

Otterburn Immersive Project - Writer

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November Club

November Club's ambition is to create exceptional and remarkable theatre in unusual places from our home in Northumberland. Our vision is to change the sense of what can be achieved creatively in our region, leading to communities that feel recognised, respected, confident and connected.

We are a professional theatre company making work in Northumberland. Our work often focuses on the historical narratives of Northumberland and our approach is based on historical research and community engagement.

We work in areas with limited access to, or engagement in, the arts, primarily Northumberland's rural and coastal communities and those within South East Northumberland. In all our work we strive to be joyful, ethical, welcoming and brave.

November Club has won multiple awards and has been recognised for dynamic and ground breaking work in heritage spaces including Wallington Hall, Seaton Delaval Hall, Woodhorn Colliery and Blickling Hall. November Club is led by award winning site-specific theatre maker Joe Hufton.

Otterburn Immersive Project

November Club has been commissioned by Otterburn Mill to realise a show that tells the history of Otterburn Mill, the textile trade in Northumberland and its global impact.

Our shared aims are to:

- Uncover and highlight the history of Otterburn, Otterburn Mill and its role in the global textile trade
- Engage the local community in the telling of this history
- Create a theatrical celebration of the history of Otterburn Mill with community participation

Find out more about the history of Otterburn Mill

<https://www.otterburnmill.co.uk/our-history-i78>

and of the Otterburn Mill Tenter Frames

<https://www.otterburnmill.co.uk/blog/the-last-remaining-tenter-frames/>



Opportunities to find out more

If you are interested in applying and would like to find out more about the role and/or working with November Club:

- You can email questions to info@novemberclub.org.uk, and either Joe Hufton, Artistic Director, or Fran Arnold, Associate Producer, will get back to you.
- Find lots more information about November Club, our team and our artistic programme on our website www.novemberclub.org.uk

FREELANCE WRITER – OTTERBURN IMMERSIVE PROJECT

Role Description

OTTERBURN IMMERSIVE PROJECT

The audience will experience an immersive story across 4-5 spaces inside and outside Otterburn Mill. Many of the proposed spaces are not open to the public and will be accessed for the first time.

Audiences will experience the show in small groups (approx. 10-15 people) departing at different times and we anticipate the piece being approximately 60 minutes.

The project will engage the local community through creative writing workshops and a steering group who shape the content by sharing their lived experiences of Otterburn Mill.

The narrative of the piece will be developed by a writer, inspired by community engagement and with a focus on historical research. It will explore Otterburn Mill and the North Northumberland textile industry's impact on the wider world. Some of the early create ideas and questions, subject to work with a writer, include:

- A time travelling approach that tells the story of place

- An approach that tells the story of a thread of a piece of cloth
- A moment that takes the audience to another country to show the impact of Otterburn Mill, transforming one of the indoor spaces. Possibly a snapshot into a fashion house where the cloth is being used
- A snapshot into a moment where the tenter frames are being used
- Exploration of some of the women who were involved in the mill, including Rena Waddell

Research Period

Research will involve a writer, composer, producer and designer. The creative team, supported by November Club, will work with Otterburn Mill, Otterburn Primary School and a steering group of community members with lived experience of working at the Mill, to research the history of Otterburn, the Mill and the Tenter Frames.

MAIN PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The writer will produce a 60 minute script, including research.

The writer will deliver workshops for Otterburn Primary School.

The writer will collaborate with November Club and the creative team (see Key Deliverables).

Timeline and Tasks

April 2024

- Contract issued

- Briefing & work begins

April – Aug 2024

- Research (including access to Otterburn Mill archive, interviews with the steering group)

- Script development & review meetings



- Workshop preparation
- Work with creative team & key partners

Sept – Oct 2024

- Workshop delivery in school

Nov – May 25

- Script development & sign off
- Work with creative team & key partners
- Production

June 2025

- Live show at Otterburn Mill

July 2025

- Review & reflection

*Note: timeline is subject to change, to be mutually agreed by key stakeholders

RATES, DATES & TIME COMMITMENT

The total fee available is £7,250 plus travel, broken down as follows:

- £6,500 Research & content creation of 60 minute script

- £750 Up to 5 workshops (primary school)

The contract starts on 1 April 2024 and ends by 31 July 2025.

