



Associate Artist Call Out

Meet My Ancestors

WHO ARE WE LOOKING FOR?

Are you a Wigan-based artist with a passion for engaging with people across cultures, and strong relationships with people in your local community?

The Old Courts is looking for an Associate Artist to work alongside Lead Artist John Pfumojena, and an ensemble of global majority performers, as part of 'Meet My Ancestors'; a national project produced by The Old Courts and the [Collaborative Touring Network](#) in 2022.

Do you have skills in performing, collaborating, and leading workshops in any of the following disciplines?

Singing
Music
Acting
Dance/movement
Devising
Creative writing, script, poetry

Do you have an interest in storytelling, different artforms and improvisation?

Do you have a strong relationship with communities around you and an interest creating with other people?

If so, we'd love to hear from you.

We're looking for an Associate Artist to work with Meet My Ancestors; to collaborate with the lead artist and ensemble, to shape and lead workshops with members of your community, and to integrate the work you develop together into live performances of this new touring production, in Wigan in June 2022.

WHAT WE WANT TO DO

Through this work, we want to engage with a range of ideas and voices, representing the diversity of the communities in Wigan and celebrating the many ways in which song, music and storytelling can move people and raise up the voices of communities. We are shaping a work that aims to disrupt conventions and focus on the importance of places and communities embracing difference.

Meet My Ancestors draws on Bantu/African multidisciplinary art forms. We are creating a show that is scored by Zimbabwean marimba and mbira music, as well as the use of various languages.

We want the communities we are touring to, to engage with our culture and to share theirs; contributing their own artistic ideas that will form part of the final performance. This locally developed work, led by the Associate Artist in each location, will be integrated into the live performance over a short series of rehearsals in the week the show is performed. It is essential that the Associate Artist be open to a way of working that embraces improvisation and intuition.

You can hear more about the project and the role, directly from the lead artist John Pfumojena, [here](#).

HOW WE WANT TO DO IT

The dates and detail of the role is as follows:

- **Fee of £2,250**, based on 15 days of work @ £150 p/day between January – September 2022, broken down according to the following schedule of work:

Activity	No. of Days	Dates and Details
Preparation & Evaluation	2	Jan - Sept 2022 <i>Hours spread over the project; to include participating in meetings, evaluation, workshop prep etc.</i>
Workshops with Lead Artist & Ensemble	3	Jan 2022 <i>3 consecutive days of workshops in Wigan in w/c 24 Jan. Dates to be confirmed. These workshops mark the start of collaboration between John Pfumojena, ensemble, and Associate Artist.</i>
Leading workshops and devising with community members	5	Feb-June 2022 <i>Flexible schedule to be devised by Associate Artist in partnership with The Old Courts. Could be an intensive week, multiple weekends, or a series of weekly sessions.</i>
Production week; integrating, rehearsing, and performing Meet My Ancestors	5	June 2022 <i>5 consecutive days including rehearsals and up to 3 performances</i>

- **Support and space to develop your work from The Old Courts.** The Associate Artist will have regular support meetings with staff members at The Old Courts, will be offered space to run workshops, and will be supported to connect with members of the community with whom you want to collaborate.
- **Connection to a national network of up to 9 Associate Artists,** each working in their own local areas on this national project (areas include Wigan, Peterborough, Medway, Thanet, Torbay). Regular digital check-in meetings as a network, and expenses covered to travel to partner locations to meet other Associates in person and see the work on tour.

GET IN TOUCH

If this sounds like the opportunity for you, we would love to hear from you. To register your interest in the project and the role of Associate Artist, please do the following:

- Record a video of yourself describing your artistic practice, and why you are interested in working on this project. Videos can be up to 2 minutes in length.
- Share an example of your work. This could be a video of you performing or rehearsing, an image etc.
- Videos must be shared as a link to an online location (i.e youtube, vimeo, or an accessible folder like dropbox or gdrive). Please include any passwords required to access videos.
- Links must be sent to CTN Project Director Rosie Scudder, via email on rosies@theoldcourts.com, with the email subject 'Meet My Ancestors Associate Artist'
- Deadline for registering your interest in the project is Wednesday 15 December.
- We will be in touch with everyone who registers their interest by Monday 20 December, with information about next steps.
- Please direct any questions about the project or about registering your interest to Rosie, rosies@theoldcourts.com

We look forward to hearing from you!



Supported using public funding by
**ARTS COUNCIL
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