



## CASTING CALL

### About Operation Hummingbird

Operation Hummingbird is a conversation across the decades about a sudden family death, realising an opportunity that we all wish we could do at some point in our life; go back and talk to our younger self.

Taking the key themes from his memoir, *The Day the Alien Came*, Matt Harper-Hardcastle's new play explores terminal illness, anticipatory grief and the complicated journey of living with loss.

This is a 1 act, storytelling-driven, 2-hander.

This revival is scheduled for May 2023, following a sellout run in 2021. Next Door But One will be touring the production to libraries, theatres and universities in North Yorkshire.

*'Operation Hummingbird doesn't set out to be a 'sad' show, which with the subject matter would have been all too easy. It took grief and showed it in all of its sadness, lightness, frustration and beauty. The natural flow of light and dark, warmth and cool made it the most beautiful piece on family and grief I have ever seen.'* (Audience Member)

## Casting Breakdown

Next Door But One is looking to recruit 1 actor for this tour. The ideal candidates will be based in Yorkshire and have equally strong backgrounds in performance and workshop facilitation.

### Role - James (M, 45-55)

This is the grown up version of the play's other character, who is a teenager called Jimmy. Going through counselling as an adult he is tasked to 'write a letter to his younger self'; this is the conversation he has with Jimmy. James is considered, reflective and tussles with wanting to 'rescue' his younger self, and not wanting to intervene too much. Sometimes too frank for his own good. Ultimately this is James's story, looking back on his life and realising just how far he has grown from a traumatic time in his childhood.

## Workshop facilitation

The actor must have strong facilitation skills and be able to co-facilitate community workshops alongside the performances. These will be supported by the Next Door But One team. This will include adults, young people and people from specific social groups. Actors will be required to provide a current DBS disclosure certificate.

## Dates And Fees

- Rehearsals: 2nd-6th May (York)
- Performances and workshops: 9th-13th May (York), 23rd-25th May (York and North Yorkshire), 1st-2nd June (Helmsley), with the possibility of some additional dates w/c 15th May, TBC.
- Fee: £2,400, 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](http://www.nextdoorbutone.co.uk)

## To Apply

Please send complete this [Equal Opportunities Monitoring Form](#), and send the following to [joshua.ndb1@gmail.com](mailto:joshua.ndb1@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 17th February, 5pm

## Appendix

### Text for Role - James

*Cue Line -*

*JIMMY*

*You seem to know a lot. What else can you tell me?*

JAMES

I could tell you that...

You won't cry when you think you will and other times the tears will sneak up on you. That you and your dad will look at each other differently and that might be a struggle for the both of you. That when people mention her name, sometimes it feels like a ball of fire racing up your chest, and other times it will give you that dimple-smile she loved so much. That, when the time comes, you won't want to move out of the bungalow with Dad because that scale of change triggers all kinds of uncertainties. That it will make you dream bigger than you ever thought you could because making your mum proud of you never stops being important. That when you make a mistake you will blame it on not having your mum's guidance, and when you succeed you will attribute it to everything she ever gave you...and you will long to call her up and just hear her voice. That for years you will have a small germ of jealousy creeping into your heart every time a friend talks about Mother's Day. That you will learn ways of conjuring her back into your life just when you need her. I could tell you...