

FAQ

Q. What is Hope Street Limited?

A. Hope Street is a Liverpool based arts organisation dedicated to the development of artists, art forms and arts in the community.

Q. How does Hope Street develop art forms?

A. We produce cross art form performances produced by professional artists who are passionate about developing their own art forms and in working in unusual places and spaces and in ways that push their own practise. Hope Street has been instrumental in the development of physical theatre, carnival, puppetry, street art and young people's theatre for 21 years.

Q. How does Hope Street develop arts in the community?

A. We work with excluded communities and individuals. We work with youth groups, housing associations, with the homeless and we produce plays and workshop projects that tour to schools.

Q. How does Hope Street develop artists?

A. Primarily, through the apprenticeship programme.

Q. What is the apprenticeship programme?

A. It is an intensive programme of work-based training for emerging artists.

Q. Is the apprenticeship accredited?

A. No.

Q. Do I have to pay a fee?

A. No.

Q. Do I receive a training allowance?

A. No.

Q. How long does it run for?

A. Approximately 6 months. The length varies each year because of the timing of the projects that our apprentices work on. This year it will run for 21 weeks.

Q. How many days a week is it? How many hours?

A. It runs Monday to Friday, between 10am and 5.30pm. Sometimes projects require evening and weekend work.

Q. How will I support myself financially?

A. We appreciate that it is tough going. Most apprentices are able to

juggle the demands of the apprenticeship with part time bar or casual work.

Q. Will I get a job at the end of it?

A. We cannot guarantee this. But we have a high percentage of apprentices securing employment in their chosen field within weeks of finishing the programme.

Q. What have former apprentices gone on to do after leaving Hope Street?

A. They work freelance as artists (actors, workshop leaders, designers, directors etc), or set up their own theatre companies, or secure employment in existing organisations.

Q. For example?

A. Emerging artists who have trained with Hope Street have gone on to work full time at Tate Liverpool, National Museums Liverpool, Brouhaha, the RSC, National Theatre, Everyman & Playhouse, Unity Theatre, Fuse, Red Ladder – and Hope Street. Theatre companies established by former trainees/apprentices include Tmesis, Spike, Suitcase Ensemble, Fool's Proof, Ullaloom, Random Acts of Wildness and Big Wow.

Q. Do you provide support after the programme finishes?

A. Yes. We actively support apprentices in securing employment, provide employment for many and if you want to try out creative ideas, we can help you with space and artistic support. If you are applying for funding, we'll help you with application forms.

Q. How long does this support last for?

A. For as long as you require.

Q. Is the apprenticeship part of the government's Creative Apprenticeship scheme?

A. No. It is a totally independent programme.

Q. Do I need to live in Liverpool to be eligible to apply?

A. No. We welcome applications from people from all over the world. You will need to think about the practicalities of re-locating to Liverpool if you do secure a place.

Q. Is the programme just for 'young people'?

A. No. We welcome applications from people over 18. There is no upper age limit.

Q. Is it like a college or university course?

A. No. It is 100% vocational. It is not academic. There is no written work. There are no lecturers or teaching staff. Established, highly skilled and respected professional artists and organisations produce all of the projects.

Q. Do I need formal qualifications?

A. No. All we require is aptitude, attitude and aspiration.

Q. What will I do during the apprenticeship programme?

A. It depends which apprenticeship place you apply for. The apprentices will work as a producing arts company and will develop skills in their specialist area throughout the 21 weeks.

Q. Will all apprentices work together all the time?

A. There will be times where apprentices will all work together and times when they follow individual work schedules (timetables). For example the Workshop Leaders will be developing their skills working in the community and by undertaking placements with other arts organisations. Individual work schedules will be available at interviews.

Q. So, is it really worth doing?

A. Only you can answer this question. To help you, click here www.hope-street.org/testimonials.pdf for testimonials from a selection of former apprentices.

Q. I'd still like more information before applying; can I speak to someone at Hope Street?

A. Yes. Phone 0151 708 8007 or email peter@hope-street.org or laura@hope-street.org to ask a question or to arrange to drop in for an informal chat.