



Where everything
is possible



Tall Stories: Skills Week Information pack

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Tall Stories Background Information

Tall Stories – where everything is possible

Tall Stories is a registered charity that tours the UK and internationally with award-winning shows for family audiences. We bring great stories to life and are internationally recognised for our exciting blend of storytelling theatre, original music, innovative puppetry and lots of laughter.

We are based at the Tall Stories Studio, a step-free 80 seat space situated in Islington Central Library, London. As well as being our administrative home, the space also plays host to preview performances. To increase our impact in the sector, we also run artist development programmes and deliver wider community activities to complement our programme of on-stage work.

We create opportunities for everyone to get involved with theatre and offer accessible performances (including but not limited to integrated BSL, audio descriptions and in relaxed environments). We also provide free shows and experiences as part of our commitment to removing barriers that might otherwise prevent children and families from experiencing live theatre.

A background photograph showing several people in profile, engaged in conversation. The image is slightly blurred, focusing attention on the text overlay. The people appear to be in a social or educational setting.

Our Promises

- We keep it simple, do try this at home
- We put a pause on life to transport you into another world
- Everything we do has a touch of magic
- We invite children and their grown-ups to feel and talk
- We encourage play and silliness
- We open up the wonder of Tall Stories for all children
- We value and care for one another

A young woman with a surprised or excited expression is the central focus. She is wearing a black and white plaid shirt over a black top. In the background, another woman in a pink shirt is visible, and the setting appears to be a stage or rehearsal space with dark curtains.

Skills Week 2026 Call Out

Are you interested in family theatre? Do you want to develop your skills in storytelling? On this paid weeklong course, you will have the opportunity to work with Tall Stories' Artistic Director Toby Mitchell, as well as other Tall Stories Creatives. The week will cover the following skills: direct address narration and storytelling, movement, puppetry and singing. When taking part in the course you will develop these skills in a fun and supportive environment!

When and Where is the course?

The course will run from Monday 29 June – Friday 3 July 2026, 10am – 5pm at the Tall Stories Studio, 68 Holloway Road, London, N7 8JL.

Who is the course for?

We are inviting applications from performers aged 18 and over. There are 20 spaces available for the course.

This is not an introductory course, so you will need to have some experience and/or training in performing on stage professionally and/or in amateur dramatics. We are looking for performers who are excited about telling engaging stories and who are committed to developing their career in performance.

We are committed to identifying and reducing barriers which may ordinarily exclude people from continued professional development. We particularly encourage applications from people whose backgrounds or lived experience are underrepresented in previous applications to our artist development opportunities. This includes people from the global majority, carers and people from low socio-economic backgrounds.

Please feel free to mention this in your application (though this is not a compulsory requirement).



What will we cover?

The five-day workshop will cover direct address narration and storytelling, movement, puppetry and singing.

What would I need to bring?

You would need to wear appropriate clothing that you can move easily in. There is currently nothing else you need to bring to the course. If this changes, we will let participants know as soon as possible and well in advance of the week.

Financial Info

The course is free and we are providing a financial contribution to all participants amounting to £518.00 (London Living Wage). If you live outside of London and need financial assistance with travel, please let us know when you apply, and we'll take this into consideration at point of offer.

How to Apply

Please click [here](#) for more information and for the application form.

The application process will involve videoing yourself performing one of the texts provided and uploading it as an unlisted video to YouTube or Vimeo. Please title your video with your first and last name then 'Skills Week 2026'.

You will also need to answer some questions. These may be answered in writing or as a video or audio file. All formats will be equally considered.

Please apply as soon as you can, but no later than 9am, 27 April 2026.

All applicants will know the outcome of their application no later than 11 May 2026.

If you have any questions, or if you would like this call out information or the application form in another format, please contact Fiona Bines at artistdevelopment@tallstories.org.uk or 020 8348 0080.



Top Tips for Filming Self-tapes

- Make sure you are well lit, with the light source in front of you and do not film with your back to a window.
- Try to keep background noise to a minimum and make sure that we can hear you clearly.
- We recommend that you film in landscape, not portrait.
- Place the camera at eye level and try not to stand too close. We would like to see your whole upper body, waist to head.
- Relax, and engage us in the story you are telling – talk directly to the camera and as if you are talking to a single grown-up, not to a child or children.
- We are not necessarily looking for technique, above all we are looking for a twinkle in your eye.

A photograph of three people in a meeting. On the left, a woman with glasses and a black top is looking towards the center. In the middle, a woman with blonde hair and glasses is smiling. On the right, a man with a beard and dark hair is looking towards the center. They are in a room with a bookshelf in the background.

Equal Opportunities

Tall Stories is committed to equality of opportunity and access for all.

We strive to create an inclusive environment that reflects our communities and values, and respects diversity.

We ensure that no person is unfairly discriminated against in our recruitment and selection policies and procedures. We actively welcome applications from those currently underrepresented in our workforce and industry.

Your application and any associated personal information will be stored and processed in accordance with our Privacy Policy and destroyed after six months.

We look forward to receiving your application – thank you for your interest!