



## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### ENSEMBLE APPLICATION & AUDITION

**Below are answers to some questions that you might have. For an application form or if the question is not included here, please email [admin@blueteapot.ie](mailto:admin@blueteapot.ie) or phone 091 520 977.**

**We are open Monday – Thursday 9am – 5pm.**

***Closing date for applications is 12pm Monday 13<sup>th</sup> November.***

### **Who is Blue Teapot Theatre Company?**

We are an award winning Theatre Company who work with an ensemble of 10 actors, who all have an intellectual disability (ID). We create theatre shows and perform in front of audiences on stage in Galway and across Ireland. Sometimes we work with actors who don't have an ID.

We work to radically transform theatre practices by telling stories through the lens of disability, paving the way for inclusive practices to become the norm. By pushing the boundaries of what is possible, we celebrate creativity and challenge the narrative about intellectual disability.

See our website for more information about us [www.blueteapot.ie](http://www.blueteapot.ie)

### **What is an Ensemble?**

An ensemble is a group of actors that regularly work and perform together in a theatre company.

### **When is the closing date for the applications?**

12pm, Monday 13 November 2023

## **Where should I send my application form?**

Post it to Blue Teapot Theatre Company, Munster Avenue, Galway H91 FVF8

Or

Scan it and email it to [admin@blueteapot.ie](mailto:admin@blueteapot.ie)

## **What is the age requirement?**

18 years and over.

## **I need more help, can I talk to someone?**

Yes, call us on 091 520 977.

## **What are Blue Teapot's opening hours?**

We are open from 9am – 5pm, Monday – Thursday.

We will be closed for mid-term Bank Holiday Monday 30 October all week and open again on Monday 6 November.

**I have completed and submitted my application form,  
what happens next?**

**We will let you know that we have received your application form either by email or phone.**

***All interviews and auditions take place in our theatre on Munster Avenue, Galway, H91 FVF8.***

## **STAGE 1: INTERVIEW**

**Thursday 23 November *or* Friday 24 November, 9am – 5pm**

If successful at the application form stage, we will invite you and your parent/guardian to attend an informal 40 minute interview where we can get to know you a little better and you can ask us all the questions you like. Please keep the dates free as these are the only interview dates. We'll let you know as soon as possible if you have been selected for an interview.

## STAGE 2: AUDITION

**Thursday 30 November 9.30am – 3pm**

If you have been successful at the *interview* stage, we will invite you to a full day group audition. This is going to be the best part. You will get to meet the Artistic Director, Petal Pilley and she will work with you for the day to explore all sorts of theatre skills with you. Please keep the audition date free – we'll let you know by Friday 25 November if you have been selected for this audition.

## STAGE 3: CALL BACKS (Final Auditions over 3 days)

**Monday 4 AND Tuesday 5 AND Wednesday 6 December 10am – 3pm**

If you have been successful at the *audition* stage, we will invite you back one last time to work with Petal and the ensemble actors. There are currently 10 members of the ensemble and you can see photos of them on stage on our website. This final audition will be over 3 days.

## STAGE 4: PLACE OFFER

**Thursday 7 December**

If you have been successful at the *Call Back* stage, we will offer you a place in Blue Teapot Theatre Company. Congratulations.

**You must confirm in writing that you are accepting the offer by Midday Monday 11 December. If you don't accept the offer on time, your place will immediately be offered to someone else.**

## How many places are available?

There are a maximum of 2 places available.

## **I have an existing appointment I can't miss that clashes with the audition and interview dates, what do I do?**

Let us know when you are submitting your application and we will do our best to work around it.

## **Why do I need to send a photograph of myself with the application?**

This is to help us remember who you are! We will be seeing a lot of people and having your photograph on file will be a great way for us to remember you. This is a standard requirement in the theatre sector.

## **If I'm offered a place, when can I start at Blue Teapot?**

You could start as early as February 2024. We would need you to start no later than September 2024.

## **What will a regular week in Blue Teapot be like for me?**

### **Blue Teapot weeks are 10am – 3pm Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday.**

We put a lot of work into developing our theatre skills, we work hard and it's a lot of fun. It is also very fulfilling.

