

[THINKING SPACE]

An artists' lab to explore creatively engaged theatre.

Thinking Space is a physical and online space where a group of eight theatre makers come together to explore what "creative engagement" means and could mean for the future.

At the National Theatre of Scotland, we have been reviewing the role of Creative Engagement in the organisation and are looking for a group of practitioners to connect in a research process which looks at the role of creative engagement in the making of new theatre productions.

Thinking Space will happen between October 2021 and February 2022. Although the content and activity of the space will be made together with the selected artists, to start with, we are suggesting:

- Two three-day face to face labs happening in October and February.
- "Outside Inspiration" sessions – up to four online discussions, we invite other artists and companies to share their experiences and work with us, start discussions and inspire future thoughts.
- One to ones (face to face, or zoom calls with one other person) – time for artists to have a supported conversation with one of the Thinking Space Facilitators to go through an idea, a concept or anything else that is developing through the process.
- Inspiration space – an online space for posting links, thoughts, images, stories, anything that any of the artists find and share that could be of use or interest to the rest of the group.
- Ideas sharing – participating artists will reflect on the process through the creation of an idea that they have investigated through the lab – this could be an idea for a production, an idea for a community engagement project or an idea about what they have found in their research with "creative engagement".

Who might want to take part in Thinking Space

Theatre makers, at any time of their career, who have an interest in creating theatre that might be called 'socially engaged theatre', participatory theatre (performers engaging with the audience and communities), theatre that is co-created with communities or non-professionals. You may have been working and creating this type of theatre for a long time or this may be a new development in your practice. This lab is about theatre making and how communities add to the process and the type of theatre productions we might develop at the National Theatre of Scotland.

Time commitment

You would be expected to commit a total of 15 days. Six days would be face to face – Three days together then another three days:

26 - 28 October 2021 (3 days)

1 - 3 February 2022 (3 days)

Four half-days would be to attend guest speaker/masterclasses/inspiring sessions (online)

Seven days would be for your own individual research/writing/thinking.

FEE

Total Fee would be £2,805 which is based on the NTS Associate artist day-rate of £187/day.

Facilitators

Thinking Space will be facilitated by [Nic Green](#) and [Wezi Mhura](#).

Location

The face to face sessions will happen at [Rockvilla](#) in Glasgow. When needed, travel and accommodation will be given in addition to the fee.

Eligibility (suitability)

You must be a theatre artist based in Scotland. Artist means: someone who creates and delivers an artistic idea for a theatre production. You can be at any point of your career and have no experience or lots of experience of “creative engagement” in connection to theatre making.

How to apply

[Please fill in the form, or add a video, on Submittable \(website for online applications\)](#)

Closing Date

The closing date for applications is Sunday 29th August.

Selection process

Applications will be shortlisted by staff of the Creative Engagement team at National Theatre of Scotland. The facilitators will then join the Creative Engagement team members and that panel will select The Thinking Space participants from the shortlist.

Criteria

The selection criteria are explained in each question on the form. If you need more information, please email Paul.fitzpatrick@nationaltheatrescotland.com

Access

Applications can also be submitted by video, and if you are a BSL user, you are welcome to use BSL in your video. If you are selected, we will discuss any access needs you have to make sure you can participate fully, including support with caring responsibilities.

APPLICATION FORM

Thinking Space – application

There are two parts to the application. The first part is about you, this will help us select various levels of experience and practice for the lab. The second part is specifically about why you would like to take part, the difference it would make and what you are interested in exploring. The “what we’re looking for” sections aim to give you a clearer idea of the information to put into your responses. Above all we’re looking for a real interest about creative engagement and a passion to develop the practice.

About you

There are only eight places available in Thinking Space, so, as well having a group of artists who are interested about Creative Engagement and passionate to develop their practice, we would like to select a cohort (group) who will show Scotland's diversity. Our aim is to have a gender balance across the group, and include artists of colour, those who identify as disabled and artists based outside of the central belt (Central Scotland).

To help us in the selection process, please tell us about yourself and how you identify, in your own words here:

In terms of your career as an artist, which of the following (do you feel?) best describes you?

- Experienced artist
- Mid-career artist
- Early career/starting-out

In terms of creating theatre with and for communities in a participatory or co-created practice, which of the following describes where you are in terms of your practice:

- This is my main practice as a theatre maker.
- I have some experience, but it is not my main practice.
- I have no experience and am keen to develop my practice.

About your practice and why you want to take part in Thinking Space

1. In your own words, tell us about yourself as an artist and your practice – you don't need to tell us why you're interested in Thinking Space in this answer, that can be answered in the next question.

WHAT WE'RE LOOKING FOR –how you describe your practice and what encourages you to make your art(work). This response will also help us in selecting people with different ways to their practice.

2. What would you like to explore when thinking of your own practice and the wider sector by taking part in Thinking Space?

WHAT WE'RE LOOKING FOR – what difference, being involved, will make to you as an artist and your motivation for being part of a project like this.

3. Tell us about an idea you might like to research and develop through this process.

WHAT WE'RE LOOKING FOR – your starting point in this process about the idea for a show/production/project you might suggest as you start your artistic research.

4. As an audience member or a maker what has been your best – and your worst – experience of community/participatory/co-created theatre.

WHAT WE'RE LOOKING FOR – what excites you about work you've seen or made and what challenges or questions you have thought about when seeing/making work.

5. What does creative engagement mean to you?

WHAT WE'RE LOOKING FOR – tell us your thoughts around creative engagement and how you describe the practice.

AND FINALLY...

It would be really helpful and a benefit for us to know the types of artists, companies or organisations you are interested in engaging with through inspirations, discussions or practical sessions.

An important part of Thinking Space is to hear from other theatre makers through discussions or practical sessions. What three artists (Scottish, UK or internationally) would you be most engaged to discuss their practice with?

Before you go....

We are expecting a lot of interest in Thinking Space, and we won't be able to offer everyone who applies to be part of this lab. However, this is the start of a journey and a conversation, so we'd like to be able to stay in touch with you. Would you like us to add you to our list and get in touch with you about other opportunities, projects or anything linked to artist development and Creative Engagement at the National Theatre of Scotland?

YES

NO