

# Electric Theatre Workshop: Regional Ensemble



year of young people  
bliadhna na h-òigridh  
2018

## **What is the Regional Ensemble?**

As part of the Year of Young People, Electric Theatre Workshop is producing the *Regional Ensemble*. A region wide Youth Performance Ensemble including young performers and musicians from every area in Dumfries & Galloway.

It is a FREE, three-week creative rehearsal process where two young people will be selected from every secondary school across the region. The opportunity is for ALL secondary students of music/drama or students who have an interest in the performing arts.

The performance will be a multi-level performance using movement, theatre and live music. It will be an original piece of the theatre, which is created exclusively in Dumfries & Galloway.

The Regional Ensemble is supported as a **Year of Young People** event with **EventScotland**, **Dumfries & Galloway Council** and the **Hollywood Trust**.

## **What is the performance about?**

The Regional Ensemble is centred around a hugely talented young musical composer from Kirkcudbright called, **Cecil Frederick Coles** who left in 1914 to fight in WW1, and who was subsequently killed by German sniper fire on active service. While on duty, he sent various manuscripts to his friend and professional composer, Gustav Holst.

The story will mark 100 years since Cecil's death, and will consider the future of Britain as it leaves the EU and the impact this may have on our young people.

## **How will students be selected?**

Our team will be visiting every secondary school in the region to spread the word about the Regional Ensemble. We will visit every secondary school in the region to open as many young people as possible to the opportunity.

If interested, young people should register on [www.bigburnssupper.com](http://www.bigburnssupper.com) by Friday 6<sup>th</sup> April 2018 at 5.00pm.

Auditions will be held in schools between the Monday 16<sup>th</sup> April and Friday 26<sup>th</sup> April.

### **What criteria will young people be selected on?**

The opportunity is for music/drama students to showcase their best talent in 3 minutes. If students would like to showcase both music and performance talent, they must specify in their application so that extra time can be allocated to their audition.

### **Music Students:**

Music Students will be asked to prepare a song of their preferred genre. The song can be either classical or contemporary.

Tips for preparing your piece:

- These pieces should show off what you do best and reflect your abilities and personality
- Aim to show us what you can do technically and expressively
- Demonstrate your solo musicianship and your ability to play the instrument.

### **Performance Students:**

Performance Students will be asked to prepare a 2-minute piece that best showcases their performance talent in movement and voice. It does not have to be naturalistic or 'tell a story'.

Tips for preparing your piece:

- Avoid a 'talking head' performance piece. In other words, don't just perform the devised piece as merely a spoken monologue. Try to turn your ideas into performed images.
- Movement, sound, spoken word (originally written or from another source), song, music (recorded or live), and gesture can all be part of your devised piece.
- Express an essential quality of who you are, and where you believe your place is in the world you inhabit.

### **Where is the performance?**

The regional ensemble will be performing on the Friday 10<sup>th</sup>, Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> & Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> August on the Harbour Square, Kirkcudbright (Harbour Square, Kirkcudbright, DG6 4HY). The event will be well signposted so you won't be able to miss it!

### **Where are the rehearsals?**

Rehearsals will be daily from 10.00am-5.00pm at the Cochran Hall, Kirkcudbright (63 Castledykes Rd, Kirkcudbright, DG6 4AW).

### **Where will they be staying?**

We do not provide accommodation for the young people taking part; instead we will be transporting them daily from pick up points across the region. Should your young person be successful, they will be notified of their closest pick-up point.

### **When does my young person get picked up & dropped off?**

Electric Theatre Workshop will have transport organised to pick up your young person from their school. Timings for the route will be confirmed closer to the rehearsals beginning.

Rehearsals begin at 10.00am and finish at 6.00pm every-day.

The transport routes will be:

- The West (Stranraer (8.00am), Newton Stewart (8.35am), Wigtown (8.50am) and Gatehouse of Fleet (9.20am), Kirkcudbright (9.35am))
- The East (Annan (8.00am), Dumfries (8.25am), Dalbeattie (8.55am), Castle Douglas (9.10am), Kirkcudbright (9.30am))
- The North (Sanquhar (8.00am), Thornhill (8.25am), New Galloway (9.10am), Kirkcudbright (9.40am))

Transport home is estimated to be:

- The West (Kirkcudbright (6.00pm), Gatehouse of Fleet (6.15pm), Wigtown (6.45pm), Newton Stewart (7.00pm), Stranraer (7.35pm))
- The East (Kirkcudbright (6.00pm), Castle Douglas (6.15pm), Dalbeattie (6.30pm), Dumfries (6.50pm), Annan (7.20pm))
- The North (Kirkcudbright (6.00pm), New Galloway (6.30pm) , Thornhill (7.05pm), Sanquhar (7.40pm))

### **What are the benefits of the Regional Ensemble?**

Young people working with the Regional Ensemble will be working with highly sought after creative professionals, musicians and performers. Young people will gain experience in large scale performance work in their home region.

### **What is the cost?**

There is no cost to taking part in the Regional Ensemble. Transport to Kirkcudbright daily is supported by Electric Theatre Workshop.

### **What is required of the young people?**

To take part in the Regional Ensemble, young people must attend the daily rehearsals and be willing to work positively and creatively on the project. We are looking for young people with talent in music, theatre performance or dance and a collaborative work ethic.

Young people will be facilitated to develop their performance skills by professional practitioners who are exceptional in their field.

This is a once in a life time opportunity.

There will be a strong emphasis in creating work harmoniously and as an ensemble.

Young people will be asked to consider how they behave creatively, and if they work well in big groups.

We are particularly keen to see representation from marginalised groups, and actively seek to create a dynamic and diverse ensemble that is representative of contemporary Dumfries & Galloway.

If you have accessibility needs for your audition there will be space to tell us this during the application process.

Young people must be available every day from 10.00am- 6.00pm from the Friday 20<sup>th</sup> July 2018 – Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> August 2018 for rehearsals; followed by availability all day from 11.00am-9.00pm from Friday 10<sup>th</sup> August 2018-Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> August 2018.

Following the performance, young people will also be required to take part in an evaluation of the project, to support the work of Electric Theatre Workshop.

### **What hours will the young people be rehearsing?**

The Regional Ensemble will be a very intense working project, with daily rehearsals taking place from 10.00am-6.00pm, 7 days a week.

Rehearsals will run from 10.00am-6.00pm from Friday 20<sup>th</sup> July- Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> August. On performance days, young people will be required from 11.00am-9.00pm from Friday 10<sup>th</sup> August-Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> August.

### **Do we need to supply food?**

Yes, the project will not supply lunch for the young people involved. We require your young person to bring a packed lunch every day. As well as a good supply of water and high energy snacks.

### **Who are Electric Theatre Workshop?**

Electric Theatre Workshop is a creative collective that was set up in 2011 by a group of friends who wanted to work creatively with each other.

Our creative collective still holds on to those important values that helped create the company in the first place, and all of our projects are created and delivered by our core team who work in collaboration with our many partners.

Our distinctive border location means that we work with talent in Scotland and England, and we have bases in Carlisle and Dumfries, which gives us access to unrivalled inspiration in our natural location as well as strong connectivity to the Northern economy.

Our signature projects bring us much attention, including Big Burns Supper Festival which has become one of Scotland's leading Festivals, Carlisle Fringe Festival which is helping to re-imagine the historic northern city of Carlisle, as well as our participatory programmes Dumfries Community Choir, and Dumfries Youth Theatre.

Our Creative Industries training is one of our stand out programmes, and over 49 people have trained with us to develop their careers, placing us as one of the UK's most consistent hot beds for talent development.