

# **OPEN DOORS**

A GREATER MANCHESTER THEATRES  
GUIDE FOR ARTISTS

## Introduction

Greater Manchester has a wonderfully rich and diverse theatre ecology. This is especially true in the independent theatre sector, and the continuously evolving talent of individuals and companies in the city.

But we are aware that there is a rich seam of creative talent in Greater Manchester who aren't necessarily aware of what options are available, or which organisations best suit their needs as an artist.

In coming together to produce this guide, we have sought to share what we - as a group of theatre buildings - can do to support, sustain and nurture the sector. Having asked theatre makers what they would like, we know that clear information and signposting is a vital tool. We hope this guide helps.

**The intention is that this guide isn't set in stone: it's a living document, and we hope to add and develop it as the landscape of the region changes.**

Over the coming years we intend to work closely together to ensure we make the strongest possible contribution to the city's ecology, and the opportunities for theatre makers living and working here. We will be updating this guide on a regular basis, and developing our work to respond to change, needs and feedback. We are excited to be making theatre with you.

With best wishes,  
Contact  
HOME  
The Lowry  
Manchester International Festival  
Octagon Theatre Bolton  
Oldham Coliseum Theatre  
Royal Exchange Theatre  
Z-Arts

## Contents

How to Use This Guide	4
Community Arts North West	5
Contact	8
hÅb/Word of Warning	11
HOME	13
The Lowry	15
Manchester International Festival	17
The Octagon Theatre, Bolton	19
Oldham Coliseum	21
The Royal Exchange	23
STUN	25
Z-Arts	28
Other sources of support	30
Quick reference guide	31

## How to Use This Guide

This guide is a starting point for anyone looking to find their way around the wealth of opportunities on offer to theatre makers in Greater Manchester. It includes information from some of the leading theatre organisations in the area – some venues, some not – about the kind of work they support, the programmes they have available and the best person for you to contact if you want to find out more. We'll be updating the guide regularly and hope to include more organisations each time, but we know that many of the most formative opportunities arise in unlikely places, including those that artists create for themselves! So we encourage you to take what you can from this guide, but keep on exploring Greater Manchester for yourselves too.

And if you are an organisation with opportunities to offer and you'd like to be included in the guide, please email [jon.gilchrist@homemcr.org](mailto:jon.gilchrist@homemcr.org) and we will add you to the next edition.

### **And finally, a note on language...**

We are very lucky to have such a range of opportunities available in Greater Manchester, but finding the right catch-all term to describe them is a tricky business. Finding the right way to refer to people who might benefit from these opportunities is even trickier. We have settled on the broadest terms we had to hand – talent development, artists, practitioners – in the hope of being as inclusive as possible but we recognise that they might not feel like the perfect fit for some.

## Community Arts North West



Community Arts North West (CAN) is a Manchester based arts development organisation producing work with the communities that live in Greater Manchester.

CAN work in partnership with communities, the third sector, independent and mainstream cultural organisations and other agencies to create access to cultural resources, new production and platforms for sharing and distributing work.

### **Artist Development Mission**

CAN's Talent Development programmes are central to the company's ethos and artistic practise, and aim to support a variety of needs for both emerging and mid-career practitioners through artistic programmes, as well as bespoke events, courses and training through production projects.

We also recognise that many artists and groups from the emerging and independent arts sector struggle in the current economic climate. Without support and opportunity, there is a real danger that the region could miss out on the new voices that find it increasingly hard to get a foothold in the door due to societal inequality.

We offer contracts & commissions, networking opportunities, incubation residencies, resources, partnerships, CPD through a range of learning events and festivals; apprenticeships & placements, creative digital training and production, skills & information exchange. We help people to develop creative practice; new initiatives and companies; employment & GFA support.

CAN encourage, support and provide opportunities for artists from migrant heritages and other marginalised backgrounds. We welcome refugees, asylum seekers and proactively support artists, writers, musicians, journalists, poets, educators and students in exile. CAN has successfully supported many artists to make significant and lasting contributions to the UK arts sector. For many, the arts offer a way of connecting to UK society and reconstructing identity in a new country.

We also provide placement opportunities for graduates, international students and those wishing to develop a career in the participatory arts sector. We work, where possible with both mainstream and independent arts sectors who are investing in talent development programmes; either through recommendations, consultancy, and/or partnership work.

### **About the Venue**

CAN's base houses a digital studio, meeting/training rooms, office and storage. Most talent development happens in partnership with other mainstream and independent venues.

Creative Digital training programmes take place at our Green Fish premises. CAN offer 2 desk hubs for emerging arts initiatives, artists and new companies per year. See below for details.

### **How We Support Artists**

#### *Artist Incubation Residencies*

Designed for emerging and mid-career practitioners. We are presently incubating up to 2 new artists or enterprises per year, supporting a range of initiatives and projects with small to larger scale packages of tailored support from combinations of the following:

Mentoring; Supporting GFA applications; Infrastructure and business development; Accessible hot desks with access to broadband, city centre based meeting rooms and CAN digital studio and equipment; Connecting people to accessible production spaces through working with mainstream and alternative partners; Brokering new partnerships with cultural sector partners; Production support; Connecting people to networks; Access to CAN's other artist/talent development programmes; Audience development, PR and marketing.

#### *Artists Placements*

Offer invaluable learning for artists wanting to work in participatory arts or related sectors. Artists are able to gain experience working alongside experienced practitioners across a range of media for the duration of a project. Placements cover a range of learning outcomes from project management to artistic delivery. We offer 7 -15 placements per year.

#### *CAN Creative-Digital Programmes*

Offer a range of targeted training over a fixed period of time (12 weekly sessions) and are subject to funding. They include: Addressing digital arts skills gaps to build online social media presence and creative digital marketing; Training through production programmes; Peer-to-peer learning networks, Access to digital resources, Opportunities to showcase work; Drop-in aftercare programmes with a technician.

#### *Platforma Arts and Refugee Network*

Support the development of arts by, for & with refugees and migrants. Coordinated by Counterpoints Arts, it supports sector learning, exchange & networking through biennial festivals, regional hubs & international conferences. CAN coordinates the NW Regional Hub. We offer 2 programmes:

- Learning Lab. An annual learning event for North West Hub practitioners at HOME followed by an evening film screening. Previous Learning Labs have included: Stories of Conflict, Migration & Place (2016): Explored the changing nature of digital storytelling & film production in the context of the Syrian civil war, plus screening & Q&A of Yasmin Fedda's award winning documentary Queens of Syria. Brexit, Migration and the Arts; A Call to Action (2017): An exploration of the role of arts and culture in bringing communities together in post referendum Britain followed by a screening of John Akomfrah's, Stuart Hall Project. The next Learning Lab will take place in March 2018.
- Platforma National Festivals. CAN coordinate the NW contribution to the biennial festivals, to include a combination of seminars, presentations, plenaries, performances, workshop events and exhibitions. The 2017 Festival will take place in Newcastle over two days in October. As well as showcasing and learning opportunities, there are also a limited number of bursary places available.

