



## Springboard from Belfast to London's West End

LOCAL unemployed people could be going from West Belfast to the West End after a new scheme was launched.

Springboard Opportunities, based in the city centre, offers a number of programmes for unemployed 18 to 28-year-olds including the opportunity to train for media careers.

In association with the Department of Employment and Learning, International Fund for Ireland and FAS, the Wider Horizons programme offers personal development and skills for employment.

Marketing and Recruitment Officer, Paula Quinn is encouraging anyone who has interest in the arts to apply.

She said: "We're looking for 18 to 28-year-olds from all communities and backgrounds to join the scheme. It helps build self-esteem and skills through professional development."

The scheme, which is in its first year, will run for 15 weeks in total concluding with the final two weeks being spent in London's West End.

A combination of dance, theatre, circus, sound and lighting skills will be taught

at weekly training sessions in Belfast.

The group will travel to a linked theatre in London to develop their portfolio and put into practice the skills they've learned.

Paula describes the type of people suitable to sign up for the programme.

"People who have an interest to go into the profession can come join us. If you have the skills and want to use them, sign up the programme," she added.

As part of the course, members will perform at a special concert in the Oh Yeah! Buildings in the city centre as part of the Peace Day campaign, a programme being supported by Springboard.

The group's website has a range of programmes available for unemployed people to take part in to build values and skills for employment.

Recruitment for the Wider Horizons programme ends on September 6 so all applicants need to apply via the website or community group before this date.

*For more information log on to [www.springboard-ops.org](http://www.springboard-ops.org)*