**Assistant Director Opportunity**

**Traverse Theatre Company & Grid Iron Co-production**

The Traverse Theatre and Grid Iron are looking to connect with a UK based emerging British East Asian theatre director, to undertake an Assistant Director placement on upcoming co-production, *Strange Tales,* adapted from the tales of Pu Songling by Pauline Lockhart & Ben Harrison.

This opportunity provides the unique context of working as an Assistant Director to support co-directors/co-writers, Ben Harrison and Pauline Lockhart in the rehearsal process for the staging of the piece.

**The Role**

As Assistant Director, your duties would include:

* Providing general assistance to the Directors
* As agreed with the Directors, carry out any research that will inform and benefit the production
* To observe rehearsals and have input in discussions and production meetings
* To assist the company in documenting the rehearsal process for the purposes of marketing, archiving and evaluating the project through blogs, social media and other forms as agreed
* To observe and assist the Directors in the production week as required
* To attend and participate in post-show discussions and/or other engagement activity by mutual agreement with the Traverse Theatre
* To support the company whilst the play is in performance as agreed with the Director and Stage Manager, including attending and noting the production
* Participate in the delivery of workshops and community activity as agreed with the Traverse Theatre

**Production Schedule**

Rehearsals from: w/c 4th November 2019

First preview: 30th November 2019

Press: 3rd December 2019

Closes: 21st December 2019

The Assistant Director position on *Strange Tales* is intended to be a learning and training opportunity. The candidate will have a proven interest in creating contemporary theatre and desire to utilise this learning experience as an opportunity for professional development.

We welcome applications from those with directing experience, and also artists who wish to begin a crossover into directing.

An understanding/knowledge of a Chinese language or languages is desirable, but not essential for this role.

**Fee**

UK Theatre / Equity Directors Agreement weekly fee of £488.

Initial contract period 4 weeks with the possibility of extension, in connection to facilitation of community/wraparound activity.

Where appropriate a commuting or relocation allowance will be provided.

**About the Production**

Written in China centuries ago, *Strange Tales (from a Chinese Studio)* is now adapted for stage by the acclaimed immersive theatre company Grid Iron in co-production with the Traverse Theatre.

Filled with intrigue, mysticism, magic, sensuality, and a dash of terror, Strange Tales will draw you into a world full of mischievous fox spirits, yearning ghosts and enchanted swords where anything and everything is possible. But be warned – unless you come to these tales with an open mind and brave heart, you may never be able to escape them…

This thrilling immersive production uses puppetry, movement and cutting-edge digital technology to thrust you right into the pages of the tales themselves. Adapted by Pauline Lockhart (*Schooled*) and Ben Harrison (*Jury Play, Spring Awakening*) from a selection of Pu Songling’s original tales, *Strange Tales* will wrap itself around you and make you shiver in delight and fright on Edinburgh’s dark winter nights.

*Strange Tales* (from a Chinese Studio) will be performed in English and is suitable for those ages 14+.

Supported by The Confucius Institute for Scotland. *Strange Tales* is part of the Royal Shakespeare Company’s Chinese Classics Translation Project, funded by Arts Council England. Development process supported by Puppet Animation Scotland’s Creative Fund.

**About the Traverse Theatre**

As Scotland’s new writing theatre, the Traverse Theatre is a dynamic centre for performance, experience and discovery. We are specialists in revealing untold perspectives in innovative ways. Enabling people from the broadest cross section of society to access and engage with theatre is our fundamental mission.

Our year-round programme thrives with new stories that challenge, inform and entertain. We empower artists and audiences to make sense of the world today, providing a safe space to question, learn, empathise and – crucially – encounter diverse perspectives and experiences.

The Traverse would not exist without our over-arching passion for talent development and embracing the unexplored. We work with the newest and rawest talent – with an emphasis on the Scottish-based - nurturing it to become the work that can be seen on our stages year-round. Through projects like Traverse Young Writers, Class Act, Open Auditions and our annual Open Script Submissions, we invest in ideas and support individuals at all levels to push boundaries, create and develop.

Our partnerships with other theatre companies and festivals are crucial, and these collaborations enable us to bring innovative children’s theatre, puppetry, animation, film, music, spoken word and dance to our stages.

We are driven by our commitment to bring new and bold storytelling to global audiences, in the knowledge that our work will create some of the most talked-about plays, productions, directors, writers and actors for years to come. Our work has recently been presented in Australia, New Zealand, USA and Brazil.