#### *Tandem Exchange Programme*

Assists cultural organisations to develop long-term working relationships & knowledge-development with European project partners. CAN are currently partnering with Stichting de Vrolijkheid (Amsterdam) creating a film about co-creation in inter-cultural settings, for training and advocacy purposes across Europe. In 2018/19 we plan an intercultural professional development opportunity involving 20+practitioners/artists focusing on how we evolve the story of our practice in 2019/20.

#### *Paid artist placements, apprenticeships, commissions and showcasing opportunities.*

Generally built around our artistic programmes, we aim to provide new commissions and paid work on CAN artistic programmes. This includes creating projects that will specifically highlight and showcase the work of people coming through our Talent Development programmes as well as artists who may be new to the country; e.g The Manchester International Roots Orchestra, Lisapo –The Congolese Tales, Amani Creatives and many

others. Recent apprenticeships have largely been delivered through partnership programmes such as Curious Minds and Petrus in Rochdale.

**For more information:** <http://can.uk.com>

**Contact Details**

- Katherine Rogers, Exodus Creative Producer. [Katherine@can.uk.com](mailto:Katherine@can.uk.com) direct line 0161 234 2987

## Contact



Contact is where young people change their lives through the arts, and audiences of all ages experience exciting and diverse new shows. It is the leading national theatre and arts venue to place young people at the decision-making heart of everything: where young people aged 13-30 work alongside staff in deciding the artistic programme, making all staff appointments and act as full Board members. The result is an outstanding, diverse and accessible artistic programme for everyone.

### **Artist Development Mission**

Based in our unique creative building in Manchester, we provide a range of support programmes for artists of all career stages, and emerging arts leaders. An ecology under one roof, Contact supports artists across live performance forms (theatre, dance, spoken word, music, cabaret, live art and comedy) progressing from youth programmes to professional development for artists from across Greater Manchester and the UK. Support takes the form of supported residencies, early career seed funds, festival commissions and major productions and co-productions for national touring.

Contact's talent development offer also includes year-long programmes covering programming and producing (ReCON), community arts leaders (Future Fires), technical/design (Technique), and marketing and communications (iCON).

### **About the Venue**

Contact is being refurbished throughout 2018-19, delivering an off-site programme of produced work at found sites and partner venues. Post-reopening, Contact will include the existing main house (320 seats) and black box studio (70 seats), as well as a new cabaret stage (100 capacity), recording studio, young people's rehearsal space and offices for artists and hosted organisations. It will also feature an arts and health research space in partnership with the Wellcome Trust.

### **How We Support Artists**

#### *Co-productions and Main House artist commissions*

As well as in-house productions and co-productions, Contact produces around 7-10 Main House commissions each year (£5-£20k). Shows are developed and presented at Contact before extensive national touring, and several have recently been subsequently developed for BBCTV. Shows often have a particular focus on socially engaged practice, work that platforms under-represented communities and narratives, or that has particular interest to young people under 30.

#### *Queer Contact Festival Commission*

An annual Main House commission to produce a new work within this major festival each February, created by established artists, often for subsequent national touring. Commission package includes fees, development support, dramaturgical input, funding/financial advice, brokering venue relationships and onward touring support.

#### *Diverse Actions*

In 2017 Contact launched Diverse Actions, a 3-year Live Art UK & Contact initiative for exciting and radical BAME performance makers to create new work. The commission (£8k) includes fee, producer support, dramaturgical input, technical and marketing support, plus rehearsal space and sharing opportunities, culminating in public presentation at Contact and LAUK venues nationally.

#### *Health and Science Commissions*

Contact annually commissions around 4 artists/companies to develop new work exploring health inequalities or research with a range of partners (Wellcome, Public Health England). From 2020 these will be developed through the Contact/Wellcome studio supported by a Health Producer.

#### *Seed Funding*

Each year Contact makes 4-6 small seed fund commissions for artists to develop early ideas towards larger-scale projects, often supporting additional funding applications. We also partner annually with hÅb to commission 3 live art makers for Works Ahead.

#### *Contact Young Company (CYC)*

An annually recruited ensemble of 25 young artists aged 15-25. CYC undergo a year-round programme of weekly workshops, see shows in our programme, and join subsidised places at Contact masterclasses. CYC make 3 professional-standard shows in collaboration with leading artists (recently Forced Entertainment, Stacy Makishi, SH!T Theatre, Hetain Patel) for professional contexts, including touring recently to Southbank Centre, Traverse Theatre and BAC. Form/scale and location varies during the programme (promenade, studio pieces, mid-scale shows, work for families).

#### *Director Development*

Director support takes the form of paid opportunities to shadow and assist professional directors and companies working on Contact Young Company shows and in-house productions, with considerable responsibility to work with lead artists throughout production. Contact also appoint and support emerging directors to lead on specific projects, eg Greater Manchester Police commission to create a new piece about honour based violence, directed by early career directors.

#### *Young Musicians*

Funded by Youth Music, we provide weekly training in music, media and production at drop-in level (Media Drop) through to professional activity (Level Up) aimed at producing skilled musicians, vocalists and MCs able to develop their career in the music industry. A strong focus on diversity and gender balance has created a highly distinctive offer in the city

#### *ReCON Young Programmers and Producers*

ReCON is Contact's internationally renowned programme for young programmers and producers. They work alongside staff, attend all programming meetings, programming work directly into Contact's public seasons. They also conceive and deliver their own funded projects, presented within our core public programme. Many former ReCON members go on to successful careers in arts management. Recruitment takes place annually in Summer and runs from September.

#### *Future Fires*

Our young community arts practitioner programme supports and mentors young creatives under 30 to conceive and deliver their own community-based arts project in response to local need across Greater Manchester. Recruitment takes place annually in Summer and the programme runs from September, as well as short courses.

#### *Creative Experts*

Creative Experts are Contact's young arts facilitators who deliver training, away days, conference enhancement and staff development workshops for charitable and commercial sectors. Members get monthly training sessions focused on turning their creative skills into workshop and facilitation skills applicable in a range of contexts. Recent clients include Siemens, Virgin Trains and BBC.

#### *Technique*

Weekly workshops for emerging technicians and production managers under 25, led by the Contact technical and production team. The project has been successful in producing emerging technicians who go onto receive paid freelance work at Contact and in other venues in the city.

