



## Freelance Arts Workshop Facilitators

### Introduction

Commedia of Errors is creating a pool of experienced freelance Arts Workshop Facilitators to lead workshops for older adults, including those living with dementia. These workshops will be delivered in care settings and public spaces across Northern Ireland.

As part of our *Plays Aloud* project, these workshops will aim to build community and improve the mental health and well-being of participants.

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### About the Plays Aloud Project

We have secured funding from National Lottery Community Fund to deliver a 4-week long arts programme to 10 different care homes, 3 times a year for 3 years. However, we will be exploring additional funding over the course of the project that could see this provision expanded.

All workshops will be tailored to the interests and needs of participants, particularly those living with dementia, and aim to reduce social isolation by fostering interaction and connection among residents and between residents and staff.

### Key Project Goals

- Reduce social isolation.
- Promote new friendships.
- Improve the mental health and well-being of older adults, especially those living with dementia.
- Empower care home staff to continue engaging residents through the arts.



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## About the role

**Job Title:** Freelance Arts Workshop Facilitator

**Location:** Care homes, nursing homes and supported living facilities across Northern Ireland and public spaces

### Salary:

Funding for our current programme of work is as follows:

Arts Workshop facilitators will be paid at a fee of £3,050 for completion of the following elements

- designing of 4 art workshops
- delivery of 4 art workshops (1.5 hrs long, to include set up/ pack up, meet and greet and delivery of a minimum of 50mins) to 10 care homes over 4 weeks (40 facilitated workshops in total)
- co-designing 1 workshop with an activities coordinator that can be delivered by the activities coordinator following the completion of workshops.

Travel costs from our Belfast office base will be covered at £0.45 per mile. Arts materials will be covered at up to £1,000.

### Duration:

Initially we are looking for artists able to deliver 4-weeks of workshops in a block. This will require delivery of 2 workshops a day in two different locations. Four of the care settings are Belfast-based with additional settings in Enniskillen, Omagh, Banbridge, Craigavon, Holywood, and Bangor.

Each 4-week block will typically be delivered by a different artist. Artists may be invited to lead additional workshops based on feedback.

Workshops are likely to take place in February/March, May/June, and September/October each year.



## About you

We welcome applications from freelance arts facilitator from all arts background (music, drama, circus, creative writing, visual and digital arts etc.). The ideal candidate will be adaptable, empathetic, and skilled at fostering a fun, positive, inclusive environment where participants can engage in meaningful artistic expression.

## Key Responsibilities

- Deliver creative workshops, tailored to the needs of older adults, especially those with dementia. These workshops should include 1 activity for participants to do after each session.
- Create an inclusive environment that encourages interaction and builds community among participants.
- Adapt sessions to fit the abilities and preferences of participants, ensuring the workshops are flexible and engaging.
- Collaborate with activities coordinators to co-design a workshop that can be delivered by the activities coordinator.
- Collect feedback and evaluate the impact of the workshops, working with Commedia of Errors to improve future sessions.
- Feedback your own experience delivering the workshop to help us improve our work for future facilitators.

## Essential Criteria

- Experience facilitating arts-based workshops (e.g., visual arts, music, dance, theatre, creative writing) for vulnerable groups, particularly older adults.
- Strong communication skills and the ability to engage participants with a range of cognitive and physical abilities.
- Understanding of, or willingness to complete, relevant training.
- Ability to work legally in the UK.
- Must be able to travel independently to care homes across Northern Ireland.
- Willingness to have an Access NI check before starting the role.
- You must be self-employed or willing to register as self-employed.



## Desirable Criteria

- Experience working with older adults, particularly those living with dementia.
- Familiarity with healthcare or social care environments.
- Full clean driving license and access to a car with business insurance.

## Health

Candidates shall be in a state of health such as would indicate a reasonable prospect of ability to render regular and efficient service.

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## How to Apply

To apply, please submit the following to [playsaloud@commediaoferrors.co.uk](mailto:playsaloud@commediaoferrors.co.uk) by 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2024:

- your **CV**
- a **cover letter** of no more than 400 words or a **video** no longer than 2 minutes.

In your cover letter/ video please discuss:

- Your relevant arts facilitation experience and arts practice.
- Your initial ideas for a 4-week workshop programme.
- How you would adapt your work to our beneficiaries.

For example

- potential themes
- whether you would use each session to build towards a final outcome or run self-contained workshops under the banner of your theme.

**Application Deadline:** 5pm, 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2024

**Interviews:** 7<sup>th</sup> November 2024

We welcome applications from people of all backgrounds and are committed to equal opportunities.

If you have any queries regarding the application process, please contact us at [playsaloud@commediaoferrors.co.uk](mailto:playsaloud@commediaoferrors.co.uk) or call 07395199830.