



# 2026 York Mystery Plays

## Wagon Master – Person Specification

*(For Dissemination to Performance Groups)*

### About the Event

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.

Performances take place at multiple outdoor stations across York city centre. Each wagon moves between designated performance locations on a fixed schedule. Movement takes place through busy public spaces and, at points, within live traffic environments under agreed traffic management arrangements.

Safe and controlled wagon movement is essential to the successful delivery of the event.

### Role Summary

Each performance group must nominate a Wagon Master to oversee the safe movement and positioning of their wagon throughout the event.

The Wagon Master holds a key operational safety responsibility and must demonstrate strong leadership, reliability and sound judgement.

The Wagon Master must be able to work constructively with the actors and wagon pushers. The Wagon Master acts as Stage Manager, responsible for co-ordinating the start of the performance and ensuring a safe departure from the performance area.

The Wagon Master will oversee the safe procession through the streets of the wagon and all performers

This is a safety-critical role.

### Essential Criteria

The nominated individual must:

- Be aged 18 or over
- Be physically capable of sustained walking and manoeuvring
- Be confident giving clear and firm instructions
- Be calm and decisive under pressure
- Demonstrate strong awareness of public safety
- Be reliable and punctual
- Be comfortable operating in busy city-centre environments
- Be able to lead and coordinate a minimum of 8 wagon pushers

## **Mandatory Commitment**

The Wagon Master must:

- Attend a **half-day route walk and safety briefing** prior to performance dates
- Meet with the Event Manager and Event Safety Officer
- Be present for all scheduled performance days involving their wagon and for rehearsals required by the individual play's Director.

Attendance at the briefing is required in order for the wagon to be authorised to move.

## **Availability Requirements**

### **Sunday City-Centre Performances**

- Approx. 07:00 – Move wagon from compound to Deans Park
- **10:30–17:30 – Scheduled wagon movements between stations (start and end times vary by group)**
- Approx. 17:30 – Return wagon to compound

Full-day availability is required.

### **Midweek – Shambles Market (Where Applicable)**

- Mid-afternoon movement from compound
- Evening performance movements
- Approx. 22:30 – Return wagon to compound

Late-evening availability required where applicable.

## **Recruitment Responsibility**

Each performance group is responsible for identifying and appointing a suitable Wagon Master who meets the criteria above.

Performance groups must submit the following details to the Event Manager - [production@yorkmysteryplays.co.uk](mailto:production@yorkmysteryplays.co.uk):

- Full Name
- Mobile Number
- Email Address

### **Submission Deadline: 30 April 2026**

This deadline allows time for route walks, safety briefings and operational planning. Failure to nominate a Wagon Master by this date may impact a wagon's ability to participate.

## **Personal Attributes. -**

The Wagon Master should be:

- Safety-focused
- Assertive but measured
- Observant
- Communicative
- Responsible
- Trustworthy

