

LOCAL EMPLOYER DIPLOMA CHAMPION – CREATIVE and MEDIA

Name: Andrew Breakwell

Job title: Director of Roundabout & Education at Nottingham Playhouse and Champion for the Creative and Media Diploma

Andrew manages the education department at Nottingham Playhouse, which last year provided over 600 workshops and 200 Roundabout performances to 13,500 children. He is also a 'special lecturer' and joint supervisor of a doctorate programme at Nottingham University.

His role mainly entails providing workshops for young people and directing plays aimed at young audiences. He has directed more than 160 productions for young people, families and adults in schools, arts centres, community venues and theatres.

Andrew is passionate about his role, saying "Creativity, communication, team-working and problem solving are at the heart of our industry. The Diploma by its very nature mirrors our best practice. We believe it offers a twenty-first century solution to the educational needs of young people and the aspirations of their families. This qualification develops and tests real skills in both theoretical and applied contexts and we think brings real meaning to learning."

Andrew has worked at the Playhouse since 1999, prior to this he held Associate Director roles at theatres in Ipswich and Scarborough. Before embarking on a career in the arts, Andrew trained as a teacher and taught for five years in three different secondary schools.

Nottingham Playhouse is one of two UK members of the European Theatre Convention and Andrew has spearheaded an EU funded development project called 'Young Europe' which sets out to encourage other theatres to work with young people and also involves the creation of four different plays in eight different languages, for performances in classrooms.

Andrew's role as a Champion for the Creative and Media Diploma involves him promoting the Diploma within the arts industry, and encouraging students to fulfil their ambitions and reach their full potential within their chosen careers.