

Producer
the vacuum cleaner/Madlove Ltd
Margate

Context

A forward-thinking, disabled artist and activist is looking for a calm and efficient Producer to support national and international exhibitions at world-renowned galleries and festivals. Partners include Manchester International Festival, Museum of Contemporary Art Zurich, Chisenhale Gallery, Bernie Grant Arts Centre, Wellcome Collection and the GLA.

the vacuum cleaner is the name of a UK based artist who makes candid, provocative and playful art about the world being messed up. the vacuum cleaner wants to find better ways to go mad. Drawing on his own experience of mental health disability, he works with groups including young people, health professionals and vulnerable adults to challenge how mental health is understood, treated and experienced, informed by a disability justice framework.

the vacuum cleaner is James. He works from his Margate Studio with Studio Manager, Katie and his dog Doris. With roots in activism and radical art, the vacuum cleaner has created one-person interventions and large-scale actions as well as performance, installation and film. His work has been shown in galleries, theatres, hospitals and schools and has appeared on streets and in public spaces internationally.

James was awarded a 'Breakthrough Fund' from the Paul Hamlyn Foundation in 2018 and not long after founded the company, Madlove Ltd, to support his work. We are in the process of applying to become a charity and have recently created a new Board of Trustees. As well as this, Madlove recently became a National Portfolio Organisation with Arts Council England.

We make work with young people and adults experiencing challenges with their mental health which can be demanding, emotional and amazing - we bring their work into internationally respected and critically acclaimed art spaces.

We are looking to find a dynamic ambitious producer with significant experience to work alongside James and Katie to deliver brilliant artistic projects and make a shift in perceptions and experiences of mental health. The producer should have a deep understanding of disability justice, Madpride, radical left politics and social movements. The ideal candidate is someone who is highly self motivated, flexible and with precise organisational and communication skills. We expect the successful candidate to work from the studio in Margate, with regular travel nationally and internationally to support exhibitions as required.

Main Purpose

To support the Artist James Leadbitter, aka the vacuum cleaner, on the coordination, producing and delivery of projects. Including but not limited to, managing budgets, partner relations and supervising freelance staff.

Key Responsibilities

Project management

- Being a first point of contact for external partners.
- Oversee coordination of workshops, production, tours and commissions.
- Scheduling of team members, including participants.
- Accompanying James or others for projects and tours as required.

- Ensuring access support is provided for projects and the artist.
- Responsible for travel, accommodation and subsistence requirements.
- Arranging, planning and minuting production meetings and project debriefs.
- Managing freelancers as required.

Production budget management

- Responsible for creating project budgets, monitoring spending against them and keeping up with bookkeeping responsibilities.
- Supporting the Studio Manager with evaluation and fundraising as required.

Partner relations

- Liaising on budgets, technical, disability, safeguarding and publicity requirements.

Art administrative support

- Supporting video production and digital file management.
- In charge of transportation and storage of artworks.

Tour management

- Liaison nationally/internationally with potential and confirmed tour partners.
- Oversee all production requirements including freelance and other artists involvement and access in the tour.
- Act as point of contact for tour partners and their teams including marketing and events.

Leading on ethos, politics and ethics of projects regarding organisation and disability.

Any other duties as reasonably required.

Experience

Essential

- At least 5 years experience producing arts/cultural projects.
- Experience of development and managing project budgets.
- Experience of working with social practice and/or disabled artists to realise their ideas.
- Excellent communication skills (written and verbal).
- Knowledge of the UK's subsidised arts sector and infrastructure.
- Based in or near Margate, or willing to relocate for the position.
- Willingness to have a DBS check and undertake relevant safeguarding training.
- Clear and concise communication of own disability, if required.
- Ability to travel in the UK and internationally as required.
- Competent understanding of managing complex digital projects, specifically film and image, working using Dropbox, Google and other platforms.

Desirable

- An existing knowledge of mental health.
- Awareness of disability and inclusion strategies and organising.
- Understanding of technical requirements for live performance and events.
- Understanding of the international arts sector.
- Experience with Mac based computers and Final Cut Pro and Adobe Suite.
- Comfortable being occasionally around dogs (Doris is a Whippet).
- International working including visas.
- Driving licence.
- A valid passport.
- Existing DBS check.

Other

- Many of James' projects involve working directly with vulnerable adults and children, this may include working in Mental Health hospitals or other challenging environments. You should be aware and able to work in a healthy way whilst also being able to support James and other collaborators.
- Awareness of your own stress and psychological wellbeing and being active in self-care or being clear if moments are demanding or too much.
- Disabled applicants will be required to provide their own support through Access to Work or through negotiation.

Other benefits

- 35 days holiday annually including bank holidays.
- 3 month probationary period.
- 3 month notice period.
- Sick leave.
- Duvet days.

Role Producer

Line Manager Executive Producer

Reporting to the vacuum cleaner

Responsible for Art Assistants/Freelancers

Salary £36,000 plus statutory pension

Hours FTE 1

Contract Permanent

Location Margate

To apply

Please send us a maximum 2 sided CV and 2 page covering letter letting us know why you, why now, why the vacuum cleaner.

Please send your application to joinus@thevacuumcleaner.co.uk by **midday Wednesday 8 March 2023**.

Interviews will take place on Tuesday 14 March in Margate.

Feel free to contact us if you'd like to discuss this opportunity or have any questions.