



Volunteer Opportunity: Production Support York Mystery Plays 2026

The 2026 York Mystery Plays are a major city-wide theatrical event, reviving York's historic tradition of presenting biblical stories on wagons in public spaces.

Across several days, short theatrical performances are staged on large wheeled wagons at multiple locations around the city. Each wagon presents a different play and moves between designated performance stations on a fixed schedule, allowing audiences to experience a sequence of performances as they travel around York.

The event combines live theatre, heritage, and public spectacle, attracting large and varied audiences including families, visitors, and local residents. Performances take place outdoors, in busy city-centre locations, and require careful coordination to ensure they run safely, smoothly, and on time.

PRODUCTION SUPPORT VOLUNTEERS

We're looking for practical, reliable volunteers to support the production team behind the scenes at key moments of the 2026 York Mystery Plays.

Production Support Volunteers play an important role in helping prepare sites for performance days and supporting build and breakdown activity, allowing trained operational and safety staff to focus on delivery and audience management.

Dates

- Saturday 20th June – support with wagon compound set-up (morning or afternoon - to be confirmed)
- Sunday 28 June and Sunday 5 July – morning set-up ahead of performances and evening breakdown.
- Tuesday 30th June and Wednesday 1st July - set up and breakdown of Shambles Market performance space (6pm onwards)
- Tuesday 7 July – support with wagon compound breakdown (morning or afternoon - to be confirmed)

Volunteers may sign up to one or more of these dates. Timings will vary depending on the task but will typically be short, focused call-outs rather than full-day commitments.

What you'll do

- Assist with setting up the wagon compound, including unloading, positioning equipment, and general site preparation.
- Support morning set-up on performance days, such as putting out signage, barriers, gazebos, tables, and non-technical equipment.
- Assist with compound breakdown, including loading, clearing, and tidy-down tasks.
- Undertake general lifting, carrying, and preparation tasks under the direction of the production team.
- Follow instructions and work safely within the agreed event structure.

Who we're looking for

- Reliable and practical, with a willingness to help where needed.
- Comfortable undertaking physical tasks.
- Able to follow instructions and work as part of a team.
- Happy working behind the scenes rather than in a public-facing role.

Previous experience in events, theatre, or production support is helpful but not essential.

Training & commitment

- A role briefing will be provided in advance of attendance.
- On-the-day supervision and support will be provided by the Event Manager or nominated Production Lead.

Why volunteer?

- Be part of one of York's most iconic cultural events.
- Gain behind-the-scenes experience of live event production.
- Support the delivery of a major city-wide arts event.
- Work alongside experienced production and event professionals.

Interested?

To express an interest in this role and/or to find out more please email volunteer@yorkmysteryplays.co.uk

Visit the [York Mystery Play website](#) for news and updates and to sign up to our mailing list.
