

## Guidelines for Theatre Proposals

**Hidden Door is looking to commission three new works by emerging theatre makers as well as creating opportunities for presenting pre-existing work for its Theatre Programme for the 2022 Festival which will take place at the Old Royal High School in Edinburgh on the 9-18<sup>th</sup> June.**

**Deadline for Proposals: Friday 11 February 2022, at midnight**

### Summary

Hidden Door is continuing its tradition of transforming Edinburgh's disused and neglected buildings into creative spaces for audience and artists. In 2022 we are taking over the iconic Royal High School and transforming it into totally unique 10 day festival of music, art, theatre and dance. For the theatre programme we are particularly looking for **ideas for new work**, or to **present pre-existing work** that can be configured or adapted for an in-the-round audience, or for outdoor or promenade performance.

The Hidden Door festival will *not* include an end-on stage for theatre for this edition, but instead, an intimate circular auditorium is being designed, which can seat 80, and will consist of a 4m x 4m circular central performance space. A larger stage, 10m x 6m is also being designed for in-the-round performances, but will mainly be dedicated to programming dance and music. Submissions will be considered for this space however, but bear in mind the stage will not be able to accommodate complex sets or technical rehearsals due to heavy programming.

Outdoor-based or promenade pieces are also being sought, and works that can respond to the building and the surrounding site.

### Eligibility

- Open to theatre practitioners at any stage of their career. We welcome work from a wide range of people from students to more established practitioners. We aim to support emerging practitioners, so if you regard yourself as emerging, please state this in your application, when telling us about your work.
- Open to artists/companies living anywhere in the UK.
- We welcome proposals for in-the-round work, site-specific, or site-adaptable work, promenade and experimental formats (see above)
- We are looking for innovative proposals; projects which innovate or develop the practice of the company or individuals, and/or are innovative interpretive productions, or demonstrate an innovative approach.
- We welcome proposals for scratch work, or work in early stages of development, and welcome proposals which aim to use the platform of Hidden Door to help develop the work and get the work in front of an audience.
- We favour proposals for runs of shows over several days rather than one-off performances, recommending 4 performances across three days.

### How to Apply

- Please apply through completing the application form through this link <https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/HiddenDoorTheatre2022/>
- There is no charge to enter a submission to Hidden Door

- When completing the survey, please note if you are submitting a proposal for new work, please complete Q9, if you are submitting to present pre-existing work, or work already in development please complete Q10.
  - You can attach up to 3 images of you/yourcompany/work that you have made. Please ensure images are good quality. We recommend images around 1MB in size.
  - You may also include links to video clips of your work if you have them. This can be previous work, showreel, or the pre-existing work. The selection panel will not be able to watch long clips, so if they are over a few minutes long, please indicate which section you wish the panel to view, otherwise they will only watch the beginning minute or two.
  - You may also upload other supporting material such as sketches, mock-ups, diagrams, or mood boards for new work. You can also attach tech rider info for pre-existing work.
  - Ensure all attached file names contain your name or name of your company
- **Application Deadline: Friday, 11th February 2022, by midnight**

## **Selection Process**

- Artists' proposals will be reviewed on the following criteria :
  - Quality and clarity of proposal
  - Quality of prior work and track record, based on supporting material and work mentioned in application form
  - The artistic quality and ambition of proposed work, judged in the context of evidence of previous work
  - Proposal demonstrating the project has innovative aspects and/or will develop the applicant's practise
  - Feasibility of project based on track record and other information submitted
- A panel comprising members of the Hidden Door programmers alongside external invited experts will conduct selection.
- Due to high levels of applications received, we will unfortunately not be able to give feedback on why a decision has been made.

You will be informed on the selection panel's decision by 18th February.

## **What Hidden Door will provide**

### **Fees & Payment:**

Hidden Door will provide a single fee for each piece selected.

This fee will be discussed with the artist or company once selected, and will be based on the number of people participating in the project, the number of performances and the expenses of the project.

Hidden Door is committed to fair rates of pay for all performers and artists, and we recommend paying £120 per performance per performer/person involved in the production.

For your application we are asking you to submit a proposed project cost. This is not binding, but is in order to help us decide how we will spend our Theatre Programme

budget. It is indicative at the time of application, but should your project be selected, it will form the basis of a discussion to agree a budget for your project.

For your budget please include performer and any other participants' costs. You can also include other anticipated costs, such as materials, travel, accommodation, per deums, and some rehearsal costs where appropriate. These will be discussed further if selected. By selecting the submission, Hidden Door is not agreeing to pay the proposed costs but will discuss these on a case-by-case basis. If an agreement cannot be reached, the artist/company may withdraw from the programme.

If selected, the Hidden Door team will discuss the number of performances to be programmed with the selected practitioner or company and over which dates.

Payment will be made after the festival on receipt of an invoice.

## **Support**

Hidden Door will provide technical support, stage management, production and the infrastructure required to stage the production, including staging, seating, space,, PA, lighting rig and technicians as required. Technical requirements will be discussed with each selected project as soon as possible after selection, and any specialised equipment discussed. Hidden Door will endeavour to supply what is needed within reason, but cannot guarantee it will be able to supply specialised one-off pieces of equipment. Companies are encouraged to either be prepared to source this equipment itself, or be prepared to suggest alternative solutions. (Please remember, Hidden Door is not-for-profit and does not have vast financial resources at its disposal!)

Hidden Door is also able to provide space for rehearsal, meetings and preparation of props etc for companies and artists. This will be discussed if selected.

Hidden Door will also organise creative labs for the selected artists/companies with a chance to meet other practitioners working in theatre and other art forms, plus site visits and sharing sessions and other forms of development workshops in the lead up to the event for the artists/companies commissioned to create new work.

*Please note: Hidden Door is currently in the process of applying for funding for this budget. If we are unsuccessful in securing the required budget we will negotiate an appropriate payment plan with our selected performers. If an agreement on the fee or payment amount cannot be reached, performers will be able to withdraw from the programme.*

*Hidden Door is a volunteer run festival, committed to providing opportunities, and encourages and supports artists finding external funding.*

## **Get In & Strike**

- Participating companies and individuals will be responsible for organising the get in and get out of all set and materials for their production and should be available for a sufficient number of days before the festival opens to visit the site and iron out any issues that may have come up in rehearsal. We ask

companies to be available after their show comes down to strike all set and be available to help other companies with their set where necessary.

- There will be limited time before your show for rehearsal and run-throughs. The stage spaces and tech are only set up one day or so before the festival opens so please bear this in mind when planning your production. The tech spec of the spaces will be available several months in advance to help you plan your show.
- Participating artists will have full access to the site from 1st June.
- From this date the site will be accessible from 10am - 10pm. (These exact dates/times may be subject to alteration, but as much notice as possible will be given).

### **Being Part of the Event**

- As part of the Hidden Door programme, participating artists will be featured on the Hidden Door website, print publications, and Hidden Door social media. Artists will be invited to participate in and help with general Hidden Door promotion campaigns, sharing social media content, and helping with general publicity where they can. Specific requirements and arrangements for listing and promoting your show will be made available to selected projects as soon as possible after selection.
- Participating artists will receive a full access pass to the entire festival as well as guest list passes and discount codes for friends, supporters, that will be confirmed closer to the festival.

If you have any additional questions or require any more information, please email

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