

## **Devon Ignite & Seed Commissions 2021 GUIDELINES**

These guidelines relate to the Devon Ignite Commission For Ethnically Diverse Artists 2021, Devon Theatre Commission for D/deaf, Neurodivergent and Disabled Artists 2021, and the Devon Seed Commissions 2021. Please read them carefully before submitting your application.

### **AIMS AND OBJECTIVES**

Exeter Phoenix recognises that the creation of new works in theatre and performance plays an important role in reflecting our culture, establishing individual voices as well as group dynamics, and can help theatre makers and artists develop new skills and long-term relationships with cast, crew and theatre audiences, both locally and nationally.

Exeter Phoenix has previously provided theatre commissioning opportunities with Come As You Are Festival, but this is the first time Exeter Phoenix will be providing a theatre commissioning opportunity for theatre makers / artists to be included within our main regular programme.

The commissions support the production of new theatre and performance. The aims for these commissioning opportunities are to:

- Support new, emerging & established talent within Devon
- Connect theatre makers and artists to a wider cultural network in the region
- Recognise and amplify voices & companies from underrepresented backgrounds
- Provide a platform for theatre makers & artists to present new, fresh and inspiring ideas from a range of perspectives to a live audience, and to receive meaningful feedback on their work
- Offer producing, dramaturgical & mentoring support

Exeter Phoenix will award one Devon Ignite Commission of £1000 to a Black, Asian or ethnically diverse theatre maker / artist / collective to make

25-30 minutes of new material. This commission is geared towards theatre-makers who have already developed their practice somewhat, have ideas in the making or want the opportunity to generate a new idea, and need the time, money and support to get that idea fleshed out and onto a stage.

Exeter Phoenix will award one Devon Ignite Commission of £1000 to a D/deaf, Neurodivergent or Disabled theatre maker / artist / collective to make 25-30 minutes of new material. This commission is geared towards theatre-makers who have already developed their practice somewhat, have ideas in the making or want the opportunity to generate a new idea, and need the time, money and support to get that idea fleshed out and onto a stage.

Exeter Phoenix will award 2 x Devon Seed Commissions of £500 each to a theatre maker / artist / collective for 10-15 minutes of new material, in the form of a performance or a participatory workshop / experience for audience members. This commission is geared towards new/emerging theatre-makers who are still developing their practice or experimenting with their style & form, and don't necessarily have any concrete ideas for a show but would like to dedicate some time to exploration.

## **WHAT CAN YOU APPLY FOR?**

Exeter Phoenix is inviting applications from ethnically diverse theatre makers / artists and D/deaf, neurodivergent or disabled theatre makers / artists for the Devon Ignite Commission, for the development of an idea for a theatre show resulting in a 25-30 performance being shared at Exeter Phoenix. Successful applicants will be awarded £1000 to support the development & production of this performance. This should be utilised to flesh out a coherent idea that would then later inform an R&D rehearsal process to develop it into a fully realised piece of theatre. You can apply for support with all genres of performance; new-writing, devising, physical theatre/dance, solo-performance, autobiographical work, multimedia performance, clowning, physical comedy, puppetry, family theatre, improvisation etc.

Exeter Phoenix is also inviting applications for the Devon Seed Commission, for the development of an idea and a space to explore new & different ways of working. This will result in a 10-15 minute performance or participatory workshop / experience being shared at Exeter Phoenix. Successful applicants will be awarded £500 to support this process and could be utilised in a variety of different ways, for any kind of genre of performance &

exploration e.g. to create the structure for an improvisation, or to make up a series of several short performances / scenes, or to play with the relationship between lighting & theatre design.

Exeter Phoenix is not restricting how the awards are spent for any of the commissioning strands, but you will be expected to provide a brief budget if you are invited to interview. Costs might include fees for cast and crew, travel costs, covering personal time and materials.

The successful applicants for all the commissioning opportunities will also receive in kind support which will contribute towards their development process. This includes:

- Free rehearsal space at Exeter Phoenix
- Mentoring and advice
- Technical support
- Marketing support
- Filmed footage of the live performance

The finished performances will be premiered w/c 9th August 2021 as part of Exeter Phoenix's community programming this Summer, and advice will be given in promoting the sharing and developing audiences. We also encourage the successful candidates to have a Q&A after their sharing, hosted by Performance Programmer, Naomi Turner, where there will also be an opportunity to gather feedback from the audience.

## **WHO CAN APPLY?**

### **Devon Ignite Commission For Ethnically Diverse Artists 2021**

This is open to individuals or groups who reside in Devon, UK and identify as Black, Asian, or ethnically diverse, who are currently under-represented in the cultural sector,

### **Devon Ignite Commission For D/deaf, Neurodivergent and Disabled Artists 2021**

This is open to individuals or groups who reside in Devon, UK and identify as D/deaf, neurodivergent and disabled, who are currently under-represented in the cultural sector,

### **Devon Seed Commission 2021**

This is open to individuals or groups who reside in Devon, UK.

Applicants must be able to prove they reside in Devon. Applicants must be aged 18 years or over. The selected theatre maker / artist / collective may be expected to make occasional visits to Exeter prior to their performance w/c 9th August 2021, therefore please consider this when applying.

# COMMISSION TIMELINE

Applications open **Wednesday 5 May 2021**.

Applications close **Midnight, Monday 31 May 2021**.

Decisions made by the week commencing **7 June 2021**. Interviews will be scheduled to take place in the week commencing **14 June 2021**.

Sharing of ideas and work created up until this point will be scheduled to take place week commencing **26th July 2021**.

Projects are to be completed by week commencing **9th August 2021**, where performances will be held at Exeter Phoenix.

# APPLICATION AND ASSESSMENT

All applications must be submitted via our online submission form.

Applicants will be asked to submit an original and concise proposal, outlining any narrative, characters, inspiration, different styles/genres, design, movement etc. Try to be clear and concise so the panel can get a good idea of your vision.

Exeter Phoenix will accept ideas to be presented in written form (up to 400 words) or as a video (up to 3 minutes).

Applicants will have the opportunity to include supporting material. This could be examples of previous work, writing samples, music design or visual aids.

Applicants will also be asked to complete a Diversity Standards form when applying.

All applicants will receive a confirmation email to state we have received your application. Applications will be presented to the commission panel after the deadline.

Decisions will be made the week commencing 7 June 2021. All applicants will be notified of the outcome via email.

If you are invited to pitch your application at an interview you will be asked to present your ideas to the panel and discuss them in more detail. These interviews will be held online via Zoom.

You will also be asked to provide the panel with a brief budget and examples of how your idea will meet our aims and objectives outlined above.

## **CONTACT US**

If you still have questions regarding the Devon Ignite Commissions 2021 / Devon Seed Commissions 2021 please send an email to [naomi.turner@exeterphoenix.org.uk](mailto:naomi.turner@exeterphoenix.org.uk)

### Disclaimer

*The offer of these commissions is correct at time of launch. Exeter Phoenix reserves the right to amend or withdraw elements of the commission offer. The Devon Ignite Commissions 2021 / Devon Seed Commissions 2021 are subject to terms and conditions as stated in the final contract, which will be presented to the successful applicant.*