**HOTHOUSE**

***Nurturing the development of a new theatre company in Greater Manchester***

**Deadline: Monday 12 August 2024, 10am**

Hothouse is a new artist development programme from The Lowry, supporting the creation of a new theatre company in Greater Manchester. In response to requests from independent theatre makers and performance-based artists across the region for more opportunities to connect, collaborate and make work with others, we are piloting a programme that will support the formation of a new theatre company at The Lowry over a 6 month period.

To lay the foundations for this new company, we invite applications from artists based in Greater Manchester to audition to be part of the programme and will select 5 independent theatre makers to join. The company will then take part in an intensive 'getting to know you' week led by The Lowry's **Associate Artists Meghan Doyle and Stan Hodgson**, followed by a short series of monthly workshops / masterclasses led by other leading artists between October - December 2024.

In January 2025, the company will then take part in a R&D week to further explore and shape ideas for a new show and following a 2-week rehearsal period and production week, this new production will then be performed in the Aldridge Studio at The Lowry in February 2025.

We want to provide a 'hothouse' environment for the genesis of this new company, offering a supportive space for a group of artists to explore ideas, fail safely, discover what it means to work together as a company or collective, and create ambitious and bold work. We are looking for artists who are excited by the opportunity to get involved in constructing this new theatre company, making new work and have time to commit to a dynamic new programme.

**HOTHOUSE PROGRAMME DATES**

**Intensive** **week**: Mon 23 September - Friday 27 September 2024, 10am-5pm daily

**Four Masterclasses**: October 2024 - January 2025

**R&D Week**: Mon 13 - Fri 17 January 2025

**Rehearsal Week 1**: Mon 20 - Fri 24 January 2025

**Rehearsal Week 2**: Mon 27 - Fri 31 January 2025

**Production Week**: Mon 3 - Fri 7 February 2025

**Show days**: Thu 6 & Fri 7 February 2025

**WE ARE LOOKING TO RECRUIT 5 ARTISTS WHO ARE:**

* Aged 18 years and above, and are based in Greater Manchester
* Passionate about creating contemporary performance/theatre and have an interest in devised work. Please note you do not previously need to have been part of a company or collective to take part
* Have a keen interest in performing and experience that can be shared within a creative collaborative process
* Interested in exploring meaningful, courageous, vibrant ideas and approaches, building relationships, engaging with audiences, celebrating creativity and innovation and championing diversity and representation
* Interested in self-producing or/and finding out more how to produce work.
* Open to new ideas, willing to share and learn, good listeners, supportive of others and interested in creative collaborations
* Have the time, capacity and enthusiasm to invest in this development opportunity and building a relationship with other local artists and The Lowry

Whilst you may have a primary discipline as an artist, we are looking for people who want to collaborate across performance disciplines. Therefore, this opportunity is not for those who consider themselves to be solely an actor, writer, director, producer, or for someone looking to get their own idea for a show developed.

**HOTHOUSE PROGRAMME OFFER**

* A weekly fee of £600 per company member for the initial intensive week, R&D week, rehearsal weeks and production week.
* Space at The Lowry to research, develop, make and present work
* Producer support and mentoring from The Lowry staff
* A series of development workshops to support and develop artistic practice and creative thinking
* Support with marketing, audience development, profile raising and advocacy
* Tickets to see shows at The Lowry

**KEY DATES**

Deadline for applications: **Monday 12 August 2024, 10am**

All applicants will be notified on: **Tuesday 27 August 2024**

Shortlisted applicants will be invited to an audition: **Monday 2 September, 10am-5pm**

Shortlisted applicants informed of final decisions: **Friday 6 September 2024**

**WHAT SHORTLISTED APPLICANTS MAY EXPECT FROM THE AUDITION**

Shortlisted candidates will take part in a day-long collaborative devising workshop audition, led by The Lowry’s Associate Artists Meghan Doyle and Stan Hodgson.

For auditionees, it will be a playful, practical workshop with creative tasks and activities. There will also be individual opportunities to showcase your practice/ performance skills.

For the panel, it will be an opportunity to meet you, learn about your skills and ideas, and observe your collaboration/ensemble skills.

Regardless of your audition outcome, we aim to make the day an enriching experience towards your professional development.

Please note these dates are fixed, so if you are unable to make the audition date or intensive week then please do not apply.

If you have any questions, or need any advice on whether this opportunity is right for you, then please email your questions to [artistdevelopment@thelowry.com](mailto:artistdevelopment@thelowry.com).

**HOW TO APPLY**

[**Click here**](https://forms.office.com/e/bhErKg0nAs)to apply and submit your **Application and Equal Opportunities Monitoring Online** (including via video or audio files).

We accept applications in writing or by using bullet points, or you can also share links on the application form to a video or audio recording of your answers (lasting no longer than 5 minutes in total)

Please remember to include any passwords to your audio or video files on the application form.

