



What's Up Doc?

Collaborative plays of up to 30 minutes

Commissioning Information

Hotbed is The Cambridge New Writing theatre festival produced by Menagerie Theatre Company, co-produced with the Cambridge Junction and presented in association with Soho Theatre.

Held since 2002, festival commissions have included work by Tim Etchells, Naomi Wallace, Steve Waters, Fraser Grace, Ed Harris, Diane Samuels, Jane Upton, Chris O'Connell and Janice Okoh as well as dozens of first-time and up-and-coming writers.

We are looking to commission new work for the festival which will be developed as a Showcase Festival Production in 2015 and as a full production intended for national and international touring in 2016 and beyond.

Initially offering a seed fee of £1375 for development in 2015, we intend for this to be a full commission as the piece (up to 30 minutes in length) is developed in 2016.

What's Up Doc? Collaborative Plays

Overview

What's up Doc? is a festival commissioning project designed to bring ideas and people together. Inspired by our current and recent work with leading academics at Cambridge University, we are now commissioning three short plays (up to 30 minutes in length) by three writers each inspired and informed by a collaborator ... the 'Doc' of our title.

Each commission will be written and created in response to a question or challenge established by the 'Doc' in conversation or correspondence with the writer. The 'Doc' should be someone who sits as a **Thought Leader** in their field. The key here is that the collaborator is inspiring and challenging and that they are 'up for' a project that will engage their thinking in a theatrical form.

The sort of person you may choose to work with might be an Academic, Politician, Lawyer Scientist, Religious Leader, Activist, Entrepreneur, Sports Person etc. They can come from

anywhere in the world and we encourage international collaborations as well as those from the UK.

Menagerie can potentially set up collaborations but at this stage we are keen to explore relationships which writers already have, or can establish, with collaborators outside of our existing network.

Each piece should be developed and written as a collaboration, and whilst the 'Doc' doesn't need to perform they should be 'present' in the process i.e. actively contributing by supplying questions, entering into dialogue, allowing access to archives or articles, making or supplying videos, sound recordings or written statements etc.

We will select ideas that use 1, 2 or 3 actors from our Professional Ensemble.

Each piece will be performed multiple times both alone and alongside other work throughout the festival i.e. performed in pairs or groups.

The work

If I told you what I was thinking... what would you think? How could you capture the dilemma, the challenge, the excitement or frustration of my ideas?

The resulting theatre piece should be invested in the thinking of the collaborator and responses of the playwright, but it is not a lecture or polemical exercise. The resulting work must be a play or performance response that should be accessible and engage, inform, challenge and entertain audiences in its dramatic form. Beyond this it can be made in any genre or style and we encourage comedy and off-kilter responses as much as we do dramatic work.

Guidelines

- Please submit your idea on one page.
- Let us know if you are writing for 1, 2 or 3 performers
- If we don't already know your work please send us info to help us know more about you and your writing.
- In your submission let us know if you have direct access and agreement from your 'Doc' to work together. If not, please let us know the likelihood of being able to access your 'Doc'.
- If you are seriously interested in this work but do not have a collaborator please contact us and we can discuss potential collaborations from our network.
- Please submit ideas by email to: office@menagerie.uk.com

Deadline Dates

- Submissions: 9th March 2015
- Commissions offered: 19th March 2015
- Outline script and ideas for development: 20th April 2015
- First draft due: Monday 18th May
- Rehearsal draft due: Monday 8th June
- Rehearsals start 22nd June 2015

Performances

- 9th - 12th July 2015: Cambridge Junction (3 performances)
- And before end of 2015:
 - Intention for 2-6 additional performances Soho Theatre, London

Fee

£1375 (50% ITC rate: Seed Development)

Paid in three parts for the playwright:

1. £500 on commission
2. £500 on first draft
3. £375 on first performance

In addition expenses of up to £250 will be offered to the Collaborator in 2015 and again (£250) if the piece is fully developed in 2016.

Rights and license

The performance license will be retained by Menagerie initially until 31 December 2015 then extended until 31 December 2016 (assuming the pursuance to full production for Hotbed 2016 is agreed by both parties and balance of full commission – an additional £1375- is paid).

No additional fees or box office commissions will be due during these periods.*

For more information call 01223 403361 or email Paul@menagerie.uk.com or Patrick@menagerie.uk.com

*The intention is to continue developing the work for national and international touring beyond 2016, for which additional payments and contracts will be negotiated.

**Menagerie
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