

Diversity statement 2097: We Made Ourselves Over

27 June 2017

Casting

Hull casting call

In April we launched a casting call out asking young female actors to apply for the three main roles in *2097: We Made Ourselves Over*. The call emphasised our desire to cast the roles to residents of Hull. We auditioned over 30 actors from a diverse range of backgrounds and in the end chose the candidates with the strongest acting ability for the roles.

Date of call: 28th April 2017

Copy used:

'We're looking for four budding actresses up for a challenge and ready to take their next career step in our sci-fi films, being shot in Hull & Aarhus Denmark this summer as part of our 2097: We Made Ourselves Over.

This opportunity is open to young actresses aged 16+ and we're especially keen to hear from anyone in the Humber & East Riding areas. You will be working with Chris Hees, Hull's own BAFTA award-winning and Oscar nominated founder of Bridge Way Films.

If you can see yourself playing one of these four imaginative sci-fi roles, email us at casting@blasttheory.co.uk by May 8 with your name, age and address and a recent photo of yourself. Good luck!

An initial casting day will be held on May 18 in central Hull with additional audition days on May 23

The call out was posted to the *2097: We Made Ourselves Over* website and the Hull 2017 website which we linked to on our social channels Facebook Twitter and Instagram.

Facebook copy used:

'Acting talent sought for Hull sci-fi film! We're looking for four budding actresses up for a challenge and ready to take their next career step in our sci-fi films, being shot in Hull & Aarhus Denmark this summer as part of our 2097: We Made Ourselves Over project.

This opportunity is open to young actresses aged 16+ and we're especially keen to hear from anyone in the Humber & East Riding areas. You will be working with Chris Hees, Hull's own BAFTA award-winning and Oscar nominated founder of Bridge Way Films.

If you can see yourself playing one of these four imaginative sci-fi roles, email us at casting@blasttheory.co.uk by 8 May with your name, age and address and a recent photo of yourself. Good luck!

Tweets:

- Calling #Hull acting talent! #Humber #EastRiding actresses16+yrs for @2017Hull #its2097 films working with @ChrisHees Apply by 8 May [facebook/web link + pic]

- #Hull 16+ actresses have you applied yet? Work with BAFTA award winning @ChrisHees on @2017Hull @Aarhus2017 sci-fi film #its2097 [facebook/web link + pic]

- We're hiring! #Hull 16+ actresses for @2017Hull @Aarhus2017

- sci-fi film #its2097 working with BAFTA award wining @ChrisHees [facebook/web link + pic]

- Fancy playing the next Katniss Everdeen? Casting call for 16+ #Hull actresses for @2017Hull @Aarhus2017 sci-fi film #its2097 [facebook/web link + pic]

- XX days to go! Apply now to star in a sci-fi film working with BAFTA award winning @ChrisHees #its2097 @2017Hull [facebook/web link + pic]

A separate press release was issued on 26th April to Hull local press:

'Calling all budding actresses! Fantastic opportunity for local young talent to play leading roles in sci-fi films being shot in Hull & Aarhus as part of an interactive art project for Hull UK City of Culture 2017.

Are you up for a challenge and ready to take your next step in professional acting? The search is on for the best young acting talent Hull has to offer as a casting call launches for the leading roles in a series of sci-fi films being shot in the city.

The sci-fi films are part of the Hull UK City of Culture 2017 commissioned 2097: We Made Ourselves Over, a year-long interactive art project by internationally renowned artists group Blast Theory that invites the cities of Hull and Aarhus, Denmark to reimagine their communities 80 years from now.

Blast Theory are now looking for three professional actresses aged 16-18 from the Humber and East Riding areas of the city, available to take part in filming in Hull and Aarhus in June and July 2017. They will star in a series of sci-fi film shorts to be screened online and in both cities later this year - potentially reaching hundreds of thousands of people around the world.

Matt Adams from Blast Theory says: "It is the year 2097 and a new era is dawning in Aarhus. Three young women Hessa, Vidya and Catreus are poised to guide their community through the demolishing and reinstatement of their city.

"This is a fantastic opportunity to work with award-winning production company Bridge Way Films led by local BAFTA winning, Oscar-nominated Producer Chris Hees.

