

Smile Theatre Society

MAIN INFO FOR APPLICANTS

I would like to take a moment to give you a few more details about the job and what exactly it entails; Sometimes (I know, being an actor myself) that you get a breakdown and arrive at an audition only to discover through more info given on the day that you feel the job isn't really right for you and you are no longer interested. This is an attempt to avoid that happening.

Smile Theatre are an Italian based company that produce original theatre shows and tour them to schools and regional theatres for Italian children who are learning English.

There are usually 4 or 5 casts out in Italy at the same time and there are four people in each cast (2 male/2 female). The shows are written by the director entirely in English and are usually based on English myths, stories and musicals. There are two shows touring: one for Scuola Media (middle school) and one for Scuola Elementare (primary school). You would usually only be in one of these shows.

The tour-dates vary depending on which cast you are in, but the overall dates are between January and May. If you have any conflicting commitments during these dates please specify on your application form.

The shows are designed to help children learn English and students have a copy of the script which they have been working on for a month before they see the show – so accurate learning of lines is very important. The rehearsal period is only a week and so the director demands the actors to all be off book by the time you arrive in Italy (you will receive your script in plenty of time so don't panic!).

The acting style is very physical with detailed and precise gesticulation to accompany the text in order to aid the students understanding. The style is almost pantomimic (but, if you imagine, for a much younger audience) – the gestures take precedent over 'emotion/circumstances/objectives'. Remember, you will be performing for children who don't speak English – how much French or Spanish etc. did you know at 7, 10 or 14 years old? Could you have watched an hour length play and understood it? An appreciation of this is a **must** for your audition piece.

You will perform a maximum of two shows per day, after each show you will hold a 35-45 minute workshop with the students to help them practice the English they have learnt through the Smile Theatre experience (you will be fully trained to do this by Smile). The emphasis is on enjoyment and interaction with the students – it being a great opportunity for them to actually spend time with a native English speaker (It is not a 'sit down at desks' lesson. It is a 'workshop').

Smile Theatre is based in Modena (Northern Italy). This is where you would be based for your rehearsal period and on the weekends when you return from the working week. At weekends all the casts converge in Modena at a hotel, which, by the end feels like a home away from home (this is also where you can store your excess luggage in order to take with you only what you need for the week ahead). It is on weekends that you will be able to do your washing at the Smile Office where there is a washing machine for you to use.

All accommodation and travel is included for the duration of your tour. The majority of your accommodation is in hotels with a few exceptions when you have the privilege of staying with an Italian family (who will treat you like royalty!).

Up to half of your weekly salary will be paid to you each week in cash for you to use as you please (and it is more than enough to live off while out there – most people end up saving some), the remainder of your wage will be paid into your bank account in a lump sum on conclusion of the tours at the end of May.

The fact that you get the opportunity to live and work in a different country we think makes this job a fantastic opportunity as well as a very rewarding one. Italy as a country is wonderful, friendly, vibrant and steeped in culture and the Italian welcome is one of the best in the world!

So, if you feel you would love the chance to have an amazing experience and get paid to travel round Italy while performing every day then this is for you!

If you have any further questions, please don't hesitate to email me on racheldean123@hotmail.com or racheldean@smiletheatresociety.com. Alternatively you can find more information on our English language website – www.smiletheatresociety.com.