

Touring Together: Local Engagement Specialist Job Pack

January 2026



About Fuel

Fuel leads the field in independent producing in the UK's live performance sector, collaborating with curious, insightful and skilled theatre makers to create fresh experiences for adventurous people.

Since 2004, we have evolved a pioneering producing model that develops innovative ideas through attentive collaboration, a spirit of curiosity, and an emphasis on trust. We have developed a reputation for spirited and surprising new theatre, deep relationships with a wide range of artists, and a passionate commitment to inclusion and care for young and diverse audiences.

We have produced shows, festivals, films, installations, podcasts, apps and books. In doing so we have supported the artistic development of over 120 lead artists or companies and reached more than 1.5 million people, live and digitally. We have hosted over a hundred internships and been recognised with awards for our work.

fueltheatre.com | Instagram, Facebook, Bluesky, LinkedIn: @fueltheatre



About China Plate

China Plate is a theatre producing studio based in Birmingham and working across the UK. As an arts charity, we help people to make creative projects happen – from theatre shows, to audio anthologies, to bus stop galleries.

Our mission is to develop a new model of creating and producing theatre that opens up the way performance is made, who makes it and who it's experienced by.

We seek to work as part of creative communities, outside of and within the arts, which include artists, organisations, freelancers, community groups, participants, and audiences.

Through our Training & Development programmes we support the next generation of producers, nurture artistic practice, commission work, increase access and widen diversity.

For more information, please visit: <https://chinaplatetheatre.com>

Instagram: china_plate_theatre

Facebook: chinaplatetheatre

LinkedIn: china-plate-theatre-ltd



About Touring Together

Touring Together (TT) is a new, sustainable programme for developing and delivering mid-scale (400-600 seats) theatre productions across the UK. Led jointly by theatre producing companies [China Plate](#) and [Fuel](#), the programme is delivered in collaboration with five partner venues across England:

- [Brighton Dome](#) (Brighton)
- [Leeds Playhouse](#) (Leeds)
- [Oxford Playhouse](#) (Oxford)
- [Royal & Derngate](#) (Northampton)
- [Warwick Arts Centre](#) (Coventry)

The programme runs from April 2026 to January 2028, and we are looking for one Local Engagement Specialist (LES) in **Leeds, Oxford and Northampton** to join us for the duration of the project.

Touring Together pools expertise and resources to create and tour new, socially motivated productions that attract diverse audiences, nurture habitual theatregoing, and prototype a fresh model for the theatre sector.

The productions will feature contemporary stories that celebrate underrepresented voices, encourage creative storytelling, and spark national conversations - all while giving audiences a brilliant night out at their local theatre. Over time, Touring Together will establish a recognised brand for high-quality new work, presented annually in consistent time slots, building theatre-going habits and connecting communities across age, ethnicity, background and partnering venues. China Plate and Fuel will alternate producing the annual shows and jointly lead on audience development, partnerships, and engagement strategy.



Touring Together Schedule

Touring Together is running in the partner locations for 3 years from April 2026 to early 2028.

Year 1 (April–August 2026): Foundation Year

LES will work collaboratively with the TT team to develop ideas and activities that engage new audiences. They might also deliver sessions and events to build new relationships.

Year 2 (September 2026–August 2027): First Production

The first show will tour across all five locations, with engagement activity before and after the run in each area.

Year 3 (September 2027–early 2028): Second Production & Evaluation

A second show will tour the same five locations, again with local engagement activity. The year will conclude with a joint evaluation process led by the TT team, venues, and LES.



About The Role

Local Engagement Specialists (LES) are at the core of Touring Together.

You will be our local eyes and ears, connecting communities to our work. We are looking for passionate individuals who:

- Know the local area and communities.
- Can build and maintain connections with groups from diverse demographics.
- Enjoy talking to people about new theatre and engage creatively with its themes.
- Can facilitate events and bring people together.

Touring Together is delivered across multiple locations - Brighton, Coventry, Northampton, Leeds and Oxford however we are currently recruiting for Local Engagement Specialists for **Oxford, Northampton and Leeds only**. Applicants should be able to work locally within one of these areas.

