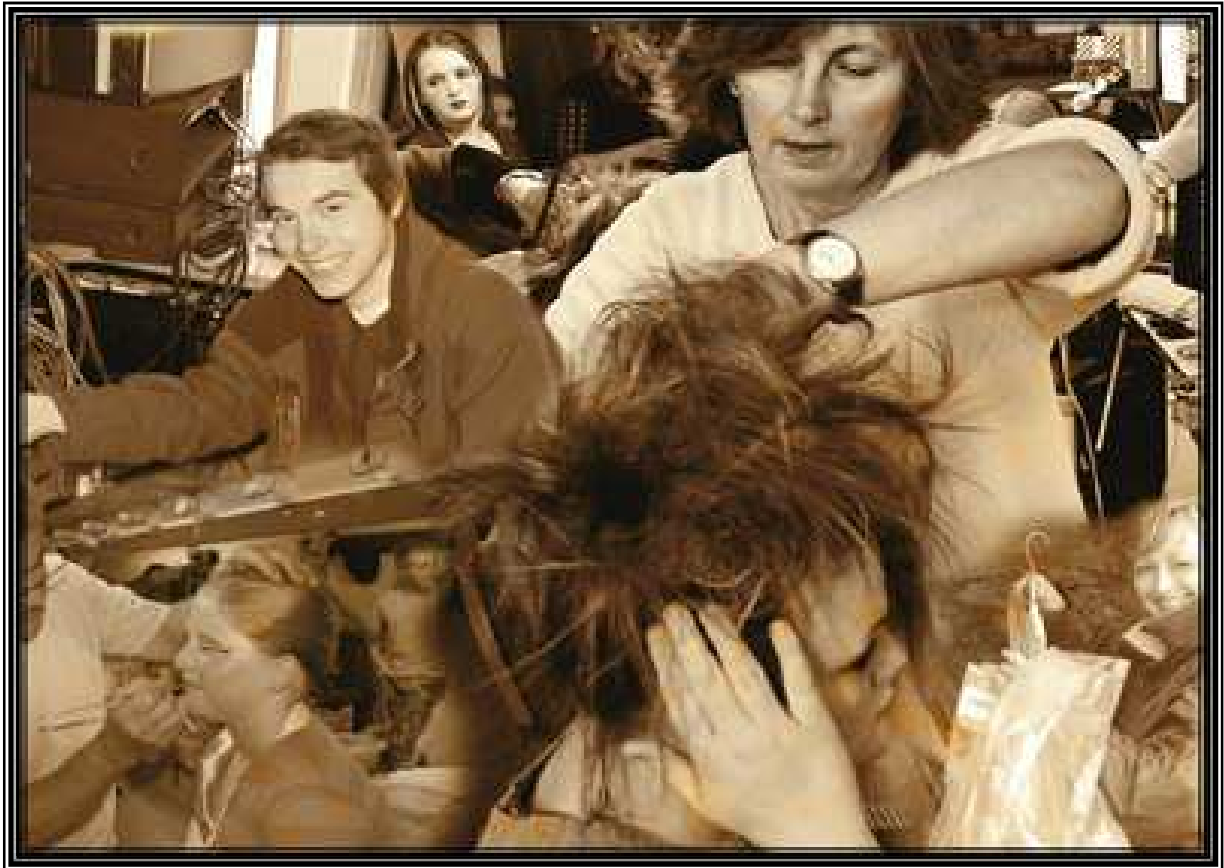


KIDZ R US

st ives theatre



Volunteer Menu



LOTTERY FUNDED



The Queen's Award
for Voluntary Service

Introduction



Kidz R Us is a registered charity providing opportunities in the performing arts for young people, aged 7 – 20 in West Cornwall. It was founded in 1994 and is now based in its own 320 seat theatre (a converted Wesleyan chapel) in St Ives in Cornwall. Kidz R Us exists to encourage the participation of young people, regardless of their background, in the performing arts both for their own personal development, and for the benefit of the wider community.

