

## CASTING CALL OUT

Deadline: Monday 15 July 2024

What question would you want your baby to answer? What would you like them to ask you? In a world full of astonishing unknowns and surprising possibilities, how do you find the right answers or questions?

**Soft or Spiky?** is Polka Theatre and Half Moon's new playful and interactive show for babies (6-18 months), devised and directed by **Daryl Beeton**. The production will open in Polka's Adventure Theatre (Autumn 2024) and then have a 7 week associated tour across the UK in Spring 2025 (to profiled venues and partners).

This will be a one person show and predominantly non-verbal - a contemporary, interactive Performance for babies (6-18 months).

### Schedule:

- Rehearsals commence 30 September 2024 at Polka Theatre
- Tech w/c 14 October 2024 at Polka Theatre
- Polka Adventure Theatre Previews 19 and 20 October 2024
- Production will take a week out during half term w/c 28 October 2024 to undertake a short tour including at Half Moon Theatre and Hat Factory Luton
- The Production will then return from 6 November and run at Polka Theatre until 24 Nov 2024
- Following this run, there will be a short break, and then the Production will tour across the UK, managed by Half Moon: 27 January-9 March, 2025 (possible extension until 16 March 2025)

All rehearsals at Polka Theatre, Wimbledon. Shows take place during the day throughout the run and touring phase.

Actor must be exclusively available for all rehearsal and performance dates (2024-2025) and have a London base, as no accommodation will be provided for the autumn 2024 Co-Producer run.

For the touring phase, Half Moon run an ITC Equity Ethical Manager contract and so travel, and other touring allowances/per Diems apply, including hotel room/Air BnB style accommodation. Actors will also have to travel in the company van to venues, and assist with get-ins/outs as part of their working day. Where the cast actor can drive, they will be asked to be the back-up driver.

**Casting for the following (one performer):**

- Any gender
- 25+
- Interesting/non-traditional appearance
- Able to speak short sentences in multiple languages
- Previous experience in devising
- Experience of interactive shows with young audiences or experience of facilitating with young people
- Strong movement and physical comedy skills

Linked contracts offered between **Polka** and **Half Moon** (not including the date gap between 25 November and 26 January).

Polka: Equity MRSL2 contract  
£540.27 p/w (plus Sunday payments where applicable)

Half Moon: ITC Equity Ethical Manager  
£610 p/w

**Deadline for submissions: Monday 15 July 2024**

**Via Spotlight or photo/CV to : Abigayle Bartley / [Abigayle@polkatheatre.com](mailto:Abigayle@polkatheatre.com)**

**No phone enquiries. Only those who we want to meet will be contacted.**

Auditions will be in person at Polka Theatre, Wimbledon at the beginning of August.

**About the two co-producers:**

**POLKA THEATRE**

Polka is one of just a handful of dedicated children's venues in the UK. Polka underwent a major renovation, re-opening in 2021, and continues to present a year-round programme of new work made at Polka, visiting shows, and creative learning activities for 0–12-year-olds. We continue to pioneer developments in children's theatre, nurture artistic talent in the sector, and maintain an international reputation while serving local communities. We involve children at every stage of the creative process and lead the way in Early Years theatre. Creative Learning is central to our mission - our shows are supported by tailored community and schools initiatives. Over the past year Polka has worked with 143 schools through creative learning projects and has distributed over 6,000 free tickets to schools through their Curtain Up! scheme.

Website: [polkatheatre.com](http://polkatheatre.com)



Instagram | X | Facebook: polkatheatre

## **HALF MOON**

Half Moon is the UK's leading small-scale young people's venue and touring company. It is a local organisation with a national remit, committed to supporting artists and young people at every stage of their creative development. Working from their base in East London, they specialise in new writing and artform development, acting as a gateway organisation that provides pathways for progression and experimentation. Their wide-ranging programme reaches around 50,000 annually and engages those who are often excluded from arts activity. Activity includes a season of professional plays for young audiences, national touring productions and an extensive creative learning programme, including eight youth theatres. Half Moon is a National Portfolio Organisation of Arts Council England and receives regular funding from the London Borough of Tower Hamlets.

*Ten in the Bed* is one of several productions that form part of Half Moon's touring portfolio at a national and international level.

Half Moon's digital archive is available at [www.stagesofhalfmoon.org.uk](http://www.stagesofhalfmoon.org.uk)

Website: [halfmoon.org.uk](http://halfmoon.org.uk)

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