**For more information:** <http://www.contactmcr.com>

**Contact**

- Roxanne Moores, Creative Producer: [roxannemoores@contactmcr.com](mailto:roxannemoores@contactmcr.com)

## hÅb and Word of Warning

*Stimulating... extraordinary... performance...*

### **Artist Development Mission**

hÅb is a producer, developer and strategic advocate of contemporary performance, live art and sited work in the North. greenroom's key partner for over a decade, hÅb aims to maintain its legacy, working in collaboration with a range of venues to produce showing opportunities, platforms and artist development projects like Emergency, Hazard, Haphazard, Turn and Works Ahead.

Essentially industry-facing, hÅb works with artists, colleagues and venues to create the best possible opportunities for new work to flourish. Since January 2012, hÅb also been 'public' in the guise of Word of Warning— a peripatetic programme of, and regular bulletin for, contemporary live work in Manchester + beyond.



### **About the Organisation**

hÅb/Word of Warning is a very small peripatetic organisation working in partnership with a number of venues, including Contact, STUN, The Lowry, Z-arts and the Royal Exchange Theatre.

It has no building of its own, and a staff of one full-time plus a number of freelancers yet, in any given year, hÅb might work with 200 artists, present 3 platforms, 1 sited festival and show over 100 pieces of work (under the guise of Word of Warning). hÅb is an ACE NPO.

### **How We Support Artists**

(live art/contemporary performance)

#### *Open call micro-festivals*

hÅb runs a series of open-call micro-festivals – offering opportunities to artists to share emerging work, offering an overview of upcoming work in the region and beyond – chiefly Emergency, an annual micro-festival for new live work (now entering its nineteenth year) which presents over 20 short pieces in a day each autumn. Other events are also open call enabling us to seek out new artists and work for each context eg Hazard – biennial micro-festival of sited intervention; Haphazard - biennial all-ages micro-festival; Domestic – occasional micro-festival of socially engaged work in domestic sites.

#### *Mentored commissions*

Each year hÅb, in partnership with Contact, undertakes a number of small mentored commissions (2 in 2018) under the banner Works Ahead. Normally selected from work that has been seen at Emergency, Works Ahead offers a small financial commission, space, mentoring, technical support and a public showing, normally in May.

#### *Divergency*

An ongoing group of BAME artists exploring diversity in live art. Divergency is self-selecting, and generally meets every 4-6 weeks for discussion-meals, workshops, go-sees and to explore small seedfunded works in development.

#### *Next stage commissions and ongoing support*

hÅb works on an adhoc basis with a number of artists and artist groups, offering general advice, varying levels of support with National Lottery Project applications and occasional onward commissions. This type of support is outside the more scheme-based activity and generally comes about through general conversation.

**For more information:** <http://habmcr.org> | <http://wordofwarning.org>

**Contact**

- Tamsin Drury, Director [tamsin@habmcr.org](mailto:tamsin@habmcr.org)

## HOME



HOME is a place for curiosity seekers, for lovers of the dramatic, the digital and the deeply engaging; for radicals and reciprocators. Our two theatre spaces are a platform for playful, daring, new and commissioned work. Our five screens light up with independent, challenging, provocative film. The gallery is home to the very best in contemporary art.

### **Artist Development Mission**

We want HOME to be a creative hub for the region, where local and world-class talent of all backgrounds and disciplines are discovered, nurtured and showcased, and come together to create new experiences.

Emerging creatives can take advantage of one-off skills workshops, long-term development residencies, commissions and regular showcase opportunities, which support the professional development of theatre makers, visual artists and filmmakers at all career stages and connect our region's creatives with national and international practitioners making work for our stages, screens and galleries. HOME work on talent development across all five strands of the programme; visual art, film, theatre, community and young people, digital and creative.

### **About the Venue**

Two Theatre Spaces, T1: 450, T2: 130, 2 Galleries, 5 Cinema Screens

### **How We Support Artists**

#### *Skills workshops, Masterclasses and in-depth projects*

Throughout the year we run a number of specialist skills workshops, masterclasses and in depth projects to support the professional development of artists at varying career stages. This varied programme aims to connect regional artists with practitioners/companies making work for our stages, screens and galleries.

#### *Directors*

HOME is working with the JMK Trust to offer a series of professional development workshops for emerging Directors in the region. Opportunities include regular meetings, in depth residencies and paid opportunities to assist on productions here at HOME.

Each year we also run an intensive introductory course in theatre directing, Stage Directions led by industry professionals for those curious to explore directing for the first time.

Throughout the year we provide a number of paid opportunities for directors to assist on a range of projects from staged readings, Made at HOME commissions and engagement projects.

#### *Made at HOME*

Made at HOME is our research and development programme for theatre makers and artists at varying career levels. The programme offers an opportunity to experiment and explore practice, cross-art form ideas and collaborations without the pressure of public performance. Each year we are committed to up to three Made at HOME opportunities which each offer financial support, dedicated rehearsal space for up to one week and mentoring from our creative team. At the end of each opportunity there will be a chance to share and discuss the work with our team.

#### *Mothers Who Make*

Mothers who Make is a growing national network aimed at supporting mothers who are artists, working in any discipline and at any stage of their careers. It is a peer support group and creative exchange session for mothers who are artists – professional and/or passionate – writers, painters, actors, dancers, filmmakers, photographers...every kind of maker welcome, and every kind of mother. Please feel free to bring along your children, of any age, whether they are inside you, beside you or running round the room!

#### *PUSH Festival*

PUSH is HOME's annual festival dedicated to supporting emerging North West-based creatives to develop, promote and showcase their practice and create new networks. It's no secret that Manchester is a creative jewel of a city, brimming with theatre-makers, filmmakers and visual artists pushing the boundaries of the way we make and perceive work. PUSH shines a light on that local talent and provides a platform for creatives from all art forms to showcase work that thrills, excites and challenges audiences. PUSH also aims to provide creatives with the skills to develop and push their practice further so expect workshops, panel discussions and networking opportunities.

#### *ORBIT*

Our annual Orbit festival showcases some of the most exciting and critically acclaimed productions from the Edinburgh Fringe Festival and beyond. In tandem with the diverse programme of shows, visiting companies and artists deliver a range of open access workshops for local theatre makers.

#### *T1 Commission*

Responding to a national identified lack of opportunities for mid-career theatre makers to scale up to the demands of making work for a main stage, HOME has developed the T1 Commission. A bi-annual commissioning opportunity for mid-career practitioners to work with HOME and for the first time develop a new production for a main stage (T1). Over 18 months the practitioners will gain a bespoke residency (including national and international shadowing) concluding with a new commission.

#### *Talent Development Beyond Theatre @ HOME*

There are corresponding Talent Development programmes across our Visual Arts, Film and Digital strands. HOME runs the prestigious BFI Film Academy for young film makers, our Digital Creatives programmes supports development of creative digital skills for people from a range of artistic and media backgrounds. The Granada Galleries focus on exhibiting work by local visual artists. Feature Expanded is an E.U. funded in-depth training programme and professional development opportunity for visual artists moving into making feature length artist film.

