



WISE CHILDREN OPEN  
RESIDENCY INFORMATION  
PACK

MAY 2025

## About Wise Children

---

Wise Children is an international touring theatre company, based in the South West. Led by award-winning director Emma Rice, we make ground-breaking and accessible work with exceptional artists which we tour across the UK and the world. Alongside shows we run the Wise Children Training Programme, a unique professional development programme training the next generation of diverse, independent theatre makers.

Our Artistic Director Emma Rice is amongst the UK's best known and loved theatre directors. Her celebrated 30-year career has included being Artistic Director of Cornish theatre company Kneehigh and of Shakespeare's Globe, London. In 2019, she received the [UK Theatre Award for Contribution to British Theatre](#): *'Theatre maker Emma Rice was presented with this special award in recognition of the unique, innovative and socially relevant work that she has created and directed all over the country, and her significant influence on the contemporary theatre landscape.'* In 2022, she was named one of [Sky Arts](#) '50 most influential British artists of the last 50 years'. In 2025, Emma won the What's on Stage Award for Best Director for her work on *The Buddha of Suburbia*, Wise Children's co-production with the Royal Shakespeare Company.

In 2022 we took over an old methodist church in Frome, Somerset, which we have lovingly renovated, restored and transformed into The Lucky Chance, our rehearsal, training and

(occasional) performance space.

## About The Wise Children Training Programme

---

The Wise Children Training Programme designed to nurture the next generation of fearless, independent theatre makers. Led by Emma, and the award-winning creatives she works with, the programme focuses on two key elements of the way Wise Children works –ensemble storytelling and collaborative devising –and uses these to unlock creativity in each student. The programme includes Taster’ workshops, week-long residencies, mentoring and Traineeships.

The programme is also designed to address inequalities in access to arts training in the UK, where cost, knowledge, networks and the structure of traditional courses can all be a barrier to participation. We work closely with a range of partners, including the theatres we tour to, reaching varied communities through their existing networks and youth programmes.

All places are free, and we offer additional support for travel, accommodation, living and/or other access costs.

## Wise Children’s Open Residency 2025

---

**Dates:** Monday 14<sup>th</sup> – Friday 18<sup>th</sup> July 2025

**Venue:** The Lucky Chance, Frome, Somerset

**Cost:** Free

**We'll be inviting twelve outstanding performers to join us at our new venue in the beautiful market town of Frome, Somerset for our 2025 residential course, Wise Children's Open Residency.**

Perfectly observed performance, soul melting music and flawless ensemble work are the hallmarks of a Wise Children show. We're looking for creative performers interested in finding out how we do it!

Led by the Wise Children directing team, the Open Residency is a week-long performing course which will include acting, singing, dancing, puppetry, and more, as you learn to create playful, ensemble, music-filled theatre in the style of Wise Children. It's our favourite way to meet new (or new to us) performers.

We're looking for performers aged 18+ who are serious about working in the industry. No professional training is needed, but all students will need to be able to perform, sing and move confidently – so we're expecting most applicants will have at least some previous performing experience. There is no upper age limit for this opportunity. You may have joined the industry recently, wanting to brush up on your skills or returning after taking some time out. You'll be available to be in Frome during the week of the Open Residency. And at the time of the residency, you won't be

enrolled in full time education, or have a post as a full time educator to children or adults.

We are committed to equal opportunities and actively welcome candidates from all backgrounds. To ensure our training is as accessible as possible, support with travel, accommodation, subsistence and access requirement is available.

**How to apply:** Please fill in the [application form](#) and send us a video application.

The video should contain the following material and be no longer than two minutes.

*(Due to the high volume of applications, we receive we won't be able to watch beyond the two-minute mark).*

- **An introduction:** Who are you, and why do you want to do the residency?
- **A turn that incorporates all your skills:** This could include acting, singing, movement, playing an instrument, standing on your head, a second language... everything you could bring to an ensemble. The Open Residency is best suited to multi-disciplinary performers with a strong sense of creativity.

**Application deadline:** 9am on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2025.

**Outcome deadline:** w/c 16th June. If you have not heard from us by then, please check your spam folder and then get in touch with [riddell@wisechildren.co.uk](mailto:riddell@wisechildren.co.uk).

*Once you have submitted your application form, please complete an Equal Opportunities Monitoring form [here](#). Through this monitoring we collect anonymised data to improve our recruitment strategies. This form will be separate to, and will not be used to assess, your application.*

If you would like further information, support with access requirements for application, or have any queries about the post, please contact Participation Assistant Riddell Erridge: [riddell@wisechildren.co.uk](mailto:riddell@wisechildren.co.uk).