Kidz R Us currently produces at least three large-scale shows a year, and a small number of concerts. We are now expanding the opportunities we can offer to adults as well as young people, creating many new roles for our volunteers and offering professional backstage training.

Our volunteer programmes range from handing out leaflets to designing stage sets or joining an orchestra.

Kidz R Us prides itself in developing a 'Family feel' where all are welcome. Whether you want to make new friends and have fun, or gain work experience for your career, there is a place for you at **Kidz R Us**.



There are many levels of volunteering to suit your taste. Whether you're a first time volunteer or an old pro, don't be shy about asking questions of any of our members.

Everyone has to start on some level and we're grateful that you're taking the first step.

As you scan this menu book for great volunteer opportunities, remember that **Kidz R Us** is only as effective as you, our volunteer base, allow us to be. Without you, we don't exist!

Remember– you don't have to be a kid to be in Kidz!

Volunteer Activities– Appetizers....

These are activities that require no previous experience or a low level of commitment.

1. **Front of house** – a variety of roles including showing people to their seats, selling programmes and ice-creams or working behind the bar during shows.

2. **Handing out leaflets**– we always need more publicity! This could involve taking posters round your local area or handing out flyers outside the theatre– great on a summers day!



3. **'Crafty Sew n Sews'**– a drop-in theatre-crafts group every Tuesday morning from 10.00–12.00.

4. **Cleaning /decorating**—help always needed to keep the theatre looking spick and span.

5. **Box office** —selling tickets to the public in person and by phone using a computer and keyboard.(full training and support given)

6. **Join the 'Creation Team'**– helping to make props and paint scenery for the shows.

7. **Stage curtain operators** during shows

8. **Hand- stitchers** – handy people always needed to sew on fastenings, apply embroidery and bead-work and stitch hems– can be done from your own home if preferred.

9. **Office help** — answering the phone, data entry, photocopying, making tea– any help gratefully received!

10. **Helping out on open days and stalls at fairs** —

We are always looking for lively people to help out during a variety of

fundraising community activities that we take part in during the year. Ideas for events always welcome!



11. **Show callers** – people who call the actors to the stage ready for their cue to make sure everyone gets there on time.



Starters.....

These are activities that require either some commitment to a run of shows, or a degree of specialist skill, or perhaps just a willingness to undertake training, which we will provide.

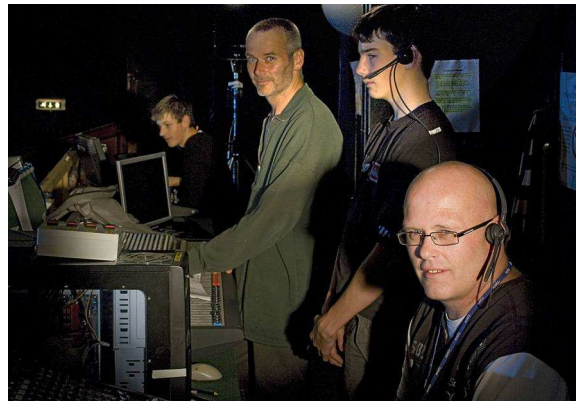


Hair and make-up

support– needed on shows and dress rehearsals to work as part of a small team. Plenty of opportunities to learn new skills whether you're a complete beginner or a seasoned beautician.

Sound and Lighting Operators

Working as part of a team headed by a professional Lighting Designer, Simon Hutchings. We have a range of roles from follow-spot operators to Sound Engineers. Kidz R Us has offered many technical training courses for our volunteers, and will find a role for anyone who is interested and willing to learn.



Scenery makers

Working alongside our dedicated team we welcome anyone with practical skills who would like to help us make scenery and props for the shows.

Props Organizers.

Making sure all props are prepared, and in the right place and handing them to the performers to use during live performances. An essential behind the scenes role!



Starters Continued.....

