road...Hey, Mum, Mum, Mum, watch this — (JOE does a forward roll and stands up again quickly after).

Learned it when I was at Dad's. And I learned what one add two add three add four is! It's ten! It's ten, Mum, it's ten! I Superboy! What's for tea? Can we have McDonald's? Wow, my room! My dinosaurs! My train set! Is that a CAKE? I love cake!