KEY DELIVERABLES

- Script for a 60 minute play, shaped by
 - Archival research at Otterburn Mill

- Interviews with people who have lived experiences of working at Otterburn Mill

- Outcomes of the workshops with Otterburn Primary School

- Up to 5 workshops with Otterburn Primary School, details to be agreed between November Club, Otterburn Primary School and the writer

- Working with November Club and the creative team in the course of writing
- Attendance at casting sessions, script development and assessment meetings

- Working attendance at rehearsals

- Attendance at the first full performance

- Publicity interviews and pre/post show discussions or talks

- Contributing to evaluation (including review) of the project
- Any other activity as mutually agreed for the purpose of fulfilling the role

YOUR SKILLS & EXPERIENCE

Minimum Criteria

- A proven track record as a professional writer for theatre (at least full length plays)
- Experience of community engagement
- Experience of research to inform creative content
- Experience of working as part of a creative team
- Excellent organisational skills and ability to prioritise and meet deadlines
- Effective communication skills
- Confident communicating with people at all levels

Desirable Criteria

- Experience of co-creation to develop writing and/or scripts for theatre
- Experience of delivering schools workshops
- Experience of research using archival material and/or interviews with people
- Experience of working as part of a creative team to realise a theatre production
- Experience of developing a script for site-specific locations

LOCATION REQUIREMENTS

The role includes a combination of remote working, meetings at November Club's office in Morpeth, and work in Otterburn and surrounding area.

Given the rural and remote geographical location of the project, writers must feasibly be able to undertake work in Otterburn.



We are therefore looking for writers who are resident and/or based in the North East of England and the Scottish Borders. Access to own transport is helpful, but not essential.

HOW TO APPLY

Please submit following information:

1) Your CV, with relevant experience highlighted.

This can be submitted as a written document, OR an audio/video file of up to 2 minutes highlights relevant experience from your CV.

2) 10 pages of existing Theatre Script or Screenplay

Please submit this as a typed written document. (please note you will be asked to provide the whole play/screenplay if selected for interview)

All submissions should be emailed to info@novemberclub.org.uk. Please provide audio/video files via links using WeTransfer, Office 365 or Google Drive.

Please write 'FREELANCE WRITER' in the subject line of your email.

DISABILITY CONFIDENT



November Club is Disability Confident Committed. We will ensure that a fair and proportionate number of disabled applicants that meet the minimum criteria for this position will be offered an interview.

If you feel this would apply to you, please let us know at the point of submitting your application.

TIMESCALE

Applications open on **Thursday 25 January 2024**.

The deadline for applications is **9am, Thursday 15 February 2024**. We will acknowledge receipt of your application by email.

We will be in touch with people selected for interview by **23 February 2024**.

Interviews will be held on **Thursday 28 March 2024**.

Unsuccessful applicants will be notified by 4 April 2024. Unfortunately, we are unable to provide feedback on applications, including script submissions.

SELECTION PROCESS



The applications will be reviewed by November Club and our partners in Otterburn.

Interviews will be led by November Club.

INTERVIEWS

Shortlisted applicants will be required to provide the full version of the script/screenplay they supplied on application to the panel (November Club) prior to interview.

Interviews will be held on Thursday 28 March 2024.

November Club offers hybrid interviews, with both in-person and zoom options available.

As part of making interviews more accessible, we will give you 2 questions in advance. We will ask other questions (e.g. situational, related to community engagement) that will not be shared in advance, unless shortlisted applicants notify November Club of any access requirements and we will make reasonable adjustments.

You will be given the opportunity to ask questions during the interview, if you would like to.

ACCESSIBILITY

November Club is committed to meeting everybody's access requirements including any reasonable adjustments and arrangements for interview. We have allocated budget for this.

Shortlisted applicants will have an opportunity to inform us of requirements after they are invited to interview.

If you have access requirements relating to submitting an application or wish to discuss access requirements for interview in advance, please contact November Club on info@novemberclub.org.uk or 01670 457808.

INTERVIEW COSTS

November Club will reimburse shortlisted applications with the reasonable travel costs incurred attending an interview in person.

APPOINTMENT

Appointment is subject to references.

A contract will be issued and work starts in April 2024.