**For more information:** <https://homemcr.org/work/talent-development/>

#### **Contact**

- Sarah Sharp, Talent Development Producer [sarah.sharp@homemcr.org](mailto:sarah.sharp@homemcr.org)

## The Lowry

The Lowry is a large multi-arts venue at the heart of MediaCity in Salford, Greater Manchester. We present exciting national and international theatre, dance, circus, digital, comedy and other performances at all scales along with a vibrant visual arts programme, a thriving learning and engagement department and the national collection of work by L.S. Lowry. We are particularly excited by work that explores boundaries between artforms. We are passionate about nurturing talent, developing creative professionals of the future and raising aspirations, and have a deep commitment to our local communities and young people.



The Lowry is committed to using visual and performing arts to enrich people's lives. The venue presents audiences with a diverse programme of theatre, opera, musicals, dance, music, comedy and visual art as well as events and activities to expand the horizons of audiences and artists alike.

### **Artist Development Mission**

The Lowry's Artist Development programme has supported artist development since 2009 working with artists and companies such as Lung Theatre, Kill the Beast, Rachael Young and Theatre ad Infinitum. The programme forms a structured pathway that supports theatre makers from their first steps in the industry through to creating award-winning productions for the midscale.

There are three main strands of The Lowry's artist development programme Associate Artists, Developed With The Lowry and Studio Members.

Through its Associate Artist strand, The Lowry develops deep and long term relationships with a small number of locally-based companies with outstanding potential. The selected companies receive core funding, commissioning opportunities and highly specialised bespoke support as they establish themselves on the national stage. Our Associate Artist programme is generously supported by Arts Council England and The Eranda Rothschild Foundation.

Developed With The Lowry offers five companies a year a 12-month bespoke package of financial, practical, creative and professional development support to small-scale theatre companies at a crucial point in their development. The programme has supported companies and solo makers creating everything from new writing through to circus, puppetry and experimental theatre. It is currently funded by Arts Council England and The Eranda Rothschild Foundation.

Studio Members is a free scheme for aspiring theatre makers of all ages who are keen to learn more about working professionally.

### **About the Venue**

We have three theatres: The Lyric (1700 seats) The Quays (476 seats) and The Aldridge Studio (140 seats). We also have two visual arts galleries and we present work in other spaces across the building from time to time.

### **How We Support Artists**

We develop our relationships artists and companies through direct invitation, open call, recommendation and in response to direct approaches. We offer them ad-hoc rehearsal space, commissioning opportunities and programme their work in a range of different

contexts. Alongside this we offer three major schemes that form the bedrock of our talent development programme.

### *Studio Members Scheme*

The Studio Members Scheme is our free, open access scheme for local artists who are, or want to be, working professionally. We offer free monthly How To... seminars on subjects like producing, tour booking, managing budgets and live streaming alongside bi-monthly surgery nights and quarterly creative masterclasses with leading national companies such as Clod Ensemble and Theatre Ad Infinitum. We also offer a quarterly scratch platform, Shoots, and we select work for this through an open call for ideas that are right at the start of their development. Anyone can join as a member and benefit from a free year-round programme of creative masterclasses, training seminars, performance opportunities, discounted tickets and one-to-one advice surgeries to help them develop as a professional theatre maker. Running alongside our existing Studio Members Scheme, is our Class Of strand that focusses on a select group of emerging artists, companies, producers. The Class Of 2019 will take part in a dedicated year-long training programme aimed at demystifying and clarifying arts production. This carefully designed learning path will start with the basics like 'How To Get Programmed' and 'How To Talk About Your Work', and rounding up with 'Entrepreneurial Thinking' and 'Exploring Other Media'.

The Class Of will graduate in Summer 2019 armed with all the tools needed to make a start in theatre production, whether that be producing their own work, starting their own company, or freelance producing for other people.

You can find out more about the Studio Members and Class Of Scheme on our website.

### *Developed With The Lowry*

Every year we make a deeper commitment to five local and national companies and artists working across a range of artforms offering them a 12 month bespoke programme of support as they take a step up in their artistic practice. We are open to approaches from performance makers working across all disciplines within and beyond theatre. During this time, each will receive cash and a package of in-kind support to support the creation of a new piece of theatre that will premiere at The Lowry. They also receive further funding that has been ring-fenced specifically for professional development activities. We will broker connections and opportunities for them with national partners, help them develop their national profile and undertake activities that help them achieve their goals for the year, which could include anything from developing new creative skills such as puppetry or Lecoq technique through to developing a three year business plan and fundraising strategy. Our Developed With artists will also receive mentoring and coaching support to help explore some of the bigger questions that come along with building a career in the performing arts. We are always interested to hear from people who think they might be a strong fit for Developed With The Lowry and welcome approaches by email that outline why this is the right time to join the scheme. We particularly welcome approaches from underrepresented artists, those working across multiple artforms and those making work that is particularly concerned with the world we live in today.

### *Associate Artists*

Through our Associate Artist scheme we develop deeper and longer term relationships with outstanding artists or companies who are rooted in our local community. We offer highly specialised support for up to four companies at a time as they establish themselves on the national stage. These relationships are deep, thoughtful and substantial, based on a heartfelt commitment to supporting our Associate Artists in every way we can as they realise their potential.

We encourage our Associate Artists to be ambitious and brave as they make new work, resulting in exciting productions that drive forward their artistic practice. We support them to explore making work at the midscale, to reach out to new audiences or to explore collaborations and partnerships that will challenge the way they think. At the same time we work closely with them as they develop the leadership skills, strategies and partnerships that will underpin their creative work and help them achieve their ambitions.

*Beyond theatre artist development at The Lowry*

We have a range of partnerships and opportunities that are specific to artforms outside theatre, for example our Edits and Catapult programmes for visual artists and supporting dance makers through residency programmes with Rambert and commissioning with The Movement in partnership with Sadler's Wells and Birmingham Hippodrome. We are a significant commissioner within the Jerwood Choreographic Research Project and one of three national partners for the National Theatre's Step Change scheme for future arts leaders.

For more information: <https://www.thelowry.com/artists-partners>

Contact:

\* Anthony Gray, Senior Producer: Artist Development (maternity cover)

[Anthony.Gray@TheLowry.com](mailto:Anthony.Gray@TheLowry.com)

Claire Symonds, Senior Producer: Artist Development (from February 2019)

[Claire.Symonds@TheLowry.com](mailto:Claire.Symonds@TheLowry.com)

## Manchester International Festival (MIF)

MIF is the world's first festival of original, new work and special events, staged every two years in Manchester, UK. MIF launched in 2007 as an artist-led festival presenting new works from across the spectrum of performing arts, visual arts and popular culture. Over the last 12 years, MIF has commissioned, produced and presented world premieres by a wide range of international artists including Björk, Steve McQueen, Robert Wilson, Sharmeen Obaid-Chinoy, Jeremy Deller, Wayne McGregor, Maxine Peake, Boris Charmatz, The xx, Zaha Hadid Architects, Thomas Ostermeier, Damon Albarn, FKA twigs, Punchdrunk, Elbow and Marina Abramović.



