**Push Festival 2021**   
**19 January – 13 February**

As HOME prepares to reopen, we’re continuing our commitment to finding ways to support the vital freelance artistic community by creating opportunities to celebrate and create art.

The North West region is home to the most vibrant and pioneering artists. Push Festival is our annual celebration of those who provoke, excite and enthuse audiences. We have now opened a unique set of commissions for the festival.

**Call Out for 3x Theatre Commissions (2 Live, 1 Digital)**

**Deadline for expressions of interest: Friday 11 September, 12 noon.**

For Push 2021 we are looking for three theatre makers, companies or artists to develop and then present a production (either live or digitally) in this year’s festival. These commissions are specifically designed for artists honing a piece already in development and getting them ready for public performance.

We are keen to hear from a wide range of people from across the region. We particularly welcome applications from those currently under-represented in the industry as a result of barriers arising from social, gender, financial, ethnic, cultural, geographic or educational disadvantage or disability.

**What we’re looking for:**

* Artists/Companies/Theatre Makers based in the North West (The North West comprises Greater Manchester, Cheshire, Cumbria, Lancashire and Manchester)
  + Applicants who consider their practice and work to be in line with HOME’s ambition to push the boundaries of form and technology, to experiment, be bold and take risks
  + Artists/Companies/Theatre Makers with a clear production idea who will then be ready to stage it at HOME during Push Festival 2021 (19 January – 13 February)
  + A production that fits into a playing area of approx. 9m x 9m (with masking)
  + We are also looking for one commission to be made for digital presentation – the run of this project will extend beyond the festival dates.

**What we’re offering:**

* A seed commission of up to £4,000 funding per artist/company
* Also paid development time to work on your commissions (bespoke and on top of each commission)
* At least 10 days rehearsal space at HOME (Subject to COVID-19 UK theatre guidelines)
* 2 or 3 performance slots as part of Push at some point between Tue 19 Jan – Sat 13 Feb 2021 (Live Only)
* A share of the net Box Office from the performances on top of the commission & development fees
* High quality capture or livestream of the performance enabling the artist/company to have the opportunity to share their work to further programmers and audiences (for live performances)
* Bespoke mentoring support from HOMEs Programme and Talent Development team
* Marketing support from HOME

In 2021, we will be extending our festival to take place over 4 weeks to allow for all the necessary social distancing measures to remain in place. We will be using HOME’s Theatre 1 space in a socially distant way which means there will be a capacity of around 120 in the space with audiences spaced at approx. 2m distance from each other.

To look at previous Push Festival line ups click here – 2020 - 2019

**What stage does the production need to be at?**

We are looking for productions that are already in development but are in need of further support to finish the production.

In your application, we will ask you to explain what stage your project is at and talk about the development work you’ve done so far.

The piece (live or digital) will need to be ready to perform by the festival (Push commissioned work will not be presented as Work in Progress performances).

**How to apply and further details:**

We have been working with the National Freelance Taskforce to look at our application process. In response to their feedback, we are changing the way artists will apply for commissions at HOME. There will be now be a two-step process;

**Step One:**

We are asking initially for brief expressions of interest via this short form or audio/video (see details below).

HOME will then employ a panel of independent freelance artists to shortlist around 10 applications to take to Step Two. Unfortunately, we will not be able to offer any feedback on stage one applications.

**Deadline for expressions of interest: Friday 11 September, 12 noon.**

**Shortlisted Applications notified: Friday 18 September.**

**Step Two:**

The shortlisted expressions of interest will then be invited to submit a more detailed application - these artists will each receive £50 to develop their application further, as well as a one to one producer support surgery with a member of HOME programme and talent development departments to aid the application process.

This session will be arranged at a convenient time and on a suitable platform for the applicant (i.e. zoom, phone, email etc)

These applications will then be discussed by the independent artist panel alongside the HOME producing team. All applications at this stage will receive detailed feedback collated from the Artist Panel discussions.

**Shortlisted Applications notified: Friday 18 September.**

**Application Surgeries with HOME Producers: Week commencing 21 September**

**Deadline for Step Two Applications: Friday 2 October**

**Selection Panel Tuesday 6, Wednesday 7 October**

**Push 2020 Theatre Commission / Expression of interest questions and tips**

**How to apply for Step One:**

We accept responses in a variety of formats;

* a written application via this google form

Or

* voice recording via email
* a short video via email
* download one of our accessible forms (dyslexia friendly, large print, word.doc)

Email voice recordings, videos or accessible forms to the Push festival email address with subject line 'Your name, Push 2021 - Theatre Commission'.

Remember the main applicant must be currently living in the North West (Cheshire, Cumbria, Greater Manchester, Lancashire and Merseyside)

**Making a link to a video / audio file**

You could upload your file to Vimeo or YouTube (both are free to join). You can make your film password protected on Vimeo or unlisted on YouTube (please don’t make them private as the video will need to be watched by several people whose email addresses you won’t have).

You can also use services like WeTransfer where you can upload several files. Choose the option “send as a link” and send it to yourself – this is the link to add to the form.

These are only suggestions, there are plenty of alternatives, the only things you need to remember are;

* Several people will be listening / watching it so access to your file must not be linked to a specific email address
* The people watching / listening need to be able to access to it without signing in to a service.

**Expression of Interest – your expression should cover the following**

If you complete the form online via the link, the following questions will be asked. If you are recording your submission please do make sure you cover the following questions.

1. What is your name?
2. What is your email address?
3. What is your company name if you have one? Please include social media handles and website if you have one.
4. Tell us about you and the work you make (up to 500 words)
5. What is the piece you are developing, and what is the next step for its development? (up to 500 words)

**Frequently Asked Questions**

***Can I apply if I have performed in previous PUSH Festivals?***

Yes, we are accepting applications from artists who have previously performed as part of PUSH.

***Can I apply if I have previously received a PUSH Commission?***

Yes, if you have received a commission previously you are still able to make an application but this must be for a new piece of work.

***What do you mean by ‘paid development’?***

We have set aside budget to pay for artists to have the time and space needed to create their commissions. This could be in the form of a week’s fee to cover a week planning or paid days to attend sessions with our Marketing team. This development fee will be bespoke and we will work with each commission to plan this.

***Who will be on the artist panel?***

The artist panel will be made up of independent freelance artists from the North West. The artists will be paid for their time and we will have artists who have been part of previous PUSH Festivals.

***What do I do if I need help with my expression of interest or have some questions?***

You can book a surgery with one of our Talent Development Producers. Please click here for further info

***What do you mean by digital work?***

Work that is performed or housed in digital space – this could be a live streamed performance, an audio-visual work which sits on our website, it’s up to you!

We will update the FAQs as questions come in.