

To Whom It May Concern

RE: Karl Cockram

In my capacity as Participation and Outreach Officer at Oldham Coliseum Theatre, I have worked with Karl on several projects.

Karl was extensively involved with the theatre's Young Acting LAB project from 2007-08. This group sourced their own funding and used it to create and manage their own performance project. This was performed at the Coliseum Theatre and toured around schools in the local area. Karl offered a lot during this process and took an active role in all aspects of the project, particularly in the design and operation of the technical requirements of the performance. These responsibilities were particularly key during the tour and Karl showed great commitment and drive in accomplishing this.

Karl returned to the new Young Acting LAB group in September 2008 in a mentorship role. He assisted with the auditions for the new group and worked with the young people in the group for the first months of the project to support their growth and development and to share his specialist knowledge of creating and managing a touring performance piece.

Since taking part in Young Acting LAB, the Coliseum has employed Karl as an assistant on various participatory projects such as Theatre Experience Week. This week is for 13-15 years olds, who are interested in working in the Creative Industries, to explore the workings of a professional theatre and to develop new theatre skills. Karl supported the group members throughout the week and was actively involved in the workshops and assisting the group leader.

Karl was also employed as an assistant for Play In A Week in August 2008. This is a week working with 8-12years old to produce a performance in a week. Karl was involved in all aspects of this project, including delivery workshops to the young people, supervising the group at break times and behaviour management.

Karl showed particular strength in assisting with the design and operation of the sound and lighting and the stage management throughout the week. Karl rigged and operated the lighting and sound for the performance alongside our professional lighting technician. He also created and managed the prompt copy of the script detailing the cues which the lighting technician worked from.

Karl has also assisted on our Drama Daze group for 5-7 year olds and 8-12 year olds. This is a participatory group that runs over ten weeks throughout term time and culminates in a performance of their work. Karl supported the workshop leader and assisted with the needs of the children, including some with complex needs such as Autism and profound deafness. Karl also assisted in creating the performance and managing the requirements of the day.

Karl is highly committed and has a lot of skills and knowledge that he can offer. He is particularly driven to learn and develop and he has been an asset to all the projects that he has worked on here at the Coliseum.

Yours faithfully  
Jenny Penton  
Participation and Outreach Manager