



## **Othello: People Dancing**

### **Project Description**

Birmingham Opera Company will produce Verdi's opera, Othello in December 2009 in Birmingham. As part of West Midlands' Culture Programme for London 2012, we're able to offer the chance to dance in Othello. Birmingham Opera Company prides itself on a long developed dance strand of work with both professional dancers, students and those new to dance training.

We'll start with a series of taster dance workshops in the BCC priority areas of Perry Barr, Hodge Hill, Erdington and Ladywood. The workshops will take place from mid September 2009.

We'll construct 5 dance groups in these areas for over 16's and from 19 October these groups will devise work and develop technique to enable them to perform in Verdi's Othello.

In addition, we will develop choreography and movement technique with over 150 actors and chorus singers taking part in the opera.

The Project Director/Choreographer is Ron Howell; choreographer, dancer and teacher. Ron Howell is an international Choreographer whose work has been seen in all the major opera houses of the world. He has also consistently sought opportunities to pass on his knowledge to practitioners and newcomers alike. Ron has an exceptional record as a teacher and is uniquely experienced in working with both professional and untrained participants. Ron is a graduate of London School of Contemporary Dance and has worked with Birmingham Opera Company and Artistic Director Graham Vick for over 15 years.

Othello: People Dancing is managed by Richard Willacy, Assoc. Artistic Director, Birmingham Opera Company

Othello, the opera, will be directed by world renowned opera director Graham Vick.

**Assistant Project Director ( Assistant Choreographer) main duties will be:**

To contribute to and/or run rehearsals and devise work under the direction of the Project Director/Choreographer

To work with the Project Director/Choreographer and Project Manager to support participants throughout creative process and production.

To contribute to the creative process

To support the Project Director/Choreographer in delivering project

To monitor attendance at rehearsals and keep detailed records of work done

To act as a contact with participants and partner organisations to enable recruitment and retention of volunteers

To liaise with the wider Production and Creative Teams under the direction of the Project Director/Choreographer and Project Manager

**The Assistant Project Director/ Assistant Choreographer will have:**

trained to graduate level (or equivalent) in contemporary dance technique

have a broad knowledge of dance styles

professional dance experience as a performer and/or teacher and/or choreographer

experience and commitment to working with professional artists and/or volunteers

ability to devise creative work with experienced and inexperienced dancers, actor and singers, paid workers

excellent teaching skills to enable trained and untrained participants to execute the choreography

excellent project management skills, administration, evaluation, record keeping

## **key qualities**

Work well independently, under direction and as a team member

Excellent interpersonal skills

Excellent organisational skills

Commitment to the highest quality artistic experience for participants and audience

## **Fees and duration**

This is a freelance contract running between mid September and 19 December. Fee £4500. It is anticipated that the project will be completed in approximately 10 weeks. Subsistence payment where appropriate. This is a very demanding role with a highly demanding company and director. The company timetable is built around 3 session days and the participatory nature of the project will involve daytime evening and weekend sessions.

*In view of the participatory nature of our work and the integral role that the Assistant Project Director will play we will ask you to undertake an Enhanced Criminal Records Bureau Check. Only relevant convictions and other information will be taken into account so disclosure need not necessarily be a bar to obtaining this position. Please be assured that this information will be treated as strictly confidential.*

Birmingham Opera Company is committed to promoting Equal Opportunities and welcomes applications from all sections of the community.

**HOW TO APPLY: PLEASE SUBMIT CV WITH 2 REFEREES AND SHORT STATEMENT OUTLINING YOUR RELEVANT EXPERIENCE** by 14 AUGUST 2009. Candidates to be called for interview will be informed on 15 August 2009. Candidates will be called for interview on 18 August ( tbc) in Birmingham.

Contact: [peopledancing@birminghamopera.org.uk](mailto:peopledancing@birminghamopera.org.uk)

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Charity No 291130

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