MIF works closely with venues, festivals and other cultural organisations around the world, whose financial and creative input helps to make many of its projects possible and ensures that work made at MIF goes on to be seen across the globe. The Festival also works widely within Manchester, with a new initiative called My Festival – a community of creative people from all backgrounds, ages and corners of the city who are forging closer connections with MIF.

From 2020, as well as producing a biennial festival, MIF will also be running The Factory, a state of the art building and producing organisation in the heart of Manchester. This is a landmark opportunity for MIF, the city and the region; acting as a catalyst for creative and socio/economic growth in the North of England. As we start on our journey to The Factory, we are committed to building opportunity for all into everything we do.

### **Artist Development Mission**

MIF aims to build the creative potential of communities, artists and practitioners around the city and the wider region. Our year-round creative engagement programme enables a diverse network of creative people to forge closer connections with MIF, by taking part in public projects connecting MIF to their communities, and joining our programme of training activities, workshops and other special events. Through consultation with local artists and practitioners we aim to co-design new programmes of support for the future that set the standard for how an international arts Festival can creatively engage with and support the creative ecology in its host city.

### **How we support artists**

MIF's USP amongst international arts festivals is its focus on new, interdisciplinary work. In all of our commissions we invite artists to push the boundaries of their current practice through working collaboratively internationally or across disciplines and in new ways. Our local artist development opportunities adapt with each Festival edition but follow these same principles. In 2017 they included:

#### *Artist Fellowships*

Bespoke fellowships for Manchester based artists that offer behind the scenes access to the development and presentation of MIF's major, cross-collaborative commissions. Artists are financially supported to take time out of their own practice to explore how the international and multi-disciplinary creative teams behind MIF commissions work together to develop and present their new work. Fellows are paired with a commission that is likely to help them to develop new knowledge and insight to help progress their work in terms of artistic discipline, scale or internationality. Fellows support each other as a cohort and are also given access to MIF Executive, Producing, Technical and Creative Engagement teams to better understand how work is created within the unique Festival environment.

### *Creative 50*

Opportunity for 50 emerging creative individuals from across Greater Manchester to explore new digital tools and technologies to develop their practice. Open to creative practitioners from a range of disciplines (including writers, filmmakers, visual artists, designers, performers, poets and musicians) artists are invited to create digital responses to the programme, the 2017 results of which can be viewed at [www.creative50.mif.co.uk](http://www.creative50.mif.co.uk).

### *Artist Residencies*

Bespoke residencies and creative opportunities which offer opportunities for artists to come together in new ways. For MIF17, sixteen dancers from Greater Manchester were brought together with FlexN pioneer and choreographer Reggie 'Roc' Gray, Young Identity and Contact to explore connection between spoken word and dance.

### *Workshops, masterclasses, open rehearsal and residencies*

At each Festival edition MIF programme's workshops, masterclasses and open rehearsals hosted by international companies and practitioners involved in MIF's commissions. In 2017 this included by Boris Charmatz ([10000 Gestures](#)), the Lucinda Childs Company ([Available Light](#)), Company Wayne McGregor ([ToGather](#)), Frantic Assembly ([Fatherland](#)) and Reggie 'Regg Roc' Gray ([FlexN Manchester](#)). A selection of the workshops were open to trained dancers, while others were suitable for beginners with no experience.

As we move to developing a year round programme in the run up to opening The Factory, new ideas and programmes will develop.

**For the latest information:** [www.mif.co.uk/getinvolved](http://www.mif.co.uk/getinvolved)

### **Contact**

- Punam Ramchurn, Talent Development Manager [Punam.ramchurn@mif.co.uk](mailto:Punam.ramchurn@mif.co.uk)  
Preferred method of contact: Email

## The Octagon Theatre, Bolton



The Octagon Theatre is a producing theatre based in Bolton, welcoming an audience of over 77,000 people each year. Our vision is to enrich our communities in Bolton and beyond, and to fundamentally change people's lives for the better through theatre. We produce and present up to 10 productions a year including classic works, new commissions, local voices and family shows. We celebrate Bolton's contemporary voice and cultural heritage and we are in constant conversation with our communities.

### **Artist Development Mission**

The Octagon is recognised as a home for playwrights and theatre-makers. We support, develop and present work from an emerging generation of artists, who are keen to experiment and develop new approaches to their work. Working with culturally diverse and disabled artists and local talent is important to us.

Talent development happens alongside our main house productions at specific times of the year, when we invite writers and theatre-makers to submit their work, ideas and proposals. We want to help artists to fly.

### **About the Venue**

Main Auditorium: 321 – 395 depending on the configuration, Studio: 100

### **How We Support Artists**

#### *REVEAL Festival*

The Octagon Theatre Bolton invites submissions from artists and theatre-makers for its annual REVEAL Festival, a platform for new performances, new stories, and new voices. REVEAL Festival takes place in spring and a call-out for applications is sent out in the preceding autumn.

*REVEAL* brings together a mix of diverse artists and theatre companies to put on a wide-ranging selection of performances, experiences and events inside, outside and online at the Octagon. It provides an opportunity for audiences, theatre-makers, and artists to take risks together, creating and making new and inspiring theatre experiences in Bolton. We seek ideas that explore the boundaries of theatre; ideas that are progressive, accessible, engaging and reflect a wide variety of perspectives.

The Octagon provides artists with rehearsal and performance space, marketing, advice and mentoring and complimentary tickets to other shows within the festival, along with providing a fee.

#### *Supported Artists' Scheme*

Each year we select between 1 and 3 individual artists or theatre-companies to join our Supported Artists' Scheme. The scheme is a formal commitment to develop artists and theatre-makers at different points in their careers from across the North of England who are passionate about producing original and innovative work. We are particularly keen to unearth new talent by going beyond the usual networks.

Our Supported Artists' Scheme is individually tailored to give artists space to breathe, to reflect, to experiment in a safe environment, to challenge the way they think about their work and develop their practice over the course of a year.

Artists will be given a package of in-kind support including rehearsal space, technical support, production guidance, access to the Octagon's Artistic team, marketing support, advice on business fundamentals and income generation. They will also be given the opportunity to showcase their work in REVEAL Festival.

