



What is XYP?

XYP is an initiative designed to offer young theatre companies making their first pieces of work the chance to be co-produced by the Pleasance at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe. Most XYP companies will still be in education – whether under or postgraduate - and at least 40% of the company **must** have come directly from our Young Pleasance company.

The XYP opportunity offers a chance for young people to develop the learnings gained from being part of the Young Pleasance, having an experience that's tailored to them and their own work.

How does it work?

Applications will open in December and all companies that wish to apply will be asked to submit a proposal for their production. This opportunity will be publicly advertised, and the Pleasance Futures sub-committee will also invite companies to apply too. Applicants will be shortlisted and asked to show some of their work and/or partake in an interview.

- **Applications open Monday 2 December 2019**
- **Deadline to receive proposals Monday 20 January 2020**
- **We aim to make a decision by the end of February 2020**
- **Please email proposals to Producer ellie@pleasance.co.uk with the subject 'XYP proposal 2020'**

The proposal

We are looking for a proposal with roughly 1000 words, and images too if relevant, outlining the following:

- **Company** - Including the full names of the individuals involved, the roles they'll have within the production, a bio for each person, and the year/s each member was in the Young Pleasance, if applicable.
- **Idea** - A outline of the idea along with how they plan to achieve their artistic vision.
- **Why** - Explain why the company will benefit from the XYP initiative at this stage and what they hope to gain from the experience.
- **Fundraising** - Alongside the support of the Pleasance, the company will also need to fundraise to go towards their budget. Please outline any plans you may have for fundraising and/or any previous experience with fundraising for a show.
- **Supporting info** - If you have a script, any footage etc that you can send alongside your proposal, please do include that in your email.
- **Slot preference** - Ideally which of the Pleasance spaces in Edinburgh would you be interested in performing your piece in, and at what time? You can find details of the Pleasance's Edinburgh spaces [here](#).



There won't necessarily be an XYP company every year, and we may choose to keep an XYP company on for more than one year, but this will be decided on a case by case basis guided by how much the company need and will benefit from our further support.

As part of the initiative, the Pleasance will provide:

- Guidance on producing the show, including support with budgets, fundraising, marketing and additional elements involved in taking a show up to Edinburgh Fringe.
- A Pleasance venue at the Festival Fringe for a full festival run.
- Cash-flow for the up front costs - fringe fees, advertising, costumes, accommodation, travel etc.
- General artistic advice and support.

The company will provide:

- A participation fee of £500 per person - the company members are welcome to fundraise for this and the Pleasance can advise and support them in doing so.
- An agreement that the company is leading on the production, with support and co-production guidance from the Pleasance.

Please note that any profits from the production will be retained by Pleasance for future Pleasance Futures initiatives.

By co-producing the company's own work, we give them the opportunity to refine their practice under our overall supervision and guidance. This model has been practiced successfully in Edinburgh and London before, enjoying some creative autonomy within the safety net of the infrastructure that supports Young Pleasance.

Previous XYP companies:

XYP started in 2006 with an all-male version of *The Tempest*. The following year they presented, *Faustus*, which was a devised and developed piece of new writing that won the 'Spirit of the Fringe' award.

A good example of XYP activity is provided by the "*Incognito*" theatre company of ex-Young Pleasance participants, who have been supported with the XYP model since 2014. The first production the company staged was *Government Inspector* at the Festival in August and, following strong reviews from audience and critics alike, it was performed at Pleasance, London for a Christmas run which was also a huge success.

In 2015, *Incognito* presented a sell-out production of *Dorian Gray* which transferred to Pleasance London, and in 2016 they produced a 5 star version of *All Quiet on the Western Front* which also sold-out in Edinburgh 2016 and was then transferred to New York and back to London.



Another example of XYP activity is Spies Like Us with their 2017 sell-out production of *Our Man In Havana*. Their second production, *Woyzeck*, was presented at the fringe in 2018 and came to Pleasance Islington in December 2018 for a fantastic run in our Downstairs space. They had recent success with *Murder on the Dance Floor* at this years Fringe with a returning run in Islington. Spies Like Us have since been invited to present their work internationally in Europe and China.

Other companies largely comprising of ex-Young Pleasance performers and directors that have gone on to create their own work supported by us include, *Clayparty*, *Greenlight* and *PartingShot*.



Clay party, *Outside*, XYP 2018



Spies Like Us, *Our Man in Havana*, XYP 2017



Incognito, *All Quiet on the Western Front*, XYP 2016