Chaperones— A very important role! Chaperones support the young people during shows and rehearsals and act as 'Loco Parentis' to ensure that the children's are safe and happy during shows and rehearsals.

Wardrobe dressers — work in the dressing rooms during shows and rehearsals helping the young people with costume changes. Any volunteers taking on this role will need to attend a certain amount of dress rehearsals so they are familiar with the costume changes that are needed.



Box office managers— Take responsibility for the box office during shows; selling tickets, taking bookings, dealing with customer issues and liaising with Front of House staff.



Costume makers— people who can use a sewing machine and make up costumes with instruction and support from our costume designer Jane Badcock. Costumes can be made at home or in our theatre-based workroom which has been recently refurbished with new machines and artificial 'daylight'.

Kidz Orchestra— a range of musicians who play live music from our brand new orchestra pit to accompany our shows. Led and coached by our own Musical Director Peter Luing.

Administrative assistants— People who are prepared to come in and take ownership of part of the Kidz R Us administration, for example, updating the patrons list, or creating a database of sheet music.



For those with a more hearty appetite.....

Roles that require a commitment to attend most shows and dress rehearsals and a large amount of rehearsals, or involve taking responsibility for an aspect of a show. Training and support available for these roles.

Stage manager – The person in charge of making sure things get done! Responsibilities vary but mainly acts as first point of contact for all the departments. You will need a calm head, great organisation skills and lots of patience. Also works closely with the Director to take notes relating to the performance during rehearsals.



Set designer— working closely with the Director, the Designer creates the concept that sets the scene for the performance and works alongside the Scenery and Props Creation Team.

Front of House Manager— Responsible for the briefing and organising a small Front of House staff team on show nights.

Boys/girls Wardrobe Co-ordinator— Works closely with the Director and Wardrobe Director to organise the costumes for the cast in one of the dressing rooms. Also leads a team of dressers to ensure that all Kidz have the right costume on at the right time.



Fundraisers— people skilled in writing proposals and grant applications.

Associate /Assistant directors— people who work closely with the Director and take rehearsals in the Directors absence.



And to finish...

Thank you for taking the time to read the Kidz R Us Volunteer Menu and for your support! We hope that it gives you some idea of the range of volunteering opportunities available in our organisation.

If you didn't see an activity that suits you, don't be discouraged. These are just some of the main activities available. Endless levels of volunteering and hands-on support are needed in our organisation. Contact Kim Parker at Kidz R Us and ask how you can help, make a suggestion or better still just volunteer to do it! If you have a skill, idea or would like to offer something you don't see mentioned here– please get in touch!

We have teams of people offering occasional but extremely valued services such as photography, web and poster design, voice and dialect coaching, bead-makers and piano tuners! If you would like to be added to our database of helpers please let us know. You might be able to offer something we had never thought of that could make a huge difference to our organisation.



Come and join us!

Useful Information

Rehearsals.

These take place on Wednesday and Friday evenings from 7 p.m. until 10.00 p.m. and this is when a great deal of volunteering takes place. We also have rehearsals on many weekends as we become close to a show.

The theatre is also open as a working building between 9.00 and 5.00 p.m. Monday to Friday.

Criminal Records Bureau Checks.

As we are a youth organisation we require all volunteers working with young people to undertake a full CRB disclosure check to ensure that there we are not putting young people at risk. Note– if you have a minor spent conviction ,unrelated to working with children, this may not preclude you from working with young people– please be honest with us and we can advise.

Insurance.

All volunteers are covered by Kidz R Us Insurance Policy.

Support.

All volunteers will be given a full induction by the Volunteer Co-ordinator, who is there to help and support you in your role.

If you have any further queries please get in touch!

Kim Parker.
Volunteer coordinator.

St Ives Theatre, Lower Stennack, St Ives, Cornwall TR26 1QG

tel: 01736 797007

kim@kidzrus.net

www.kidzrus.net