### *New Writing*

We have an extensive investment in new writing and with our New Writing Associate, Janys Chambers supporting artist development in this area. We have a number of open windows during the year when new writing can be submitted:

- *Best of Bolton*: This fantastic celebratory annual festival of local talent showcases the very best of writing from home grown Bolton writers. Submissions can be in any short form – story, poem, monologue, a short extract from a novel or play, and no more than three minutes long. Successful entries are directed by our New Writing Associate and performed by professional actors. Writers are also given the chance to gain invaluable professional feedback from writers and theatre-makers.
- *National Octagon Prize*: The Octagon Theatre launched its National Prize in 2016, encouraging new and original writing for the stage. Judged by a panel of industry professionals the winning submissions are fully produced and performed in our Studio Theatre over a two to three-week period.

### *Directors*

We have a long-standing commitment to providing training opportunities for directors including assistant director placements on most productions.

### *University of Bolton*

We work closely and extensively with the University of Bolton, and see this as a major part of our talent development. Our BA Hons Theatre course was the first in the country to be wholly designed by a producing theatre, and is delivered in partnership by our organisations. This, together with the courses in Performing Arts, Creative Writing and Creative Media & Production, allows the Octagon to directly reach career entrants and ensure they are industry ready. Students get unparalleled access to the creative process, see established professionals develop productions from start to finish, and receive industry workshops from every department in our theatre.

**For more information:** [www.octagonbolton.co.uk](http://www.octagonbolton.co.uk)

### **Contact**

Victoria Brown, Head of Creative Engagement [Victoria.Brown@octagonbolton.co.uk](mailto:Victoria.Brown@octagonbolton.co.uk)

## Oldham Coliseum Theatre

# OLDHAM Coliseum THEATRE

The Coliseum is a thriving, accessible producing theatre, creating and presenting high-quality plays and providing a far reaching participatory programme that integrates with all aspects of the company's work engaging the diverse communities of Oldham, Greater Manchester and further afield. The Coliseum is the undisputed focus for the cultural life of the town. The work of the company is informed by a clear set of values that shape the way it operates. These values are creativity, inclusion, diversity, innovation, quality and an approach that encourages partnership working and is audience centred. We take a leading role in the social agenda of Oldham, driving the cultural offer and providing unique opportunities for professionals, audiences and different communities to come together and engage with the arts.

### Artist Development Mission

The Coliseum is committed to developing the work of emerging artists and companies from across the region and beyond to explore the stories and issues that affect and reflect our local communities. We offer a supportive, welcoming and playful creative environment to take your work to the next level. The Studio programme runs alongside that of the Main Stage with a mix of new writing, visiting companies, rehearsed readings, bespoke and in-house productions and includes the annual Cultivate Festival.

### About the Venue

Spaces: Main House (525), Studio (50), Education Suite, 2 x Break-out spaces

Work: Producing and receiving

Who we support: Actors, Directors, Writers, Technical, and Facilitators

Learning and Engagement Department working with Schools, FE/HE Organisations and community groups.

### How We Support Artists

#### *Studio shows*

We programme work for our studio that can be at different stages of development, often on box office split. We can provide support in-kind as required in negotiation with the company. We try to see as much work as possible following an invite.

#### *Takeover Weeks*

Designated weeks offered to companies designed to develop and showcase new work from artists at any stage of the career. Support in-kind is offered to artists to meet their specific needs. Artists may present work as script in-hand, rehearsed readings or full performances.

#### *Cultivate Festival*

An opportunity for participants to attend workshops in performance and non-performance pathways including open-auditions, an introduction to facilitation course, producing and marketing seminars, networking events and script in hand performances with industry feedback.

#### *Spare Room*

We have a number of days across the year where rehearsal room is not used, we offer these days to companies and artists to use as R&D space at no cost to them.

#### *Support in-kind*

The Oldham Coliseum can offer support in-kind to 3 companies/artists a year to help take their show from an idea to a studio performance. This support includes space, dramaturgical support, marketing, rehearsed readings, tech support, a small pot of money per-company and a place in the studio season.

#### *Scripts and Scribbles*

On alternating weeks we host 'Scripts' – our play reading group who read and discuss scripts under consideration for main house and studio shows. 'Scribbles' is our drop-in playwriting group led by a professional writer and open to all levels.

#### *Writer on attachment*

We are able to offer an emerging writer the opportunity to be attached to our Learning and Engagement projects to develop their practice.

#### *Observation days*

The rehearsal process on productions led by our Associate Director may be observed on Mondays and Thursdays and one of the tech/dress rehearsals.

#### *RTYDS*

Like a number of other Greater Manchester theatres, we often run an RTYDS course. Our focus is on the one week 'Intro to directing' (5 x places) and the three month placement (1 x place).

#### *Facilitation*

We are supportive of the theatre maker as facilitator and offer a number of opportunities to be an assistant facilitator on projects including Theatre Lab – Youth Production, work with our College and University partners and community work. Please note all facilitators should hold an up-to-date DBS.

**For more information:** <http://www.coliseum.org.uk/get-involved/>

#### **Contact**

- Chris Lawson, Associate Director [ChrisLawson@Coliseum.org.uk](mailto:ChrisLawson@Coliseum.org.uk)

## Royal Exchange Theatre

Manchester's Royal Exchange Theatre Company transforms the way people see theatre, each other and the world around them. Our historic building, once the world's biggest cotton exchange, was taken over by artists in 1976. Today it is an award-winning cultural charity that produces new theatre in-the-round, in communities, on the road and online.



Exchange remains at the heart of everything we make and do. Now our currency is brand new drama and reinvigorated classics, the boldest artists and a company of highly skilled makers - all brought together in a shared imaginative endeavour to trade ideas and experiences with the people of Greater Manchester (and beyond).

### Artist Development Mission

As Manchester's largest producing theatre with an average of 20 commissions in progress at any one time, we are in constant dialogue with emerging and established makers, writers, directors and performers about creating work across our stages.

Our artist development programme is focussed on collaboration and providing pathways of support for a diverse range of artists from first contact through to the main stage. We run four interlinked programmes for actors, writers, directors and cross-disciplinary theatre-makers, developing undiscovered talent and supporting emerging and established makers. We invite artists to use our unique building as a testing ground for new material, and a space to discover and learn from new collaborators.

### About the venue

760 seat Theatre in-the-round, 90 seat Studio, and opportunities for site responsive work in the Great Hall and around the building.

### How We Support Artists

#### *Writers Exchange*

The Exchange has a strong tradition of supporting writers at all career levels. At the centre of the Writers Exchange is the biennial Bruntwood Prize for Playwriting, Europe's pre-eminent playwriting competition, with a £40,000 prize fund and over 11,000 scripts entered in the last 10 years.

