



Open Clasp are casting for a New Writing Showcase directed by Laura Lindow

The Project

We are looking to cast three actors to perform in a live showcase, presenting two pieces of New Writing in June 2022.

Open Clasp have commissioned two new pieces of writing, which have been created in collaboration with groups of women from across the UK. This new work explores the real stories of women and their lived experiences. The pieces, which will be presented in a showcase to a live (and digital) audience, will each be approximately 20 minutes in length and will be directed by Open Clasp's Associate Director Laura Lindow.

The first piece is titled *Cake and Condoms*, written by Eva Edo and is performed by one actor who identifies as a woman.

The second piece is titled *We*, written by Guen Murrone and is performed by two actors who identify as women.

Both pieces will be presented together at a live showcase, which will run across two performances on Thursday 9th and Friday 10th June 2022 at West End Women and Girls Centre in Newcastle upon Tyne.

Casting Brief

This call out is open to all actors who identify as a woman. Applications from both represented and unrepresented actors are accepted.

What we're looking for...

All applicants should have good comedic presence in addition to being able to tackle the harder themes that each piece may touch on, such as domestic violence and sexual abuse, with performative strength.

They should also have a knowledge of and interest in the work of the company.

As both pieces are rooted in the true voices of lived experience, we are looking to work with people who share an investment in seeking an authentic representation of the characters' narratives. This will involve a degree of research, but moreover an interest in connecting with the issues underpinning the work in order to inform the performance.

Actors applying for roles in "We" must be based in or have a base in the North East.

Character breakdowns are below, however there is room for interpretation.

Cakes and Condoms

Character: Iris

She/Her

Age: Early 40's

Ethnicity: Black/British. From Wolverhampton/Birmingham and of Caribbean decent

Appearance: Size 16

Iris has just bought a flat. This place is the closest she's got to her childhood street since she left home. Maybe that's why she bought it. She knew it was the one as soon as she turned the corner and saw that overgrown green with its hidey-holes, snogging bush and sunbather's slope. Where kids make friends and teenagers break hearts. And believe me, she did both on that green.

We

Please Note: Actors applying for roles in "We" must be based in or have a base in the North East.

Character: Aliyah

She/Her

Age: 16, 20, 30 at different points in the play

Ethnicity: Mixed Race- British/Asian

Aliyah is nervous. She doesn't know how people will react but she knows this is the right thing to do. Her heart starts beating, every step she takes to go upstairs is like a drum beat. Her heart was beating when she looked at him, on their sofa, with Zelda. She looked at him. And a voice from her gut came out, she'd never heard before. And this? This is her riot!

We meet Aliyah as she is finding her voice. She joins a group where she meets Indy, makes fast friends, and realises that she is not alone. Soon she goes from an I to a We.

We

Character: Indy

She/Her

Age: 16 and then 30 later in the play

Ethnicity: Any

Indy is naturally funny and uplifting. She's not like Aliyah's other friends, she gets it. It's funny 'cause she's called Indy but she's also all indie ye know? Like alternative, and her clothes are cool and she plays the guitar. Indy puts on her glasses, she does this every time she reads, it's very grown up as a gesture, she gets all serious and organised.

Key Info & dates

All actors interested in applying for any role **must** be available for **all** the dates.

Rehearsal weeks include Saturdays.

- Audition submissions (self-tape only) opens- 21st April 2022
- Audition submissions (self-tape only) closes- 4th May 3pm

We will respond to all applicants to let them know if they have been successful or not by Thursday 11th May 2022

- 23rd May- 6^h June- Rehearsals (*not incl bank holiday weekend*)
- 7th June – Tech
- 8th June - Dress
- 9th & 10th June 2022- Performances

Contract type: Equity

Fee: £500 per week

Rehearsals and performances will take place in Newcastle upon Tyne, at West End Women and Girls Centre. This space is accessible for wheelchair users.

Auditions

Auditions will be through self-tape submission only.

Monologues will be an extract from the script and be provided through email.

We expect speeches to be a maximum of 1 minute 30 seconds

Our only aim with the self-tape submissions is to see your audition, so please don't worry about using high tech equipment. Self-tapes filmed on a phone are absolutely fine. If you haven't submitted a self-tape for audition before, some basic but useful tips are:

- Use a blank wall as a background
- Some good/natural lighting if possible
- A quiet space, so nothing distracts us from your audition
- Upload your video to Vimeo/WeTransfer so it's easier to send through in one file
- Send us the link and any passwords we'll need to view it.

To Apply

Please email Colette at colette@openclasp.org.uk with the subject line 'Casting' and the following information:

- Your Name
- Contact number
- Spotlight Link (If you have one) or a CV of any relevant experience
- What role you are auditioning for
- Any access requirements you may have, if any.

You will then be sent the monologue we would like you to use for your self tape audition.

When you are ready to submit your self-tape, you can do so by sending it back to Colette.

Submissions will close on **Wednesday 4^h May 2022 3pm.**

If sending a self-tape is not accessible for you, please contact Erin by emailing erin@openclasp.org.uk and we will do our best to meet your needs.

If you have any questions about applying, please contact Erin by emailing erin@openclasp.org.uk