

Take Off

New Writing Development Opportunity

Guide for Applicants

In light of our expanding programme and partnership, In Good Company are increasing the support on offer for writers across the region. Following our successful Introduction To Playwriting Course, this new new-writing development opportunity aims to support writers in their careers to get feedback, raise their profile, connect them with opportunities and organisations and support them to help themselves in the future.

The Development Opportunity

This opportunity is for a Midland's writer who is developing a new piece of work. It incorporates rehearsal space at Arena Theatre in Wolverhampton with a week of rehearsal space at Nottingham Playhouse and a presentation and technical support at Nottingham Playhouse's Neville Studio.

- £1000 writer's fee
- Opportunity to work with a director
- Opportunity to rehearse and perform the piece with two actors
- Two weeks of rehearsal space at Arena Theatre with a day of dramaturgy from Neil Reading. **Dates to be agreed.**
- One Autumn Season performance in the Arena Tilstone Studio, with full technical support as part of our Theatre Supper Programme, which offers audiences a piece of new work, food and a drink for £10. **Date to be agreed.**
- Access to the Arena Technical team for up to 2 days to develop and test technical ideas, specifications and plans for the work. (This may include access to sound, lighting, AV and projection, set build, production or directorial support from the Arena team)
- Opportunity for the piece to be performed in Nottingham Playhouse's Neville Studio on 21st September 2019
- Opportunity to undertake an informal rehearsed reading of the piece at Departure Lounge festival 18th – 21st July 2019
- Mentoring and advice on further funding from IGC Creative Producer Ben Anderson and Nottingham Playhouse's Artist Development Producer Beth Shouler

What We Are Looking For

- A completed script lasting 45-60 minutes (although this may not be the final draft).
- For 1-2 actors.
- A writer who has some experience of writing for stage although may never have had a full production of their work.
- Someone who is willing to receive feedback on their writing and wanting to develop their craft significantly.

In Good Company is committed to increasing opportunities and support for all and this being reflected on our stages. We recognise the need within 'all' to be diverse and representative of the world we live in today.

'All' includes (but is not exclusively):

- People of colour
- People from non-British backgrounds
- Lesbian, Bisexual, Gay and Queer people
- Gender diverse people
- People from working class backgrounds
- D/deaf and disabled people (including hidden disabilities)

Application Process

Please send ten pages of your script alongside a short synopsis of the full play (200 words).

A panel consisting of the IGC Creative Producer, Artistic Director at Arena Theatre and the Artist Development Producer at Nottingham Playhouse will review applications.

Shortlisted writers will have the opportunity to attend a development session from which we will select the successful writer.

Due to the high number of applications that we anticipate, we are unfortunately unable to respond to every application. However, we will announce the selected writers a short while after the deadline including a statement of selection.

Please send applications to s.hack@derby.ac.uk (please include contact details, including phone number, email address and address).

Key Dates

Deadline for applications: 11.59PM 22 March 2019

If you are shortlisted, you will be invited to attend a workshop development day from which one piece will be selected which will take place on **3 April 2019**

Rehearsal Week at Arena Theatre (dates to be confirmed)

Rehearsed reading at Departure Lounge at Derby Theatre 18th – 21st July 2019

Rehearsal week at Nottingham Playhouse 16th – 21st September 2019

Presentation at Nottingham Playhouse 21st September 2019

Theatre Supper performance at the Arena to be negotiated in Autumn 2019 season.

Technical Support

Nottingham Playhouse will provide a technician for 7 hours on the day of the presentation (2pm – 10pm including a 60 minute dinner break) to programme simple lighting states and operate any sound required.

Sound will need to be sent to us on a memory stick two weeks in advance to put on our system or be on a laptop which can be plugged into the sound system.

A tech spec of the Neville Studio is attached to this pack.

Marketing & Press

Venue marketing teams support In Good Company to promote their work. This is a team effort between partner venues, In Good Company and the selected writer. To succeed all shows need great marketing strategies of their own.

You will be profiled as a IGC supported writer online, this is much more than just selling tickets to the sharing, we want to build communities; a family of audiences and artists. This will help us to explain why artist development is important and why the public should support it.

Other Useful Information

Before you submit a script to us, it is important you acquaint yourself with the organisations involved. This should give you a better feel for what we are looking for. We want you to have ambition for your work both in the short and long term, whilst also being deliverable and we want to know how we can play a part in that, but also how you can support the wider community of artists and get to know what is happening across the region.

About In Good Company

In Good Company is the flagship professional creative and business development programme for theatre makers and companies in the Midlands, providing mentorship, business support, resources and high-profile performance opportunities. In Good Company has transformed how artists and venues communicate and co-create exciting new performance platforms, commissions and touring networks.

About Arena Theatre, Wolverhampton

The Arena Theatre is a friendly 150 seat venue in the heart of Wolverhampton, providing innovative theatre experiences for everyone.

We now host in excess of 200 public performances per year – in addition to a host of other special events. The work of culturally diverse artists continues to feature strongly in our programme of work and we have developed a reputation as one of the leading venues in the country for our support of Deaf and disabled artists, as well as a hub for the development of new work in the Black Country.

About Nottingham Playhouse

At Nottingham Playhouse we make bold and thrilling theatre. It is world-class, made in Nottingham and as diverse as our community.

Nottingham Playhouse has been one of the United Kingdom's leading producing theatres since its foundation in 1948. Touring work nationally and internationally, the Playhouse remains firmly rooted in its vibrant home city. We create up to 13 theatre pieces annually encompassing a wide-variety of productions including new writing, regional premieres, both old and modern classics, musicals and family theatre. We are a founder member of the pioneering Ramps on the Moon project to integrate disability into theatre. In November 2018, our production of **The Madness of George III** was one of the first to be broadcast internationally by NT Live from a theatre outside of London.

Nottingham Playhouse has always been committed to developing new plays and in spring 2018, we produced two world premieres – **Shebeen** and **Lava** – and one regional premiere – **Wonderland** – in Adam's first season at the helm.

We are committed to developing talent from the East Midlands and our programme Amplify is for theatre-makers at any stage of their career who feel that we may be able to support their development. We are partners with IGC to provide a joined up approach to Artist Development in the East Midlands.

Other Opportunities

Playshuffle is an open mic night for new writing, designed to lift plays off the page so they can stand on their own two feet. We provide the Dutch courage so actors can stretch their sight-reading muscles; producers and directors test their ability to sniff out potential and playwrights hear their work for the first time.

The next Playshuffle will be at Derby Theatre on 7th June 2019, this will have a Deaf and disabled focus.

In Good Company's Scratch Nights offer a selection of new work from the most exciting artists in the region. This is a paid chance for artists to try out new ideas in front of an audience and for audiences to feed into the development of the next big thing.

Amp Night is a scratch night for writers and theatre-makers at Nottingham Playhouse. This is an opportunity to test out material in front of an audience, meet other creatives, and receive feedback.

The next Amp Night will be at Nottingham Playhouse on 10th April 2019

Arena Collaborative Theatremakers is the Arena's Development Programme for new work. The group meets once a month at the Arena Theatre and submissions are always open by submitting a maximum of 10 pages to arena@wlv.ac.uk. Confirmed dates for 2019 are 12/2, 19/3, 9/4, 14/5, 11/6, 9/7, 13/8, all sessions begin at 7pm in the Tilstone Studio. More information at arena.wlv.ac.uk



**Nottingham
Playhouse**

**ARENA
THEATRE
WOLVERHAMPTON**



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