The Traverse’s unique ability to nurture new talent and engage audiences through ambitious powerful stories has never been more vital in creating and sustaining a vibrant theatre landscape that reflects and challenges the world today.

**About Grid Iron**

Grid Iron are an Edinburgh-based theatre company who, following their incorporation in 1995 and their first show *Clearance* at the Traverse, Edinburgh, swiftly gained a reputation for creating high-quality, high profile shows. The Company went on to specialise in presenting shows in unusual locations. They are a new writing company who work in challenging sites that lend themselves especially well to Grid Iron’s taut production style. Occasionally they create work for the stage or use theatre buildings in a site-specific, promenade manner.

Grid Iron is committed to producing exciting new ensemble work across Scotland in a variety of spaces and locations, with a special commitment to accessibility, entertainment and innovation.

We operate a cross-disciplinary, collaborative structure that allows the involvement of artists and production crew from various media at all stages of the creative process.

**Interview Details**

Interviews shall be held week commencing **2nd September 2019.**

Ahead of the interview candidates will be given details on the play and expected to come prepared to discuss their thoughts, along with answering questions on their skills and experience as relevant to the role.

**How to Apply**

Please send a completed application pack to jobs@traverse.co.uk by **12 noon on Monday 26th of August**

Within this application pack, please use the questions as prompts to provide us with more information about your artistic development to date, relevant experience and professional development ambitions.

Your application will be shared electronically via email with Grid Iron.



**FOR OFFICE USE:**

**REF: ST.AD**

**APP NO:**

**Application for Assistant Director:**

**Strange Tales – Traverse Theatre & Grid Iron Co-production**

1. **Personal Details**

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| Surname:Forename(s):(underline name you are known by) |
| Permanent Address:  Postcode: Telephone No. (include STD code): Mobile No.E-mail:  |

1. **Other Information**

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| This position is due to commence on 4th November 2019. Is there any reason why you would be unavailable to commence work at this time?  |
| Interviews shall take place week commencing 2nd of September. Do you have any pre-existing commitments which would make you unavailable for interview on this week?   |
| If you have a disability, we ask you to tell us about any adjustments that you would wish to be made to the selection or interview process in light of your disability. In order to make such adjustments we may need to pass this information onto others (for example, the selection panel). |
| How did you learn of this post?  |
| Have you ever been convicted of a criminal offence?  |
| *(Declaration subject to the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974)* |

1. **Conditions**

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| Only applications which contain all the requested information will be considered. **Information in support of your application will not be accepted after the closing date for receipt of application.**Before you submit your application, please ensure that you are eligible for this post by referring to the job specification and information for applicants. If you are successful at interview, a complete enquiry of your eligibility will be made. If you are uncertain about any aspect of your eligibility, please contact us.A candidate found to have given false information or wilfully to have suppressed any material fact will be liable to either disqualification or, if appointed, to dismissal.Late applications will not be accepted. |

**4. Educational Qualifications**

To the **extent that you consider that education qualifications are relevant to the post**, please complete this section.

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| **Subject** | **Level**e.g. Standard/Higher | **Result** |
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**5. Referees**

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| Please give the name, address and telephone number of two referees, one of whom should be your current (or most recent) employer:Name Address Telephone No: E-mail:In what capacity does this person know you? Name Address Telephone No: E-mail:In what capacity does this person know you?  |

**6. Employment History**

To the extent that you consider it **relevant to the post**, detail your previous employment, including self-employment and freelance work, **starting with the most recent**.

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| **Name, Address & Phone No. of Employer/Contractor** | **Job Title and Main Duties/Freelance contract details** | **Length of time in Post** | **Reason for leaving** |
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**7. SKILLS & KNOWLEDGE**

Use this space to demonstrate that you have the skills and commitment to theatre making as relevant to this assistant director opportunity. You may also use this space to include any other information which may be relevant to your application.

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**8. Declaration**

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| The information given in this application is complete and correct to the best of my knowledge. Under the terms of the General Data Protection Regulation, I agree that the information given in this application may be processed to provide management information for recruitment purposes. This information will not be retained longer than it is needed. The information supplied by candidates will be securely destroyed after a period of 12 months. Applicants will have the right of access to any information held about them.Signed Date **If your application is submitted by e-mail we will require you to sign this form if invited to interview.** |

Please send your completed application **by 12 noon Monday 26th August** to:

**e-mail:** **jobs@traverse.co.uk**