**Solihull Cultural Education Partnership (CEP)**

**Young Core Creatives Information Pack**

**Outline**

Targeted at young people aged **18-25,** Young Core Creatives is a free, transformative programme, which intends to bridge the gap for emerging professionals to embed themselves into the creative industry.

The programme begins with a launch event on **1st March**, with an introduction to The Core Creatives space. This will be an action packed day with networking activities, key workshops and training, and an opportunity to be matched with one of our programme mentors.

We are working with 5 creative professionals, specialising in a variety of different fields, who will be matched with our young core creatives in the mentorship phase of the programme. Each young person will have 3 mentoring sessions with their assigned mentor, who will support them to integrate into not only the Core Creatives network, but the creative industry as a whole, navigating topics like finding work, logistics of being a freelancer, signposting to opportunities, and overcoming challenges unique to your creative journey.

2 additional day-long workshops will also be developed based on the cohort of young people on the programme.

**Mentors**

**Katie Holtom:**

Katie is a Creative Producer with over 4 years experience developing projects, festivals and performances, working to give young people and communities access to the arts. Katie is also the development coordinator for Solihull CEP. She specialises in performing arts, and would suit someone looking for a role behind the scenes in the industry.

**Shireenah:**

Shireenah has over 10 years experience working in the entertainment industry, starring in numerous films and adverts, as well as founding her own acting coaching company. Shireenah would suit someone looking to find diverse routes into the industry, with a business mindset.

**Alison:**

Alison has worked in dance and education for over 20 years, with a specialism in accessibility and inclusivity within the arts sector. Alison would suit individuals at the early stages of their journey, who are looking to create work that is for everyone.

**Louis:**

Louis has been a filmmaker and designer since 2003, having studied at the University of the Arts London. Louis is keen to support upcoming filmmakers to enter the industry, and will suit someone looking to work in this field in particular.

**Skylar:**

As both an actor and producer, Skylar benefits from working across the industry in a diverse career. Skylar would suit someone looking to become a freelancer, with multiple areas of work.

**Your Commitment**

If you are accepted to take part in this programme, you will be expected to attend a day long launch event (10am - 4pm) on Saturday 1st March.

You will be expected to attend 3 mentoring sessions at minimum 1 hour each with your allocated mentor.

You will have the option to take part in 2 additional day long workshops, which will be tailored around your specific needs.

All activity will take place in the Core Creatives space.

**Core Creatives:**

The Core Theatre Solihull

Theatre Square, Touchwood

Homer Road

Solihull

B91 3RG

Go straight up the stairs on your right as you enter The Core to the first floor and directly behind you at the top is the Core Creatives Space.

**Launch Event**

The programme launch will be taking place on Saturday 1st March in the Core Creatives Space, 10am-4pm.

This will include:

* A tour of Core Creatives, what you need to know, how to sign up & book, & what’s on offer
* Networking with your cohort and our mentors
* Business development crash course
* Using the software on the MACs
* Finding ‘You’ and your passions
* Matching you with your mentor

**Applications**

**Criteria for applying:**

* You must be aged 18-25 by 1st March 2025
* You must live work, or study in the West Midlands (Solihull applicants will be prioritised)
* You must have a passion for pursuing a career in the creative sector

If you have previously taken part in our Gen22 programme, and are aged 18-25, you will automatically be accepted onto the Young Core Creatives programme, but must still complete the application form.

**Apply by completing the form:**

[**https://forms.gle/rvHmW3urfr2KgMSV8**](https://forms.gle/rvHmW3urfr2KgMSV8)

**Application deadline: 15th March.**

**FAQs**

**How are mentors assigned to participants?**

Mentors are matched with participants based on their specific needs and career ambition. Although art form will come into play where necessary, the goal is to pair you with someone who can guide you in the areas you're most passionate about and help you navigate your professional journey.

**What topics will be covered in the mentoring sessions?**

This will really depend on you and your own needs. Sessions may cover a variety of essential topics, such as finding work in the creative industry, the logistics of being a freelancer (invoicing, tax, etc.), how to navigate the creative job market, and how to access opportunities, but it might also be much more.

**What support will I receive after the mentoring phase ends?**

Beyond the mentoring phase, you will continue to have access to the Core Creatives spaces and network, where you can connect with other young creatives, share opportunities, and receive ongoing guidance. There are several CPD opportunities, micro-commissions, and regular networking events/ coffee mornings as part of the network.

We will also be developing 2 additional day-long workshops based on the cohort of young creatives on this programme, which are tailored specifically to you and your needs.

**What kinds of workshops might be offered for the additional sessions?**

This will depend on what our cohort are interested in, and could range hugely.

Examples of some workshops that could take place are:

* Podcasting: developing and how to record your own podcast
* Exploring emerging technologies such as AI, VR & AR etc. and their role in the creative industries
* Personal branding: developing your own logo, how to build a website/ social media presence, your USP etc.
* Funding and Grants: Writing successful applications for creative grants

**What happens if I can’t attend the launch event on 1st March?**

While the launch event is a key part of the programme, we understand that circumstances might prevent attendance. Although we will be prioritising applications from those who can join the event, please let us know as soon as possible if you can't, and we will do our best to provide alternative ways for you to engage with the programme.

**How long does the programme last?**

The programme is fairly flexible, and dates of the mentoring sessions will be for you to arrange with your mentors depending on your own availability. The sessions must be completed by the end of May, so we recommend meeting once a month. After this, you are a member of Core Creatives for the duration of your career.

**Can I apply if I already have some professional experience in the creative industry?**

Yes! The programme is designed for emerging professionals at any stage of their journey. If you already have some experience but are looking to build your network or take your career to the next level, this programme can offer valuable resources, guidance, and mentorship. Please note, you must be aged 18-25.

**How many places are there on the programme?**

This will be flexible depending on the individuals we have applying, and their specific needs, however, we intend to accept approximately 25 people.

**Is there any support available if I have additional needs?**

Yes, please let us know of any needs in your application, and what you need from us in order to support them. This could range from BSL interpreters to printed versions of presentations.