



Unsung Collective: Casting for Lilian Bader

UNSUNG

Touring April-May 2020

The Show

Unsung was originally devised by a group of female theatre-makers, developed in collaboration with writer Lisa Holdsworth (*Call the Midwife*, *Ackley Bridge*, *Midsomer Murders*). The show is Directed by Elvi Piper (Wrongsemble, Visiting Director *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night Time*, National Theatre Connections).

In Spring 2019, with the support of Arts Council England and the Fenton Arts Trust, *Unsung* embarked on a twelve-venue tour, seeing **sell out** performances at Square Chapel Arts Centre, the Lawrence Batley Theatre, Harrogate Theatre, Bradford Playhouse and the Carriageworks in Leeds. The show explores the untold and under-acknowledged stories of four pioneering and inspirational female figures from British history – Ada Lovelace, Sophia Jex-Blake, Lilian Bader and Andrea Dunbar – asking why they, and hundreds like them, have been relegated to the footnotes.

“Unsung is a one hour tour de force of compelling storytelling.” LondonTheatre1, *****

“A punchy, unconventional call-to-arms that embodies the same spirit as Shakespeare’s Globe’s recent runaway success Emilia.” A Younger Theatre, ****

See further information about the show here: unsungcollective.com

The Company

Unsung Collective was born when a group of female theatre-makers from Leeds came together to create a piece of theatre exploring the stories of brilliant women from British history: our inaugural production, *Unsung*. We create theatre that tells the stories of unsung women - from those whose stories have been forgotten by history, to those whose stories are unfolding now.

Content

Unsung is neither a history lesson, nor a historical drama. Instead, this piece of new writing interrogates in a lively and relatable way the underrepresentation of women in history, and society at large. Using a combination of biographical elements, along with physical performance, and an ambient electronic soundtrack from the BBC Introducing featured band PEAKES, the show explores with immediacy the very modern struggles of four women who made – or ought to have made – British history.

The Role

Lilian Bader (1918 – 2015) – Lilian was one of the women of colour to serve in the British Armed Forces.

She was born in Liverpool to a Barbadian father and Irish mother, but orphaned at a young age. She was raised in a convent in North Yorkshire, where she remained until she was 20, because nobody would employ her. When the Second World War broke out, she joined the Navy, Army and Air Force Institutes

(NAAFI) in Yorkshire, which she loved - until she was asked to leave when her father's West Indian heritage was discovered by an official in London. For weeks, her supervisor avoided informing her of this decision – but eventually he had to tell her the truth, and release her. Lilian did not let this stop her; when she learnt that the RAF was accepting recruits of a West Indian background, she applied – and was soon enlisted with the Women's Auxiliary Air Force. She trained in instrument repair, soon gaining the rank of Acting Corporal, thanks to her fierce intelligence and affable nature.

Casting

We are seeking a **female-identifying** actor with **Afro-Caribbean heritage**, playing age 18-40. Ideally with a **base in Yorkshire**, or Greater Manchester. Rehearsals will take place in Leeds. A driving license is desirable, but not essential.

Contract term

The shorter rehearsal process reflects the fact that this is the production's second tour. All tour dates are a commutable distance within the day from the **company's base in Leeds**.

Week 1: Rehearsals

Rate: ITC 2019/20 Minimum Weekly Rate (£483)

Dates: Tuesday 21st April – Sunday 28th April

Week 2: Performances

Rate: ITC 2019/20 Minimum Weekly Rate (£483)

Dates: Mon 27th April, Thur 30th April, Fri 1st May, Sat 2nd May, Sun 3rd May

Week 3: Performances

Rate: £110/day

Dates: Tue 5th May, Sun 10th May

There may be other opportunities to work with the company in and around these dates, as we work towards a future project. If this could be of interest, please let us know upon applying.

Information

Please send your CV/Spotlight and Headshots to: info@unsungcollective.com

Please address your email to Alice, and apply using the email subject heading: **Lilian Bader – Application**. Please indicate where you are based upon application.

Applications close: 5pm on **Monday 24th February 2020**

Auditions: **Sunday 1st March 2020** in **Leeds** (exact location TBC).

Time slots will be allocated upon invitation to audition. If you are unable to make the date, please let us know and we will attempt to arrange an alternative or a self-tape.