Applications will be read and shortlisted by a panel made up of The Lowry’s Artist Development team, and a small pool of independent artists. Shortlisted artists will be invited to attend an in-person audition workshop day at The Lowry in September and the final company members will be selected and notified after this.

The Lowry is committed to encouraging diversity and intersectionality in the arts and we actively encourage applications from artists from under-represented communities, including people who experience racism, identify as working class, have disabilities, are from the LGBTQ+ community, are care experienced or are discriminated against. We encourage you to apply for this opportunity no matter what your age, caring responsibilities, disability, gender, gender identity, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, class and sexual orientation.

**APPLICATION QUESTIONS**

**SECTION A: PERSONAL INFORMATION**

**Please confirm that you are 18yrs old or over?**

Please note that this opportunity is only for artists aged 18 years or over.

**Full Name**

**Pronouns**

**Email**

**Contact telephone number**

**Address including postcode**

**Are you based in Greater Manchester?**

If so, please select from below. If not, please select "Outside Greater Manchester" and answer the following question.

Bolton –

Bury –

Oldham –

Rochdale –

Stockport –

Tameside –

Trafford –

Wigan –

Manchester –

Salford –

If your application is shortlisted, please confirm that you are available to take part in Hothouse Audition Day on Monday 2 September, 11am-5pm. – **Yes/No**

**SECTION B: EXPRESSION OF INTEREST**

**How would you like to submit your application?**

I would like to submit my application by filling in this form – yes/no

I would like to send a I would like to send a video or voice application lasting no longer than 5-8mins (Please note if you are sending in a video or voice application, please copy the link to your uploaded video/voice note into the text box of each of the following questions. Do not forget to include a password if there is one) – yes/no

**Please tell us about you and your work to date (up to 250 words)**

**Please include links to examples of your previous work (up to 3 links maximum)**

**Why are you interested in joining the Hothouse programme? (up to 300 words)**

**What skills / approaches could you bring to the programme? (up to 250 words)**

**Tell us about a time where you have collaborated with other artists and what did you take from that experience as positive learning for the future? (up to 250 words)**

**SECTION C: EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES MONITORING FORM**

Please also complete an equal opportunities form, which we will keep separate from your application.

This form is anonymous and none of the information collected on this form will be used in any decision-making process for The Lowry's Artist Network Opportunities. All data collected will be treated in accordance with the Data Protection Act 2018 (DPA 2018), The General Data Protection Regulation 2016/679 and the Privacy and Electronic Communications Regulations 2003.

The questions in this section are required because The Lowry takes its responsibility to widening its reach and offering artist development opportunities towards inclusion, diversity and representation seriously; its Artist Development programme also receives money from a number of public funding bodies (for example, the Arts Council), and we are asked to report back information on the demographics within the network. Please choose the "prefer not to say" option for each question if you do not consent to sharing the information.

**How would you describe your gender? Please indicate – yes where it applies.**

Male –

Female –

Non-binary –

Prefer not to say –

Other (please specify) -

**What is your sexual orientation? Please indicate – yes where it applies.**

Bisexual –

Gay Man –

Gay Woman/Lesbian –

Heterosexual/Straight –

Prefer not to say –

Other (please specify) –

**What is your ethnicity? Please indicate – yes where it applies.**

Asian British -

Asian Bangladeshi -

Asian Indian -

Asian Pakistani -

Any other Asian background (please specify) -

Black British -

Black African -

Black Caribbean -

Any other black background (please specify) -

East Asian British -

East Asian Chinese -

East Asian Japanese -

East Asian Korean -

South East Asian -

Any other East Asian or South East Asian background (please specify) -

Mixed Heritage (please specify) -

White & Asian -

White & East Asian -

White & Black British -

White & Black African -

White & Black Caribbean -

White British -

White English -

White Scottish -

White Welsh -

Northern Irish -

Irish -

Prefer not to say -

Other (please specify) -

**What is your age? Please indicate – yes where it applies.**

Under 21 –

21-24 –

25-34 –

35-44 –

45-54 –

55-64 –

65+ –

Prefer not to say –

**Do you identify as a D/deaf or disabled person, neurodivergent, or have a long-term health condition? Please indicate – yes where it applies.**

There is no detriment to your registration if you have a health condition. The Disability Discrimination Act 1995 states that a ‘person has a disability for the purpose of this Act if he/she has a physical or mental impairment which has a substantial and long term adverse effect on his/her ability to carry out normal day to day activities’.

Yes, limited a lot –

Yes, limited a little –

Yes, may vary from day to day –

No –

Prefer not to say –

**Have you experienced barriers as a result of being working class?**

Yes –

No –

Prefer not to say –

Not known –

**If you feel you have experienced other barriers not covered by the above, on which you feel we might be able to ask for data, please tell us here. This will help us refine this process and improve both reporting and our actions.**