You do not need to have a background in theatre or marketing. What matters is your commitment to connecting communities, understanding their perspectives, and helping us create inclusive, exciting experiences.

Please see the Job Description section for further details.

Job Description

As a Local Engagement Specialist, you'll connect Touring Together (TT)'s theatre programme with local people and communities. You'll co-design and deliver engagement activity in your area, working closely with Fuel, China Plate, your local venue and your community networks.

MAIN RESPONSIBILITIES

Working Together

- Collaborate with the TT Engagement team (led by Fuel's Senior Engagement Producer) and your local venue's Engagement or Communications Manager.
- Shape and deliver local engagement opportunities such as talks, workshops, school sessions, community events, or curtain-raisers;
- Share local insights to help the team understand what works best and how to remove barriers to attendance.
- Attend occasional planning and review meetings with the wider TT team.

Connecting with Communities

- Build and grow networks across schools, youth groups, community centres and grassroots organisations.
- Spread the word about performances through personal contact, social media, and local networks.
- Identify and invite groups for Take Your Seat, our initiative aimed at offering free tickets to community groups that face financial barriers.
- Support practical activity such as distributing flyers, organising group bookings, or hosting gatherings.

Practical & Administrative Support

- Keep track of your activities, contacts, and budget spend using simple shared digital tools (e.g. spreadsheets, Google Folders).
- Work with the TT team to manage a small local engagement budget, within the framework agreed with the Senior Engagement Producer.
- Help capture audience feedback through conversations, short interviews or informal reports.
- Share updates and learning with the TT team so insights can be shared nationally.

Person Specifications

You don't need to be an arts professional to apply. We're looking for people who know their local area well and love connecting with others. If you work in or with local communities, and you're interested in theatre and storytelling, we'd love to hear from you.

We know not everyone will have every skill listed, so treat this as a guide to what might help you thrive in the role.

You'll bring:

- Local knowledge: a good understanding of your area's people, communities, and networks.
- Relationship-building skills: you're approachable, sociable, and good at bringing people together and building lasting connections.
- Confidence with groups: happy to host or help run workshops, discussions, or small events, with the support of facilitators/members of the creative team and/or by yourself.
- Organisation: able to plan your time, keep notes, and meet agreed deadlines.
- Communication skills: clear and friendly in how you talk, write, and share updates.
- Team spirit: able to work independently day to day while staying in touch with the wider team.
- Inclusion mindset: committed to making theatre more accessible and welcoming to everyone.
- Budget awareness: comfortable managing a small budget, with guidance and support from TT team.
- Digital confidence: able to use email, messaging apps (like WhatsApp), and simple spreadsheets.
- Eligibility: able to work freelance in the UK.
- Safeguarding: comfortable with working with children, young people and vulnerable adults; willing to complete a DBS check (we'll arrange one if needed).

Programme Themes and Audiences We Aim to Connect With

Each LES will help us discover who the Touring Together stories will most resonate with locally.

During your onboarding, you'll work with our team and your venue to identify the audiences and communities who will get the most out of these productions - whether through shared themes, lived experience, or simple curiosity.

Rather than arriving with a fixed list, we see this as a collaborative process. Together, we'll learn who's already engaged, who might be interested but doesn't yet come to the theatre, and how we can reach them in ways that feel natural and meaningful.

To give a sense of where we might begin, potential audience groups could include:

- Secondary schools (Key Stage 4, ages 14–16).
- Youth groups (ages 14–25), such as grassroots organisations, feminist societies, sports clubs, spoken word collectives, and anti-racist or cultural heritage groups.
- Adults and young people from post-colonial heritage backgrounds, or anyone drawn to storytelling, history, identity, and representation.

These are starting points, not limits. What matters most is finding the people for whom these stories will matter, spark curiosity, and open up conversations.

The Programme

Production titles to be announced in Spring 2026

Year 1 (Apr–Aug 2026): Engagement & Foundations

Appointment of five Local Engagement Specialists (LES), one per partner venue, to design and deliver local “ignition” activities with key communities. The TT team will propose activities, but we are keen on working together with each LES to identify the right ones.