Alongside the Bruntwood Prize is a programme of projects, mentoring and support which enable playwrights, both local, national and international, to develop their craft and be more ambitious, innovative, theatrical and immersive. These include:

- Masterclasses for emerging and mid-career writers with some of the country's leading playwrights – including live-stream workshops through [www.writeaplay.co.uk](http://www.writeaplay.co.uk)
- Bespoke writing groups, e.g. Writers of Colour group 2018
- One on one Surgeries and open access Script Windows
- Come Closer; an opportunity for emerging playwrights to create single-voice pieces which respond to our main house programme.
- Playwright in residence schemes (often run with partners e.g. Channel 4, Talawa, Graeae)
- Additional projects and commissioning models, often in collaboration with other partners and funders – such as BIRTH Festival ( [www.birthdebate.com](http://www.birthdebate.com) ) to place playwrights at the heart of a provocation or social enquiry and explore international collaborations

### *Directors Exchange*

The Exchange is the northern hub for the Regional Theatre Young Directors Scheme and the centre for the development of young underrepresented directors across the north of England. Opportunities for directors include:

- Observer Mondays; opportunities for local directors to observe the journey of a production from start of rehearsals to final performance.
- Come Closer; an opportunity for local directors and playwrights to collaborate and create curtain-raisers for our main house programme.
- Assistant Director placements on Theatre and Studio productions.
- RTYDS placements.
- Nine month placements for students on the Birkbeck Directing Masters course.
- Tailored opportunities and training for early stage D/deaf and disabled directors.
- Training for established directors on best practice when working with D/deaf and disabled actors and performers

### *Open Exchange*

Open Exchange provides a series of development opportunities for 900+ cross-disciplinary artists from Greater Manchester, rooted in the belief that collaboration creates great art, and brilliant theatre doesn't always begin with a script. At its heart is the Network – a dynamic group of artists, musicians, directors, poets, performers, and everything in between, who are interested in investigating the process of creating theatre. Opportunities include:

- A free programme of masterclasses and workshops from RET makers and visiting artists as well as peer-led workshops and networking events.
- Access to free rehearsal space, ticket offers and technical resources.
- REACT; a series of week-long paid artistic provocations at the Theatre.
- Co:LAB; a summer festival of brand new commissions exploring theatre-making in non-traditional ways.
- Supported Artists; up to three artists or companies each year who receive a funded, bespoke year-long residency.

The Open Exchange also fuels our biennial Hodgkiss Prize, a prestigious £40,000 award which mirrors the Bruntwood Prize in its ambition, and enables an independent company to produce a new piece of non-text based work at the Exchange.

### *Actors Exchange*

Actors Exchange is a developing new strand of work which has begun in direct response to a recognised sector need, to support people who because of disability, ethnicity or socio-economic background are experiencing barriers to accessing quality acting training and skills development. Schemes have included:

- D/deaf and Disabled Actors training
- ALT-led free training for local young actors from low socio-economic backgrounds

More information about the Actors Exchange will be available soon.

**For more information:** [www.royalexchange.co.uk/get-involved](http://www.royalexchange.co.uk/get-involved) and [www.writeaplay.co.uk](http://www.writeaplay.co.uk)

### **Contact**

- Amy Clewes – Producer Email: [Amy.Clewes@royalexchange.co.uk](mailto:Amy.Clewes@royalexchange.co.uk)
- Suzanne Bell – Dramaturg/Writers Exchange Email: [Suzanne.Bell@royalexchange.co.uk](mailto:Suzanne.Bell@royalexchange.co.uk)



## Sustained Theatre up North (STUN)



STUN enables urban stories of 21st century Britain to be experienced across the world. Our main purpose is to develop BAME artistic talent which wouldn't be developed without our support, allowing voices to be heard which wouldn't otherwise be heard. As a small, flexible organisation we allow freedom to artists which larger arts organisations may find difficult. We have long and valuable experience in supporting artists whose work is not defined by text; who assume many roles that traditional theatre separates; or who don't even consider themselves artists.

### **Artists Development Mission**

STUN is an inclusive organisation advocating for Black, Asian and minority ethnic artists. Our ambition is to be the leading venue in northern England for the development and presentation of excellent, new urban performance; working in local, regional, national and international networks to deliver quality and increase public engagement with these creatives. We show work, unseen elsewhere, which defies boundaries and traditional categories.

### **About the Venue**

Studio Space: 62 – 90 depending on configuration.

### **How We Support Artists**

We don't have organised scheme, as such, but we are a home for BAME artists, we create conditions that attract and nurture artists with potential for excellence, premiere their work, and enable them to tour. We have created a space and an environment that permits artists to have access to the means of production to play, experiment and produce artwork within a professional setting. We provide safe platforms for embryonic works to be shared, mentoring schemes and artistic advice. We also encourage artists to engage within our artist cycle.

#### *Artists Cycle*

We believe that the creation of new and innovative work involves a cycle and that we need to be flexible in allowing artists to join that cycle at any stage. The cycle makes it possible for a new artist to progress from having an idea to developing that idea and creating a piece of work for performance here and elsewhere. It also makes it possible for an artist with a piece created elsewhere to inspire our community of artists, and for an established artist to try new ideas or collaborations in the early stages of the cycle.

Although other organisations differ slightly in the detail of their working methods and the way they describe the process, this cycle reflects a common approach adopted by the network of organisations across the UK who are engaged in the development, creation and presentation of new and innovative work which could not be developed in the mainstream. The concept of the cycle is crucial - the presentation and review of work leads to discussion and engagement which leads to new ideas and new work. It is also crucial that an artist can engage with the cycle at any point.

#### *Discussion and engagement*

We describe ourselves, and are seen as, a home for BAME artists and a creative hub. This means that:

- We show work which is thought provoking and provide formal and informal environments for the discussion of work
- We are a place where artists meet and talk
- We are a broker for creative conversations between artists

- Artists approach us with ideas, we talk about them and suggest ways in which they might be developed
- We identify artists with ideas and talent which we think could be developed in creative ways (e.g. one artist in a larger company) and we open dialogue with those artists with a view to working with them
- We maintain our relationships with established artists and encourage them to contribute to the discussion and engagement stage of the cycle for other artists (e.g. Master Classes)

#### *Open access*

We provide ways in which new or established artists can test new ideas. This means that our ways of working are designed to remove perceived barriers for BAME artists and that we offer a range of different opportunities:

- Roadshows
- Develop membership base and increase profile in North for STUN and its artists using newsletter (quarterly)
- Give artists space and time in the space to develop their ideas
- Signpost artists to other opportunities
- Develop commissioning schemes
- International workshops via Skype
- Master class in developing styles of work
- Internships at other venues
- Office space

Show and tell - we work with artists to encourage and support the creation process. This is an ongoing process and involves regular engagement with an artist during the development phase. Show and tell sessions with our team, other artists and members of the public who are able to give intelligent and helpful feedback.

