Litmus Fest

Supporting Experimentation

a work-in-progress theatre festival: six companies present six brand new shows over six days

An annual RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT festival at Pleasance Islington.

During the month of August, the Pleasance relocates to Edinburgh to run 27 performance spaces at the Festival Fringe, so often London becomes a maintenance hub. Through Litmus Fest, it instead becomes a hive of R&D activity for developing new work and new ways of working. The findings of this development period are then presented on our stages over one week in September. In 2018 we are pleased to once again be presenting Litmus Fest, supporting theatre makers to experiment and offering audiences the opportunity to see a range of new and exciting work!

APPLICATIONS for 2018 are now open until MONDAY 21 MAY, 12pm.

What Pleasance are offering:

- 2 weeks of rehearsal time
- 1 day of onstage/technical development
- 1 day to get in followed by 2 days of public performances in our StageSpace studio
- Guidance and mentoring from the Pleasance team

What you need to provide:

- Ambition to develop and experiment with a specific aspect of your practice
- 30-60min work-in-progress performance for a public audience
- Any props or set pieces needed for the performances
- A technician/operator for the performances

Key dates:
- Rehearsals- 6 Aug-16 Sept
- Group sharing- 17 Sept
- Technical development- 18-23 Sept
- Performances- 24-30 Sept

FAQ

1. ## Do we need to market our own production?
   As a venue the Pleasance will work to market the festival as a whole with advertising, social media promotion and a press release. The individual companies are expected to then publicise their own work to get audiences into their specific show.

2. ## Will the Pleasance help us with the show technically?
   We give the companies involved access to our in house technician for guidance and advice in the lead up to the festival and on the technical days, and will provide a basic lighting and sound rig which will be shared by all shows.   We do not however provide a dedicated technician for programming or operating the companies' shows, you will need to find your own.

3. ## Do we need to create 30-60 minutes of polished performance?
   We are looking for a work-in-progress performance presenting what you discovered over the 2 weeks of development. We understand that work-in-progress can mean various things and this presentation is mainly about you trying something exciting and new in order to test it out and get feedback from an audience. It will be expected that some of the work will be further into its development than others.

4. ## Can we invite industry and programmers along to the performance?
   We actively encourage the companies involved to use the festival as an opportunity to showcase their work in front of industry professionals if it's beneficial for the project.

5. ## Will we have the opportunity to meet the other companies involved in the festival?
   Yes, we organise a meet and greet before the Pleasance team leaves for Edinburgh during which all the companies involved in the festival come together to hear about the projects they're developing.
   We will also organise a more social catch up mid way through the development period on 17 Sept so you can all check in with one another and share learning.

   If you have any other questions at all, please email heather@pleasance.co.uk