Year 2 (Sep 2026–Aug 2027): First Production, produced by Fuel

Year 3 (Sep 2027–Aug 2028): Second Production, produced by China Plate

The production titles and creative teams are confidential and will be publicly announced later in the year. However, each production is expected to explore key recurring themes, which the LES may wish to incorporate into their work:

First Production

- Pre-colonial African history
- Hidden leaders & female voices
- Allyship and solidarity across differences
- Spoken word as creative expression

Second Production

- WWI and early global conflicts
- Sporting culture, identity & representation
- Race, belonging, and shared histories

Through-line themes across both productions

- Whose voices shape collective narratives?
- Allyship and representation
- Creative storytelling and spoken word as shared language
- Identity, inclusion, and belonging

Terms of Engagement

The position will involve up to ten (10) days' work between April and September 2026 (Year 1), on a flexible basis to accommodate both your schedule and the project's activity plan.

We anticipate up to twelve (12) days of work in each of Years 2 and 3, with exact dates and commitments agreed in advance of each touring period to reflect local needs and opportunities.

Contract type: Freelance

Responsible to: Senior Engagement Producer, Fuel

Period: April 2026 – early 2028

Fee: £160 per day

Expected Time Commitment

- Year 1 – Foundations phase: up to 10 days (April–September 2026).

Focus on relationship-building, planning, and early engagement activities.

- Year 2 – First Production: up to 12 days (September 2026–August 2027, to be confirmed August 2026).

Focus on audience development and engagement delivery around the first touring production, including pre-show community activity and post-show follow-up.

- Year 3 – Second Production: up to 12 days (September 2027–August 2028, to be confirmed August 2027).

Focus on audience development and engagement delivery, including pre-show community activity and post-show follow-up, and evaluation for the second touring production.

Terms of Engagement (continued)

Structure

The precise schedule will be agreed locally, but as a guide, work is likely to include:

- **1 day:** Planning & onboarding (including a cross-LES meeting and induction with the Touring Together team and local venue)
- **5 - 7 days:** Delivery of community engagement activity, network-building, and participation events
- **1 - 2 days:** Evaluation and reporting, including a short reflection meeting with the Touring Together team
- **Availability:** LES must be available for onboarding and planning in April and May 2026, with the intention of continuing into Years 2 and 3 to ensure consistency and long-term relationship building

How to Apply

The Application Form that contains full details of how to apply can be downloaded [here](#).

Applications are due by **11pm on Sunday 1 March 2026** to engage@fueltheatre.com.

An Equal Opportunities anonymous survey link is included in the Application Form, which we kindly ask you to complete.

We want you to complete your application in a way that is comfortable for you. We accept video and audio files that answer the questions listed in the application form. Please ensure your video or audio file is no longer than 5 minutes.

Shortlisted candidates will be offered an interview on w/c 16 or 23 March, that will take place online, on Zoom.

If you have questions about the application process, please email engage@fueltheatre.com.

If you have any questions about the role, or want to set-up an informal informative chat, please contact Marina Sacco, Fuel Senior Engagement Producer, at marina@fueltheatre.com.

Photography Credits

1.

Touching the Void. Co-produced by Fuel, Bristol Old Vic, Fiery Angel, Royal Lyceum Theatre Edinburgh, and Royal & Derngate Northampton. Photo: Geraint Lewis

To The Streets! (Outdoor concert musical) by Tim Sutton & Roy Williams. Co-produced by China Plate, Birmingham 2022 Festival, Birmingham Hippodrome with Warwick Arts Centre, City of Wolverhampton Council & DRPG Creative. Photo: Iona Firouzabadi

2.

FLIP! Produced by Fuel in association with Alphabetti. Co-commissioned by Fuel and Soho Theatre, as part of Soho Six. Photo: Tristram Kenton

3.

Gin Craze! by April de Angelis & Lucy Rivers. Co-produced by Royal & Derngate, Northampton & China Plate. Photo: Ellie Kurttz

4.

Neighbourhood Creatives - Art in the Park. Produced by China Plate in collaboration with the WASH. Photo: Hayley Salter

5.

There's a Bear on My Chair. Produced by Fuel in association with the Southbank Centre. Photo: Dan Tsantillis