"Can you see yourself playing one of these imaginative sci-fi roles? Are you up for a challenge? If you want to help bring this vision of

BLAST THEORY

Unit 5, 20 Wellington Road, Portslade, Brighton BN41 1DN tel & fax: 00 44(0)1273 413 455 info@blasttheory.co.uk www.blasttheory.co.uk

the future to life we'd love to hear from you!"

Interested candidates are asked to email casting@blasttheory.co.uk with a recent photo of themselves and their full name, age and address by May 3.

2097: We Made Ourselves Over is a jointly commissioned project for Hull UK City of Culture 2017 and Aarhus 2017 European Capital of Culture.

The project asks the people of Hull and Aarhus to imagine their cities 80 years from now – the kind of communities they want to live in, how they think challenges such as climate change might impact on them, and the spaces and places they want to see there.

Blast Theory kicked off this year-long project last Autumn. They began by interviewing 'future experts' – specialists in the study of climate change, technology, community and economics - to explore the possible opportunities and challenges the future might hold for each city.

Then using these conversations as inspiration – which are being released via a monthly blog at www.wemadeourselvesover.com - in December 2016 young people from the city took part in workshops with young people from Aarhus, in which they were challenged to invent a new skyline for the city; re-imagine everyday life and propose new forms of living.

A series of free live events will unite all of the strands of this wide-reaching arts project, the details of which will be announced in the Summer.

Danish casting call

In May we launched a similar call out in Denmark asking older actors to apply for two other roles in the films. All of the actors who applied were Caucasian and so two were cast.

Date of call: 15th May 2017

Copy used:

'Want to star in a series of sci-fi shorts?

Are you an actor and up for a new challenge? The search is on for two older Danish actors as a casting call launches for major roles in a series of short sci-fi films being shot in the city.

The sci-fi films are part of the Aarhus European Capital of Culture 2017 commissioned 2097: We Made Ourselves Over, a year-long interactive art project by internationally renowned artists group Blast Theory that invites the cities of Aarhus and Hull, UK to reimagine their communities 80 years in the future.

Now, Blast Theory are looking for one male and one female actor in their late 50s to take part in filming in Hull and Aarhus in June and July 2017. The films will be screened online and in both cities later this year.

Matt Adams from Blast Theory says: "It is the year 2097 and a new era is dawning in the city of Aarhus. Mass and Varda are in their late 50s and are ready to walk an epic journey.

"Can you see yourself playing one of these imaginative sci-fi roles? Can you swim and are you up for a challenge? If you want to help bring this vision of the future to life we'd love to hear from you."

Interested candidates are asked to register their interest by emailing gizmo@caster.com by 22 May, with their name, age, address and a recent photograph. Good luck!

Auditions will take place in Aarhus on 24 May.'

The call out was posted to the 2097: We Made Ourselves Over website which we linked to on Twitter and Instagram.

A separate press release was issued on 15th May to Aarhus local press:

'Danish actors sought to play roles in sci-fi film being shot in Aarhus as part of an interactive art project for Aarhus 2017

Are you an actor and up for a new challenge? The search is on for two older Danish actors as a casting call launches for major roles in a series of short sci-fi films being shot in the city.

The sci-fi films are part of the [Aarhus European Capital of Culture 2017](#) and [Hull UK City of Culture 2017](#) commissioned 2097: We Made Ourselves Over, a year-long interactive art project by internationally renowned artists group Blast Theory that invites the cities of Aarhus and Hull, UK to reimagine their communities 80 years in the future.

The project will climax in October with an extraordinary immersive event experienced online, on smartphones and at a secret Aarhus location. Tickets for this will go on sale soon.

Now, Blast Theory, working with BAFTA winning production company Bridge Way Films, are looking for one male and one female actor in their late 50s to take part in filming in Hull and Aarhus in June and July 2017. The films will be screened online and in both cities later this year.

Matt Adams from Blast Theory says: "It is the year 2097 and a new era is dawning in the city of Aarhus. Mass and Varda are in their late 50s and are ready to walk an epic journey.

"Can you see yourself playing one of these imaginative sci-fi roles? Can you swim and are you up for a challenge? If you want to help bring this vision of the future to life we'd love to hear from you."

Interested candidates are asked to register their interest by emailing gizmo@caster.com by 22 May, with their name, age, address and a recent photograph. Auditions will take place in Aarhus on 24 May.

