

Expression of Interest
Made In The North East Commission

Dance City is seeking applications from professional dance artists/companies for a brand-new commission '*Made In The North East*' in partnership with a new consortium of 8 North East venues and their new and existing audiences. Generously supported by The Esmée Fairbairn Foundation, the aims of this commission for the partners are to develop a better understanding and commitment to programming dance performances in the region. To achieve this the partners are participating in a collective process of development and training activities to best enable the production of new work and touring support through a consortium approach.

We are looking for an artist/company who either lives, is/are based or are from the North East, and who is/are committed to making their work here and investing long term in the dance ecology of our region.

The project budget available for this commission is £25,000 (inclusive of commission fee and guaranteed performance fees). For this project to be realised to its full potential and taking into consideration the varied needs of our partners we realise that the commission fee is not enough, therefore there is an expectation that additional funding will be sought from other partners/funders. Dance City will support you with approaching partners and funding applications.

We want the North East to be a place where great dance is made and happens in a variety of contexts. The consortium's collective ambition is to make a world class piece of work with national significance, made here in the North East. With our team of in-house experts, we have created this strategic partnership project to share, diversify and develop the art of programming quality professional dance into more places and spaces in the region, giving confidence and deeper insight for venues, audiences and artists about the process of producing a touring dance productions.

Our partners are:

- Alnwick Playhouse (Alnwick),
- Queens Hall (Hexham),
- Middlesbrough Town Hall (Middlesbrough),
- The Witham (Barnard Castle),
- The Fire Station (Sunderland),
- Darlington Hippodrome (Darlington)
- Hartlepool Town Hall Theatre (Hartlepool)
- Gosforth Civic Theatre (Newcastle)

The work created will need to be suitable to present indoors, onstage at each of the above venues. Technical Specifications available on request. Ingenuity and adaptability to a range of space dimensions is essential. The '*Made In The North East*' Project Producer will support the artist/company throughout the commission, though artists/companies are also welcome to supplement with their own in-house producing support.

Partner venues have indicated that they can offer rehearsal space for the creation period between May 2021 – January 2022, with a tour likely to take place between in Spring 2022. (exact dates still to be negotiated)

Eligibility

Artist/Company must:

- Be based in or are from the North East region.
- Be makers of dance or physical theatre work of any genre. Circus arts are not eligible for this opportunity.
- Consider themselves to be mid-career, with a strong track record of making and touring work in the UK.
- Have a commitment to developing work, partnerships and audiences within the region on a medium to long term basis.
- Have experience of applying to Arts Council England's Project Grants programme and/or similar fundraising from other sources.
- Have experience of touring dance work to small and mid-scale venues.
- We are looking for new work or work currently at an early stage of Research & Development. Re-imagined or already completed works are not eligible.
- Only one application per artist/company.

Within applications for this commission we are also looking for evidence of:

- consideration for audiences both new and existing for the partners and you as the artist or company
- evidence of quality in the work you/your company produces.
- how the "*Made In The North East*" Commission will develop your own practice as a maker.
- consideration of partners and stakeholders, both established relationships and identifying potential collaborators.
- how your work meets the needs of venues, practically, ethically and artistically.
- A commitment to employing regionally based or artists from the North East.
- A commitment to deliver a series of workshops to local communities to support to delivery of the commissioned work to partner venues.
- Actively consider and implement Arts Council England's Creative Case for Diversity and Temporary Equality Objectives in the design of the activity alongside partner venues.

As a network of partners we are mindful about the context of the commission within a world shaped by the ongoing pandemic, and how that will influence the nature of the work created and the impact of closures on our theatres, audience confidence and our collective ability to adapt in order to maintain high standards whilst embedding safe practices within the commission's framework. We encourage you to think carefully how your proposal can be adapted, for example:

- reaching audiences online
- rehearsing, making and creating using social distancing guidelines if necessary

- adapting to a variety of spaces e.g. varying stage dimensions, streaming etc
- making sure your work is accessible to those with disabilities

Stage 1: Expressions of Interest

If you would like a short 10 minute, informal conversation, please contact Alex or Phil at Dance City via email alex.anslow@dancecity.co.uk or phil.douglas@dancecity.co.uk or call 0191 261 0505, between the hours of 9am – 5pm, Monday to Friday.

Eligible artists/companies are required to complete the expression of interest Submission Form/Video located on the Dance City website: www.dancecity.co.uk/professional-artists/commissions/ and submit them to Alex Anslow alex.anslow@dancecity.co.uk by **Friday 20 November 2020 at 5pm.**

(Applications submitted after this date will not be considered)

We actively encourage applications from artists who self-identify as black, Asian, ethnically diverse , lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, neurodiverse or disabled.

Stage 2: Invitation to Make a Full Application

Selected artists/companies are invited to complete a full application form to be considered for this opportunity. A small bursary of £100 will be paid to the artist/company towards their time writing their Stage 2 application.

The selection panel for all shortlisting, interviewing and decision making will consist of representatives from partner venues.

Timeline:

Friday 23 October	Opportunity opens for Expressions of Interest
Friday 20 November	Deadline for EOI submissions
Wednesday 25 November	Selected applicants invited to submit full applications
Monday 7 December	Deadline for full applications
<u>Stage 3: Interviews</u>	
Thursday 10 December	Shortlisted applicants invited to interview
Wednesday 16 December	Interviews with applicants via Zoom
Thursday 17 December	Final Selections made and artists notified

Dance City reserves the right to alter the timeline should the need arise.

Evaluation Criteria:

Capability:

- Demonstrate a proven high level of capability in producing quality dance work for small to mid-scale theatres
- Demonstrate experience working in the North East region and/or has contributed to the region within the last 5 years
- Demonstrate staffing and knowledge capacity to deliver work to a high standard

Viability:

- Suitability of the artist/company's work for partner venues facilities
- The scale of the artist/company's proposed work is appropriate for the budget available
- Demonstrate best practice regarding governance and management of resources

Stakeholder Management:

- The artist/company has a proven track record and ability in developing successful partnerships and working collaboratively with diverse stakeholders, including arts organisations, community groups, local businesses and children and young people.

Consent:

- The artist/company consents to participate fully in the process of the project, to support venues in achieving the best possible understanding of making, programming and touring new dance work. This includes but is not limited to:
 - Meetings, Q&A's, pre/post show talks, formal and informal discussions around relevant topics
 - The documentation of the process by partner venues through various means including photography, videography, interviews and written text
- The artist/company agrees to participate in the culminating symposium event to celebrate the project achievements in 2022 (date TBC). This will include sharing a short excerpt of the new work, as well as delivering feedback to audiences. The format of the symposium will be designed in consultation with the commissioned artist and partner venues.

The geographical North East area eligible for these Commissions:

