



## Next Door But One - Casting Callout - How to Be a Kid

Next Door But One are seeking 3 graduate actors for roles in our next touring production, *How to be a Kid* by Sarah McDonald-Hughes. The play will be directed by NDB1 Associate Director Kate Veysey.

All actors must be Yorkshire based due to the ongoing development element of this opportunity, and within 2 years of completing a theatre based training course (this can be degree, college, drama school, or equivalent sustained training). If you are unsure whether you qualify, please email Kate Veysey [kate.ndb1@gmail.com](mailto:kate.ndb1@gmail.com).

### About 'How To Be A Kid'

*Warning: Contains dancing, chocolate cake and an epic car chase.*

*Molly cooks. Molly does the dishes. Molly gets her little brother Joe ready for school. Molly is only twelve, but she doesn't feel much like a kid any more.*

*Now her mum is feeling better, maybe things will get back to normal. Maybe Molly can learn to be a kid again.*

*A touching and funny story of family, friends and fitting in, Sarah McDonald-Hughes' play *How To Be A Kid* is ideal for seven- to eleven-year-olds to watch, read and perform. It was first produced in 2017 by Paines Plough in their pop-up theatre, Roundabout, in a co-production with Theatr Clywd and the Orange Tree Theatre.*

*How To Be A Kid was named Best Play for Young Audiences at the 2018 Writers' Guild Awards.*

### About Next Door But One

Next Door But One (NDB1) are an award-winning LGBTQ+ and disability-led theatre company based in York, promoting creative skills and encouraging community cohesion, particularly with those who face barriers to accessing theatre.

Our established programme focuses on workshops and performances for and with cohorts of the community with disabilities, mental ill health, those experiencing bereavement, unpaid carers, girls and women from lower socioeconomic backgrounds, and individuals from the LGBTQ+ community. Our activity ranges from workshops to touring performances, training programmes and professional development opportunities. Our partners currently include The Snappy Trust, Camphill Village Trust, Converge, York Carers Centre, IDAS and Clifton Green Primary School. Our mission is to connect people to their creativity and community through the theatre we make and the stories we tell. Our vision is for the arts to play an integral role in unleashing the true potential of every community; to tell every story,



to hear every voice and champion the contribution every person makes. Through theatre we can show a world where everything is possible!

In 2023 we joined Arts Council England's Investment Programme as a National Portfolio Organisation, became a Visit York Tourism Award Winner in 'Resilience and Innovation', and recently won the award for 'Outstanding Talent' in the York Mix Hero Awards and 'Community Changemaker' and 'Inclusive Business' at the 2024 York Enterprise Awards. For more information visit: [www.nextdoorbutone.co.uk](http://www.nextdoorbutone.co.uk)

As an equal opportunities and [Disability Confident Committed](#) employer, and [PiPA Charter Partner](#) we are always happy to discuss solutions that allow people to balance and contribute all aspects of their identity with their working life. We will always endeavour where possible to put in place practices for all our company members to contribute their fullest. If you need any support in applying, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

### Roles

- Role 1: Molly (female, playing age 12).
- Role 2: Joe (male, playing age 6).
- Role 3: Taylor (female, playing age 12) and Mum (female, mid 40s).

Please note that we are not expecting the actor to look the above ages, just to be able to capture that energy. All actors will also play other roles. All actors must be 18 years of age or older.

Due to training opportunities and rehearsals and tour being all based in York, actors must be from Yorkshire or have a base here.

### The Opportunity

This is an exciting, paid, development and training opportunity for those who have recently graduated from theatre training, providing engagement in a professional touring production, whilst receiving bespoke career development to help graduates sustain and grow their careers. This will take place in three stages:

Stage 1: We are offering the 3 actors, 6 months of multiple workshops with industry professionals, many sessions will be bespoke to the direct needs of the actors. These will include headshots, showreel sessions, mentoring from experienced NDB1 actors and open casting sessions.

Stage 2: The actors will then go into rehearsal for the play How to Be a Kid, supported by the NDB1 creative team. During rehearsals, actors will work with organisations and companies who have lived experience of being a young carer and living with mental ill



health, as these are the themes of the play. These workshops will explore the characters and their choices with those communities.

Stage 3: The actors will then tour to 7 York based venues, including audiences of the above organisations and charities ( York Mind, York Carers, Out of Character Theatre Company etc).