#### *Making the work tour ready*

Throughout the Show and tell stage, and particularly in the final stages of preparing work for presentation, we help the artist to put the work into a form in which it can be presented effectively and offered to other venues as audience-ready and tour-ready piece of work. This involves:

- A reality check on what can be presented effectively
- Practical technical advice from Technical Manager
- Artistic Advice from our and or other Artistic Director/ mentors
- Advice on other venues and introductions/ referrals
- Advice on administrative, funding and contractual issues

#### *Presentation*

We are flexible in the opportunities we offer for the presentation of work:

- We support work outside the space
- We will show new work by new artists in double bills with established artists
- Our ticket prices are pitched to encourage people to experiment in what they see
- We have a loyal, growing and committed audience who are used to and seek out new and innovative BAME work
- Develop consortia approach towards presentation

#### *Reflection*

We offer formal and informal opportunities for artists and audiences to reflect on the work we present:

- Post show Q&A's
- Feedback solicited through paper and online questionnaires/ surveys, vox pops, online blogs Informally through the bar – artists and staff talk to audiences on a one to one basis after performances

**For more information:**      [www.stunlive.com](http://www.stunlive.com)

**Contact**

Garfield Allen, Director [garfield@stunlive.com](mailto:garfield@stunlive.com)

## Z-arts

Z-arts mission is to inspire and enable generations of young people from Manchester and beyond to utilise creativity to maximise their potential. Our creative participation programme is the bed-rock of everything we do. All programmed performances have enrichment activities for children and families attached to them. As well as our own programmes we lead on two significant partnership projects: Big Imaginations, a network of 21 venues across the North West and Yorkshire, led by Z-arts, who all share a commitment to commissioning and bringing brilliant touring children's theatre to the region and The Quality of Difference, a Theatre for Young Audiences (TYA) national project to support culturally diverse children's theatre makers, including talent development opportunities and commissions.



### **Artist Development Mission**

Z-arts works with emerging and established artists who are interested in making work for children and/or a diverse, contemporary family audience. Artists will be nurtured and supported by Z-arts to make excellent, contemporary theatre, performance and arts activities for children and families, through three strands:

- a) an association scheme for established artist
- b) an emerging artists residency programme, across the Big Imaginations network for 21 venues across the North-West / Yorkshire
- c) commissioning new work for children and families.

### **About the venue**

230 seat theatre, gallery space, large dance studio, recording studio, music room, rehearsal rooms and café.

### **How We Support Artists**

#### *Associate Companies*

Theatre-Rites are an Associate Company for the next 4 years, creating an exchange of expertise, a new work each year and sharing practice in representing diversity onstage, supporting the puppetry consortium and connecting Theatre-Rites with new communities, audiences, and partners. Theatre-Rites R will be nurtured as a respected, established company with much to offer Z-arts and the wider North. The company will in turn support our emerging artists development programme by delivering masterclasses.

Arun Ghosh is a Z-arts Associate Artist. As Associate Artist, Arun will be curating and giving performances, composing, and making work with musicians from and around Hulme.

#### *Commissioning new work*

Z-arts have a commitment to collaborating on commissioning new work, with Big Imaginations, TYA & respected companies.

Z-arts will co-commission at least 2 new shows per year.

One commission will be in partnership with the Royal Exchange - investigating a new model of placing young people as collaborators at the heart of the creative process.

The 2018/19 programme will include a Big Imaginations early years commission working with libraries to take to community settings, as a legacy of the Manchester Libraries Grants for the arts project which we are coordinating on behalf of Manchester City Council.

The 2019/20 programme will include a region-wide digital Big Imaginations festival and a new Theatre-Rites commission.

The 2020/2021 programme will include a co-commission with Contact for 11-16 year olds and an ambition to commission a piece of work that comes out of Quality of Difference with Spark, Polka and Hullabaloo.

We will collaborate on an early years piece of sensory theatre with Travelling Light.

2021/22 will see a final collaboration with Theatre Rites, a further piece of work resulting from the Quality of Difference programme plus a Big Imaginations commission, responding to the current gap in the market.

### *Emerging artists*

We have a commitment to developing new or emerging artists. We have a small r&d budget for artists who are making work for young audiences. We also run annual artists labs and masterclasses, with different themes.

In 2018 the theme is 'including digital content', starting with a masterclass day and then an artists lab week will be offered later in the year.

2019 will focus on making theatre for young audiences accessible.

Associate company Theatre-Rites will deliver masterclasses, including to STUN artists, which will kickstart a 2-year process to enable more diverse artists to pitch for the Quality of Difference commission.

We also offer a bespoke work-placement week for over 18's, where young adults can 'take over' the building.

### *Rehearsal space*

We offer a rehearsal week package for £250 per week.

**For more information** [www.z-arts.org](http://www.z-arts.org) and <http://www.bigimagination.co.uk>

### **Contact**

- For commissions: Liz O'Neill, Artistic Director [liz@z-arts.org](mailto:liz@z-arts.org)
- For emerging theatre artists: Zoe Pickering, Programme Manager [zoe@z-arts.org](mailto:zoe@z-arts.org)
- For participatory arts: Saskia Metcalf, Creative Development Manager [Saskia@z-arts.org](mailto:Saskia@z-arts.org)

		Community Arts North West	Contact	hAb/Word of Warning	HOME	The Lowry	MIF	The Octagon	Oldham Coliseum	Royal Exchange Theatre	STUN	Z-Arts
<b>Opportunities available</b>	Scratch Nights/Platforming Opportunities		X	X	X	X			X		X	
	Mentoring	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
	Associate/Resident Companies	X			X	X			X	X		X
	Residencies/Free Space	X	X		X	X		X	X	X	X	
	Commissions/Co-commissions/Bursaries	X	X	X	X	X		X		X	X	X
	Producing Support	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	
	Professional Development Workshop		X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
	Artist Membership Scheme				X	X				X		
<b>Artform</b>	Dance	X	X		X	X	X				X	
	Contemporary Theatre	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
	Classic Theatre		X		X		X	X		X		
	Spoken Word	X	X		X	X	X			X	X	
	Music	X	X		X	X	X			X	X	
	Comedy		X			X	X				X	
	Family	X	X			X	X	X	X	X	X	X
	Film	X		X			X				X	
	Live Art		X	X	X	X				X		
<b>Disciplines</b>	Performers	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
	Writers	X	X	X			X	X	X	X	X	X
	Directors	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
	Designers		X				X	X	X	X		
	Digital Artists	X	X		X	X	X		X		X	X
	Companies	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X
	Devisors	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X
	Producers	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X
	Multi-disciplinary	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X
<b>All of the organisations listed work with artists at all stages of their careers.</b>												