

ARTIST TRAINING

Working with homeless people and vulnerable adults using opera
Friday 23 June 2017, 10am-4pm
Pleasance Theatre, Carpenters Mews, North Road, London N7 9EF

Streetwise Opera is offering an exciting training opportunity for artists, facilitators and composers who are interested in developing their participatory arts workshop-leading skills.

Using Streetwise Opera's workshop model, this training will help you understand how (and why) you might break down the process of delivering material and exercises, and recognise the purpose and structure of each step of your workshop. The sessions will be led by Streetwise Opera's highly experienced Head of Training, Rowan Fenner.



The day will explore:

- Why opera is a powerful art form for homeless people and vulnerable adults, and how to approach it
- Making material accessible to all
- The use of improvisation and devised work
- Skills-based exercises and warm-ups
- How to manage differing needs within the group
- How to manage opening up people's emotions
- Why engaging in this work raises confidence and self-esteem

By attending this training, you will:

- Gain a practical demonstration of skills and exercises from Streetwise Opera's toolkit
- Meet other artists and leaders to share experiences and ideas
- Be able to apply the training to other groups, such as children and young people
- Experience how it feels to be a participant rather than a leader
- Learn practical examples of working with musical scores in different ways
- Challenge any pre-conceptions of vulnerable people and what they are capable of

Please note that although you will gain an insight into Streetwise Opera's ethos and methodology, this training is intended to help you develop skills for leading workshops in a variety of settings, and is not associated with work opportunities at Streetwise Opera.

Feedback from past training participants

'Being a participant rather than a leader was so insightful. Rowan is clearly a gifted and inspiring facilitator'

'Understanding how much the participants gain from the sessions affirms that we are all definitely on the right track to engage them with opera – it can have a very powerful impact on the way that people see themselves and their level of self-esteem'

Price

£50.00 per person for freelance artists/students

£120.00 per person for an organisation sending artists or staff members

Booking

To attend the training day, please fill out the booking form and return it to Betsy at bp@streetwiseopera.org. Please call 020 7730 9551 if you have any questions.

About Rowan Fenner

Rowan Fenner set up and developed Streetwise Opera's current workshop structure of weekly opera workshops with people who have experienced homelessness across England. She is now Head of Training for Streetwise Opera and leads training for its workshop leaders. Rowan also regularly takes this training to other organisations including Scottish Opera, Welsh National Opera, Opera North and the London Philharmonic Orchestra, working with facilitators and leaders to expand their workshop-leading skills.

Rowan's own training and development as an amateur and trainer includes courses with Glyndebourne, Aldeburgh Education and the Arts Council, specialising in arts-based practice with vulnerable and/or volatile groups in open and closed community settings. She leads workshops all over the country and has worked with many major opera companies, festivals and orchestras to devise and lead participatory projects both in schools and in the community, while also working as a professional singer.

About Streetwise Opera

Streetwise Opera is an award-winning charity that uses music to help people who have experienced homelessness make positive changes in their lives. We do this through regular music programmes in homeless centres and arts venues across England, and by staging critically-acclaimed opera productions starring our performers.

Our productions ('Awe-inspiring' ★★★★★ *The Times*) platform the skills of our performers in a professional arena, showing them that whatever life throws at you, you can achieve great things; underpinning these productions, our workshops are a dependable source of creative activity in lives where everything else can be changing.

For more information, visit www.streetwiseopera.org.