### Timeline

- 4/9/24 Application process closes at 9am.
- 18/9/2024 Live auditions
- November 2024- March 2025 Actors engage in Opening Doors  
*(roughly fortnightly development workshops and bespoke individual and small group workshops, some online and some live.)*
- 5/11/2024 - 7/11/2024 Actors take part in 3 days R & D for the project
- 21/4/2025-25/4/2025 Week 1 of rehearsals
- 28/4/2025-02/05/2025 Week 2 of rehearsals
- 05/05/2025- 09/05/2025 Week 3 of rehearsals
- 09/05/2025-23/05/2025 7 Performances, dates tbc

### Fee

3 days R & D @ £378

3 weeks of rehearsal @ £573 per week

1 week performances @ £573 per week

*Please note all training within Opening Doors is funded, but you will not be paid to attend.*

### Application process

Please send a self tape of one of the following scripts with your name and the role you are applying for, along with a CV and short statement as to why this opportunity would be of benefit to you, to [ndb1arts@gmail.com](mailto:ndb1arts@gmail.com) by Monday 2nd September.

If you are shortlisted for a second audition, we will contact you by Wednesday 4th September, and the auditions will be held on Wednesday 18th September in York.



### Script Excerpts For Self Tape

Please note this can be read and does not need to be learned. Please do not worry about selftape quality - a video of you reading the short texts, recorded on a smartphone or similar will suffice

#### Role 1: Molly

MOLLY:

Seventeen miles away from our estate and you can't get there on a bus. We checked. Me and Taylor printed off a map in Yvonne's office showing the way from Riverside to mine. Basically you need a car.

But when I'm lying in my bed, with One Direction and Little Mix and Rihanna and Taylor Swift looking down on me... I can't get comfy. It's like I don't fit like I used to. I'm home. But somehow it doesn't feel right. And I can feel this sort of wriggling, squirmy feeling in my tummy, a kind of worry feeling that won't go away. It feels like a sort of... worm.

And I know I should be happy to be home but I wish that I could creep down the corridor in my pyjamas, knock on Taylor's door, jump in her bed and whisper until Yvonne comes round and catches me.

Taylor. I've known her five weeks and one day and in that time I've learnt every single thing about her. She's my best ever best friend. She's kind of... glowy, as if someone's left a light on inside of her, as if she's magical. You can't help staring at her, see what she's going to do next. The first time I met her, she actually read my mind. For real.

So, okay. I'm walking into the TV room at Riverside. Yvonne is talking, telling me everyone's names. But I'm not listening, I'm looking round and wondering how I can stay here, without my mum and Joe. A green carpet with swirls on. A big-screen TV and two boys fighting over the remote. They don't even look up. Yvonne goes over to sort them out and I'm standing there, feeling stupid, on my own. And then I see her.

She's sitting on the corner of the orange settee dodging the kicks. Her face is scrunched up, as if she wants to get off the settee but she won't let them win. And she looks at me. She looks at me as if she can see right into my head, as if she can see all my brain and my insides and my thoughts and everything.



### Role 2: Joe

JOE:

I'm back!!! I'm Joe. I'm six, and my favourite dinosaur is a Triceratops. At carpet time I was being a Diplodocus and I didn't notice that everyone was already sat on the carpet till Ms Morahan said, 'We're just waiting for this dinosaur to join us,' and it was me! She really thought I was really a Diplodocus, can you believe it?

And I live at number twenty-two, Thornton Road...Hey, Mum, Mum, Mum, watch this — (JOE does a forward roll and stands up again quickly after).

Learned it when I was at Dad's. And I learned what one add two add three add four is! It's ten! It's ten, Mum, it's ten! I Superboy! What's for tea? Can we have McDonald's? Wow, my room! My dinosaurs! My train set! Is that a CAKE? I love cake!

### Role 3: Taylor and Mum

TAYLOR:

'I can't live here.' That's totally what you're thinking. 'I can't live here.' Just tell. And it's what I thought when I walked in. You'll get used to it. I'm Taylor. Shall we get out of here? I know where the hot chocolate is. Yvonne hides it behind the Weetabix or the boys would get through it in a day. So. What else? There's only two girls — me and you — and three boys. Reece, Curtis and Kyle. Or, Idiot One, Idiot Two and Idiot Three, as I like to call them. Joke. They're alright. Is this your first time? In care? Ask me how many places I've been in. Twenty-two. Fourteen foster placements and eight children's centres. Not that many really. Reece has been in thirty-six. Been in care since I was eight. My nan died and my mum can't look after me. I'm not even meant to be here. Had foster placement but it fell through. They're trying to find me another one but till they do... What music you in to?

MUM:

It's alright! Sweet, Mum's here, it's okay. Don't cry. What is it, Moll? It's been hard for all of us, the last week or so, hasn't it? Getting used to being here again. There've been lot of changes. Molly's right — things aren't the same. I was upset because I miss Nan. And sometimes I see things that remind me of her, like the cake programme on the telly, or Vera, and it makes me sad that she isn't here.

But even though I'm sad sometimes, I'm happy too. I'm happy to have you two back at home and I'm happy that you're safe and I'm looking forward to all the fun we can have together tomorrow and the next day and the next. And I'm learning to cope with the sad feelings, so that they don't take over the happy feelings too much. Does that make sense?

Come here. I wish I could take away all your worries. But I can't. Just like you can't take away my worries.