Our day starts in the theatre at 10am – sharp! This means that you should arrive in good time to put away your lunch, have your cuppa and put it into the dishwasher.

You might work on performance, your fitness, production arts, poetry or writing. Or you might be in rehearsal for a performance. The weeks are always different and the schedule will depend on what we are working towards creating.

### **Will there be breaks during the day?**

There is a short tea-break in the morning and a one hour lunch break between 12.30 and 1.30pm in the theatre building. However you will need to be flexible, these times might change depending on the schedule.

### **Can I have my phone with me?**

Before we start work, everyone puts their mobile phone away into a special box. This is to ensure that we maintain focus. Don't worry, if you're needed in an emergency, we will let you know.

**Your support network will need to support your professional career as an actor; this could involve flexibility around performance hours in the evenings and the weekends.**

## **What is it like when we are rehearsing for a performance?**

The most important thing to understand is that once you have been offered a part in a play you must be 100% committed to the role. That means never missing a rehearsal day, always being on time, eating healthily and getting some great sleep at night time. The people you live with will need to support you during this time.

**There are 3 phases to our rehearsal process:**

### **1. REHEARSALS**

The rehearsals usually take place in our theatre in Munster Avenue. Whilst we're rehearsing, a whole other team of people are creating our costumes, set, lights and soundscape.

### **2. TECHNICAL REHEARSALS**

This is when we move to the theatre that we are presenting our performance to our audience in. Sometimes we present our performance in our small theatre in Munster Avenue and more commonly on the bigger stages such as the Town Hall Theatre in Galway.

### **3. PRODUCTION WEEK**

This is when we perform in front of an audience. The opening night is called the Premiere and it is very exciting and it is normal to feel nervous. Sometimes we perform 4 or 5 days in a row, usually in the evening time but sometimes in the day time too.

So, you have probably already realised that your working hours and days will be very different when you are rehearsing and performing. You might have to work 6 days in a row Monday – Saturday and you will work later hours. We will work with you to make sure that you have transport to and from the theatre and you will be given the schedule well in advance.

## **How does the production of the play get funded?**

Many funding organisations support the high quality theatre works of Blue Teapot Theatre Company, for example The Arts Council.

## **Will I get paid and what happens to my disability allowance?**

If you join the ensemble, Blue Teapot Theatre Company will become your day service provider and you will retain your disability allowance. However, when you are performing in a theatre production, you will receive a contract for that production period that will ensure that you are paid on an Equity approved pay scale. (Equity is the actors union).

## **What happens to my Day Service Funding?**

If offered a place and you accept it, your Day Service funding will be transferred to Blue Teapot.

## **Is this a permanent place in Blue Teapot Theatre Company?**

Yes. There will be a probationary period of 6 months.

## **Is Autism an intellectual disability?**

No. An intellectual disability is broadly defined as impacting on one's adaptability and reasoning skills. An autistic person may however be separately diagnosed with an intellectual disability alongside their autism.

## **Does Blue Teapot Theatre Company have a website?**

Yes. [www.bluteapot.ie](http://www.bluteapot.ie)

## **Is Blue Teapot Theatre Company on social media?**

Yes, we are on Facebook, X (twitter), Instagram and LinkedIn. We are also on YouTube.

## **IMPORTANT - PLEASE TAKE NOTE:**

Blue Teapot staff are not certified SNAs; we cannot administer medication or provide individual personal care.

We do not have the capacity to provide one to one supports.

This is NOT an application to our Performing Arts School. For information on the school, go to <https://blueteapot.ie/programmes/performing-arts-school/> or contact [training@blueteapot.ie](mailto:training@blueteapot.ie) or call 087 652 0146 for more information.

### **Our Expectations**

*This is what we will ask of you*

Be respectful

Be on time

Be flexible

Be a team player

Be passionate about your work

Be dedicated



*This is what we will ask of your support network*

Be flexible

Be committed

Be supportive

Be an advocate

Be communicative with staff

**Have another question?**

**Email [admin@blueteapot.ie](mailto:admin@blueteapot.ie) or call us on 091 520 977**