



## **MUSICAL DIRECTOR - JUNIOR COMPANY DESCRIPTION OF ROLE AND DUTIES**

### **A Brief History of the Spa Theatre Company**

The Company was initially founded in 1982 as a young people's group. From 1982 to 1991, the group remained as a young people's organisation (the upper age limit being 18). In 1991, the view was that the Company should be more ambitious, by lifting the age limit. The Company retained the Junior section, but formed the Senior Company, a situation which prevails today.

### **The MD Position – Junior Company**

The role advertised is that of MD for the Junior Company. The Junior Company is primarily a "teaching" organisation. Its primary aim is to offer a high standard of teaching in speech, drama, music and dance. It has its own Director, Musical Director and Choreographer. The academic year consists of three terms, commencing in September each year. The academic year culminates in the public performance of a musical at a local theatre, usually in May.

### **The Commitment**

The members of the Junior Company are aged 7 to 15-plus. Entry is by audition. They meet on Tuesday evenings during term time between 7.00pm and 9.00pm. From the beginning of January up to the date of the annual production they also rehearse on Sunday afternoons during term time between 2.30pm and 5.00pm.

### **Key Attributes**

The MD will:

- 1 have keyboard skills in order to take rehearsals
- 2 understand that most of the children cannot sight read and therefore need to be taught by rote
- 3 have had experience conducting a band of musicians
- 4 have the ability to make cuts in scores and how to deal with transposing instruments
- 5 need to demonstrate that they have voice training skills and understand vocal techniques
- 6 need to demonstrate an ability to relate to all ages and to show enthusiasm and encouragement
- 7 need to audition accurately and be able to choose audition pieces (for future shows) from scores and identify potential soloists for specific parts.

Candidates must be CRB checked and it would be helpful if they had been teacher trained. The Tuesday sessions must be well planned and prepared, and candidates will need to work well with both choreographer and theatre studies director. It should be stressed that the youngsters gain educational values on Tuesday evenings and that they must be in a learning experience situation.

## **Remuneration**

The Spa Theatre Company is a Registered Charity for its work in the tuition of young people. A corollary of this is that the remuneration for the post of MD will not be at a fully-commercial rate.

The fee for the Junior MD role is a fixed sum of £750, paid as a single instalment at the end of the run of the show. The sum is paid tax-free, as remuneration for expenses.

The first session of new academic year is on Tuesday 6 September 2011.

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