

## The Ensemble Laboratory - General Auditions

Rough Fiction | [www.roughfiction.com](http://www.roughfiction.com)

2010-2011 Host: The Actors Centre London

2011- 2012 Host: People At Play, Pimlico

2013 -2014 Hosts: London South Bank University  
with an additional partner TBC



## Call for Submissions

In July 2010 Rough Fiction founded a weekly laboratory for an ensemble company of actors to train, experiment and develop skills together on an ongoing basis with an emphasis placed on work in text, movement and musicality. The project was born out of a discussion we raised at Improbable Theatre's *Devoted & Disgruntled* Open Space event in 2010 about maintaining permanent ensembles, and the decline of repertory system in the UK.

**After two years of successful years of developing the Ensemble Laboratory, Rough Fiction is now looking to recruit up to 12 new members to join the company and begin a new phase or work that will culminate in a new production in 2014/15.**

### Info

This branch of Rough Fiction's work is run on a voluntary basis and is designed to fit around the actors' other freelance work. As such the Ensemble offers its members free continued skills development and a place to build a common vocabulary as a foundation from which to create yearly productions. We believe that cultivating ongoing mutual training, trust and a shorthand between performers is essential to creating truly great ensemble theatre.

Since working with Rough Fiction, existing members have gone on to perform in fully funded touring productions for Rough Fiction as well as with Frantic Assembly, The National Theatre of Scotland, in the West in and at Major Reps around the UK. Visiting practitioners also offer guest workshops and have often invited members to audition for their projects.

## Casting Breakdown

We are looking to recruit up to 12 new company members to begin working with the ensemble from 17th October 2013. We will look to cast individuals that both compliment and enrich the existing ensemble company. We encourage submissions from a diversity of backgrounds and ages.

### Ensemble members will be:

- working professionally as an actor or performer
- interested in process-led work
- a strong team player dedicated to collaboration
- committed to work with equal an focus on physicality, voice and text
- committed to seeing a project through from early stages of development to final performances
- open to change and ready to enter unknown territory

**Selection is via workshop audition. All sessions will be held London South Bank University, 103 Borough Road, London, SE1 0AA as listed below.** Participants will be asked to prepare a short piece of text to be used during the session. The workshop will focus on ensemble voice and movement work.

<b>Audition Workshops:</b>	Thursday 3rd October, 6.45pm - 8.15pm Monday 7th October, 6pm - 7.30pm and 7.45pm - 9.15pm
<b>Recalls as necessary:</b>	Tuesday 8th October, 6.30pm - 8.30pm
<b>Submissions deadline:</b>	via the spotlight call or direct to Simon Pittman at <a href="mailto:simon@roughfiction.com">simon@roughfiction.com</a>
<b>Deadline:</b>	Tuesday 1st October 2013
<b>Project Dates:</b>	Sessions on Thursdays & Saturdays from 17th Sept - 7th Dec 2013: <u><a href="#">*See accompanying Autumn Schedule</a></u>
<b>Director:</b>	Simon Pittman

## Further Information on Rough Fiction and the Ensemble Laboratory

For more information on other production opportunities with Rough Fiction please see [www.roughfiction.com](http://www.roughfiction.com) and follow us on Twitter @roughfiction

*“This is the perfect context in which the ideal of an Ensemble can be nurtured and Rough Fiction’s commitment to skills development alongside artistic exploration is in perfect accord with the vision of the actor as a creator as well as an interpreter of new work ... I’ve no doubt the work that emerges from the Laboratory will be original and unique”*

(Matthew Lloyd, outgoing Artistic Director, The Actors Centre)

### **Aims and Ethos**

- To develop and nurture a branch of Rough Fiction’s work where the modus operandi centres upon the ongoing development of performance craft and research (as opposed to ‘production’).
- To recognise however the value of working towards public performances as a key mechanism in structuring this ongoing process.
- To always place the actor (and their relationship to the audience) at the centre of the laboratory’s creative exploration and performance output.
- To work with a balanced focus on text, movement and musicality.
- To continue to ask questions of the process of acting and performing.
- To continually research, discover and develop our own distinct and common language as an ensemble - unique because it is made up of this specific yet shifting collection of individuals, their skills, ideas and idiosyncrasies.
- To build a mutual knowledge of a range of new and classic playwriting (keeping the creative muscles warm).
- To be open and responsive to new developments and avenues in the wider sphere actor training and theatre craft.
- And as such, to maintain a professional ensemble of performers with a mutual understanding and commitment to building a shared history of work together.

A full version of the Ensemble Laboratory's Manifesto can be read at <http://www.roughfiction.com/ensemble-lab/manifesto/>

**Rough Fiction** is a multi-disciplinary theatre company based in the UK. We use existing fictions as a launch pad to create live and immediate contemporary performance. Our last major touring production was *The Last of The Lake*. The show was supported by the Arts Council England, co-commissioned by Brighton Dome and was produced in association with Newbury Corn Exchange, The Point Eastleigh and People At Play.

The Ensemble is directed by Simon Pittman, co-director of Rough Fiction. Simon has directed for, and worked with companies including National Theatre of Scotland, Paines Plough, Manchester Library Theatre, West Yorkshire Playhouse, Soho Theatre and Theatr Piesen Kozla. He has also worked as a practitioner for Frantic Assembly since 2008.

Press:

★★★★★

*‘Defies categorisation ... It’s so visually strong that the experience is comparable to reading a graphic novel ... this dreamy, trippy theatrical experience is one that stays with you long after the curtain call’*

**The Good Review on The Last of The Lake, UK Tour 2012**

★★★★★

*Darkly thrilling ... the cast, uniformly excellent, push the boundaries between movement and the spoken word.*

**What’s On Stage on Killing Alan, Edinburgh 2009**

★★★★★

*No escape from life’s questions. [Rough Fiction] push the boundaries of text and performance ... Director Simon Pittman pushes these actors to their physical and emotional limits.*

**The Scotsman on Hospitals and Other Buildings That Catch Fire, Edinburgh 2005**