

Spoonface Steinberg Response Piece: Writer Call Out

Alphabetti and Difference North East are producing a performance of Spoonface Steinberg by Lee Hall as part of Difference's Project celebrating Disability History Month: Disability History: Past, Present, Future funded by The National Heritage Lottery.

Following the performance, we will be presenting a Response Piece to the performance.

The Response Piece is an opportunity for an **Autistic Writer** to write in response to Spoonface Steinberg- creating a **10 minute piece in length**.

The winning script will receive a prize of **£525**, and be mentored by Bex Bowsher as part of the process.

The Writer will see their new work in progress script professionally performed and directed.

How does it work?

Following application, the Alphabetti and Difference Team will select a winning writer.

The winning writer will be notified by Friday 2nd October.

Timeline for writing is as follows:

First Draft Deadline: Monday 19th October

Final Draft Deadline: Monday 2nd November

The performance will take place on Thursday 26th November at Alphabetti Theatre.

What Are We Looking For?

Spoonface Steinberg was written by Lee Hall for the mainstream in 1997 about a young autistic girl's experience of being terminally ill, contemplating the meaning of life and death.

In our 2026 presentation of Spoonface Steinberg, created by a Disabled team, we are exploring what has changed since 1997 in people's understanding and attitudes of Autistic people.

We want to invite an Autistic writer to explore a written response- to be performed by one actor- we are very open to form- the writing does not have to follow a classical theatrical form.

The brief is that it should respond to the play in some way- this could be through: themes explored in the play, attitudes in the play, experiences of character, exploring a modernised perspective. There is **no right way to respond** to the play, you have full creative freedom.

We are very interested in exploring autistic experiences and self expression, creating new disabled work and redefining disability canon.

This is not intended to be a polished piece- but an opportunity to explore a new idea, and have your work platformed as part of Disability History Month.

Anyone who identifies as Autistic can apply- this callout is open to anyone in age, experience, ethnicity. You do not have to be a professional writer to apply. You do not need to have a medical diagnosis and we will not ask for proof of medical diagnosis.

More About Spoonface Steinberg

Spoonface Steinberg is a one-woman dramatic monologue by Lee Hall, first broadcast on BBC Radio 4 in 1997. The play is narrated by Spoonface, a seven-year-old Jewish girl who is dying from cancer. Her unique view of the world allows her to reflect on life, death, love, family, religion, and the meaning of existence.

You can find the full radio play online.

How to Apply

To apply please send outline of your idea, and a dialogue sample (maximum 2 pages in total) and one page sharing your artistic bio.

Your application can be no longer than 3 pages total.

The deadline to apply is **Monday 28th September at 12pm.**

Please send your application to Allison@difference-northeast.org.uk

We will meet the access needs of the winning writer- and discuss your access needs and how we can support these in your writing process. We have additional budget for access, and can discuss this with you.

As a Disabled team, we want to create an accessible process which supports creative expression and allows you as a creative to bring your full self to the writing process.

If you have any questions about the application, the process or the play- please direct these to Allison.

Quick Facts- Recap

- The piece should be 10 minutes long
- The piece should be in response to the original material- but you have full freedom to explore what this might look like.
- The piece will be performed by a neurodivergent actor, and directed by a neurodivergent director.
- The actor may be of any ethnicity or gender so please bear this in mind when writing.
- The selected writer will receive a prize of £525
- The selected writer will receive mentoring from local Director Bex Bowsher
- To apply send 2 sides about your idea and include a dialogue sample, as well as a one page bio.
- Closing date Monday 28th September at 12pm