



BarnArts Center for the Arts
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Building Community Through Art

Once Upon a Mattress Choreographer

Job Description

Location: All performances will be at Barnard Town Hall in Barnard, VT. Rehearsals may take place in the best location for the cast, although the use of Barnard Town Hall is generally expected for most choreography work. Preliminary/planning work can be done remotely.

Job Dates: Early Sept thru production dates, plus any early production meetings and auditions ideally in July. Remote early meetings are possible.

Performance Dates: Nov 6, 7, 8, 12, 13, 14, 15

Hours: Exact hours will vary and can usually accommodate balancing full-time day jobs. Time spent planning is required beyond rehearsals and performances. The rehearsal process will begin with 3 scheduled rehearsals weekly (2 evenings & 1 weekend afternoon) but choreography will likely be twice a week to start. More rehearsals will be required leading up to tech week (Nov 1); tech week includes 4 dress rehearsals.

General expectations

The *Once Upon a Mattress* production team works together to create a positive artistic experience for the cast, crew, and audience. Each member of the production team is expected to attend all meetings, rehearsals, and other events (such as auditions and strike) to which they have been called by the Director. They are expected to meet any relevant deadlines laid down in the production schedule, which is drafted by the Director after consultation with the Music Director and Choreographer. They are also expected to provide regular status updates on rehearsal progress, especially, but not exclusively, if work is not proceeding on schedule.

The Choreographer is responsible for the design and teaching of all dance numbers and musical stage movements in the production, supporting the artistic vision of the production and the dance skill of the cast. This includes working closely with the Director, Music Director, and the rest of the creative team to ensure a cohesive and engaging performance. The Choreographer must be able to work with adults of all levels of experience and backgrounds.

The Choreographer has a unique partnership with the Director & Music Director and together they form the lead creative team of the production. While the Director will provide an overall vision for the show, the lead creative team works as a tight trio, making choices that best serve the production and leading the rehearsals while also supporting each other. Leadership, preparedness and professionalism are required by all team members, leading to a production-wide atmosphere of inclusivity, kindness, and respect.

Specific tasks

Preliminary work

Prior to rehearsals, the Choreographer is expected to do the following:

- Read the script and study the music/score to become familiar with all aspects of the music that will require or be enhanced by dancing or movement. The Director/Producer can provide a digital libretto prior to the first team meeting.
- Attend an early production team meeting and confer with the Director about their vision and the expected performance style of the production.
 - Be prepared to discuss the dance numbers and music, in collaboration with the Music Director, providing any insights on areas of dance focus, concern or difficulty.
- Plan the dance portion of the Auditions.
 - Dance auditions will be 16 counts of a dance sequence that is designed to show which actors have more skill, but also not discourage weaker ensemble dancers.
- Attend auditions to evaluate abilities and select performers based on their abilities, collaborating with the creative team in final casting choices to balance priorities and needs.

Duties, during the rehearsal process

- Come to rehearsals prepared with dances fully sequenced and ready to teach the cast
 - Dances and other stage movements should coincide with the artistic vision of the production and the dance skill of the actors, supporting where the actors are as dancers but also inspiring them to learn and grow as performers
- Teach and rehearse dances to build the show alongside the acting and singing rehearsals
- Attend all run-throughs, finding times before or after runs to polish dance and movements that need more support/learning
- Select and lead a dance captain to rehearse dances with small groups, as desired/appropriate

Duties, during tech week and the performance run

- Attend all dress rehearsals, finding times before or after runs to polish dance and movements that need more support/learning
- Attend performances and strike to support the cast and crew

Job Type: Short term contract

Pay: \$1200 stipend

Education: Flexible

Experience: An ideal candidate will be well organized, community minded and self-motivated, and have the choreography proficiency and experience necessary for this key leadership position.

Work Location: Remote + Barnard, Vermont

How to apply: Interested candidates should submit a cover letter and resume to Executive Director Linda Trash through email info@barnarts.org. Position will be open until filled.

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