## Trainee Arts Practitioner 2027

### About the opportunity

Catherine Wheels, Lyra and Starcatchers have come together to offer two bespoke traineeships for practitioners who are passionate about creating meaningful experiences with and for children and young people.

We believe every child has the right to experience high-quality, joyful and imaginative arts and culture. We also know that too many talented practitioners face barriers to developing sustainable careers in the sector. By working together, we want to create time, space and support for practitioners to grow their practice, deepen their curiosity and build lasting creative relationships.

Throughout the programme, participating practioners will have the opportunity to work across all three organisations, building their own programme of work shadowing areas of interest (productions, touring, engagement) to explore Scotland's young audiences' sector, develop a clearer sense of their own creative voice and the work they want to make, and strengthen the skills, confidence and networks that will support the next stage of their journey. We hope to nurture practitioners who will help shape an ambitious, inclusive and vibrant future for children and young people through the arts in Scotland.

We are open to applications from all roles within the arts. You can apply as an trainee artist, facilitator, designer, stage manager, technician etc - as long as you have an interest in work for babies, children and young people.

**Who is this opportunity for?**

This opportunity is for people who may face barriers to the industry, specifically from backgrounds typically under-represented in arts for young audiences.

These traineeships are therefore open to practitioners from marginalised backgrounds, specifically global majority practitioners, disabled practitioners, d/Deaf practitioners and/or practitioners from working-class backgrounds.

Trainees should be Edinburgh or East of Scotland based.

**Essential**

- An strong interest working in arts for young people (babies, children and teenagers)
- Relevant experience in the role you are applying for
- Enthusiasm to learn, develop skills, and grow as a practitioner within a supportive environment
- From a background that isn’t always well represented in the arts

**Desirable (but not required)**

- Living in and/or having a strong connection to, Craigmillar, Wester Hailes or East Lothian, as the locations where Catherine Wheels, Starcatchers and Lyra are based.

**About us**

Catherine Wheels is Scotland's most celebrated producer of work for children and young people, working with a diverse range of artists to create projects and tours to communities, theatres and schools in Scotland and internationally.
Established in 1999, Catherine Wheels has a long-standing reputation of being a key figure within performance for young audiences.
As well as producing new work, Catherine Wheels' roots run deep in the sector, supporting artists and practitioners to create their own work. The company is recognised internationally for its expertise and contribution to the development of the young audiences sector. www.catherinewheels.co.uk

Lyra is Scotland's first and only theatre for children and teenagers based in the extraordinary community of Greater Craigmillar, Edinburgh. We make, present and tour professional shows for young audiences and provide a Cultural Home where young and grown-up artists can watch, learn and create side by side. Founded in 2012, Lyra is recognised in Scotland and

across the world as a centre for excellence. Everything we do is free, focused on challenging socio-economic disadvantage and empowering children to access their cultural rights. Our vision is that today's Young Artists will lead Lyra in the future. www.lyra.co.uk/

Starcatchers is Scotland's National Arts & Early Years organisation based in Wester Hailes, Edinburgh, delivering playful, high-quality creative experiences for babies, toddlers, and their families. Working with theatre makers, dancers, visual artists, and musicians, their programmes are relationship-led and child-centred, fostering collaboration, creativity, and exploration.
Starcatchers also supports early years practitioners through professional development and advocates for children's rights in the arts. www.starcatchers.org.uk

**Role Description: Trainee Arts Practitioner**
**Title of post:** Trainee Arts Practitioner 2027
**Dates:** Dates to be confirmed dependant on programme developed, the fee is based on approximately 60 days work across 2027.
**Accountable to**: An appropriate main contact within one of the partner organisations
**Terms:** Freelance role on a self-employed basis

**Location:** Various locations, primarily in Craigmillar/Wester Hailes/East Lothian

**Fee:** £12,000.

**Additional:** The trainee will be required to join the PVG Scheme or undergo a PVG
Scheme Update check

The Traineeship will support two practitioners to work across Catherine Wheels, Lyra and Starcatchers. The traineeship programme will be developed with the selected practitioners, and could, for example, encompass shadowing the development or creation of a production, or assisting on regular engagement projects with babies, children or young people.

**Fee**

There is a fee of £12,000 per trainee for this work. This is based on approximately 60 days work at £200 per day. There is also a development budget per artist of £3,000 to cover any materials, workshops, mentoring, training or go and see opportunities. Commuting travel expenses are not covered.

**Additional Support**

- Access costs/support in addition to the fee and development budget will be discussed and agreed if required

- Access to Catherine Wheels/Lyra/Starcatchers programme of training and development
- Mentoring with artists or members of staff

**Key Practitioner Responsibilities**

- Fully engage in the agreed traineeship programme across all residency phases.
- Participate in structured development activities to enhance artistic practice.
- Reflect on and document experiences to support project evaluation and legacy.

**To apply**

To apply for the role please send us:

- Your CV (maximum of 2 A4 pages)
- A covering letter (maximum of 2 A4 pages) outlining your experience, what you would like to achieve during the traineeship and how you / your career would benefit from this. Please include why you are under-represented in the arts.
- There is an option to provide your application in video format (maximum length 3 minutes) if you would prefer to do this instead of a written statement.

Please send completed applications to lyra@lyra.co.uk

Please complete an equal opportunities form (this will be anonymous): https://forms.cloud.microsoft/r/y3g3hDutBb

Deadline

**Date: Monday 2nd November 2026, 5pm**

Applications will be reviewed and shortlisted by representatives from each of the organisations. Shortlisted applicants will be asked to attend an informal in person interview on 19th or 20th November. We aim to be in touch with all applicants by 16 November.

If you would like to chat about this opportunity before the application deadline, or you have any questions about the role ahead of applying, please email: tony@catherinewheels.co.uk, jennifer.phillips@starcatchers.org.uk or james@lyra.co.uk