BLAST THEORY

Unit 5, 20 Wellington Road, Portslade, Brighton BN41 1DN tel & fax: 00 44(0)1273 413 455 info@blasttheory.co.uk www.blasttheory.co.uk

Stace casting call (Denmark)

In order to reflect the diversity of the population in Aarhus and Hull that was not yet apparent in the cast, in the casting brief for Stace we stated that we were looking to cast an 'Actor from Black, Asian Minority Ethnic background'.

Casting brief copy:

'This July we're shooting five sci-fi short films in Aarhus and Hull (UK). The films are set in the year 2097, taking place in the hybrid city of Aarhus and we're looking to cast the role of a young girl called Stace in Denmark.

2097: We Made Ourselves Over is a science fiction event which engages its audience in a story which is citywide. Diverse communities across Hull (UK) and Aarhus will work in partnership with the artists to develop a speculative future for the city employing writing, mobile gaming and film.

The work will consist of an app for smartphones, intimate face to face encounters with players across the city, two live experiences in Hull (UK City of Culture 2017) and Aarhus (European Capital of Culture 2017) and a series of extraordinary films, We Made Ourselves Over invites audiences to come together to play, to explore and to dream of new futures.

The project is a co-commission between Aarhus 2017 European Capital of Culture and Hull UK City of Culture 2017 and the final films will be screened online, in a mobile app, live in Aarhus and Hull this Autumn and we will also be submitting them to film festivals.

Character outline: Stace

Stace is a 13 year old girl. She appears in one scene where she is chosen to become a leader of a new city, along with her two friends. This will be approximately 1/2 a day of filming in central Aarhus. This is a non-speaking part however the crew and Director are English-speaking.

What we're looking for:

- Amateur-level actor
- Female
- Playing age of 13-years-old
- Actor from Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic background

Filming details:

- One scene
- One 1/2 day shooting between 16th – 18th July (exact date and time TBC)
- Non-speaking role but the crew will be English-speaking
- This is a paid role and travel and accommodation is covered

Aarhus 2017 shared the brief on their social channels. The brief was also sent to local Aarhus acting schools.

Celebrant casting

For the role of the Celebrant we are making a direct approach to Black, Asian Minority Ethnic backgrounds to again reflect the diversity across the two cities.

Responses

We received 61 applicants to the Hull call out.

We received 15 applicants to the Aarhus call out.

Auditions

Hull auditions

Everyone who fit the casting brief was invited to an initial audition that took place on May 18 organised by Bridge Way Films. 51 people were auditioned in total. These were recorded and sent to the Director who then picked who to take forward to the second auditions.

Bridge Way Films also ran the second auditions and the Director attended. 33 people were auditioned and the three were finally chosen to fill the roles.

Aarhus auditions

Blast Theory hired a Danish Casting Director to organise and help promote the Danish auditions. One audition day was held on 24th May in Aarhus and another was held on 26th May in Copenhagen. 11 people were auditioned in total. 4 people who applied could not make the audition day.

Blast Theory Equality and Diversity Statement

We create our best work when diversity is at the centre of what we do.

Blast Theory has an obligation to speak to the full range of modern society; to speak with clarity while listening carefully; to be subjective, to take risks and, where necessary, to be controversial while balancing those artistic imperatives with inclusivity and sensitivity towards the diversity of our society.

Through the development of objective, measurable policies and systems, Blast Theory embraces diversity and is committed to making lasting and effective changes to ensure diversity and equality across our team and in all of our work and production practices.

Blast Theory champion equality and inclusion to ensure that across the organisation's activities, people are treated solely on the basis of their abilities and potential, regardless of race, colour, nationality, ethnic origin, disability, religious or political belief or affiliation, trade union membership, age, gender, gender reassignment, marital status, sexual orientation or any other inappropriate distinction. The company also notes that audiences from disadvantaged economic backgrounds are no less deserving of consideration than other marginalised groups. No individual or group should receive less favourable treatment on the above grounds or be disadvantaged by conditions, requirements or practices of Blast Theory.

Our commitment to equality, diversity and inclusion is expressed fully in our Equality Action Plan. The plan sets out how the company will incorporate a better understanding and implementation of diversity across the following operational and programme areas:

- Human Resources (HR) and recruitment
- 20 Wellington Road programme
- Artistic programme
- Audience development and marketing