

# Little Wonders Artist Commissions - Spring 2024

## INFORMATION PACK

### Introduction

Thank you for your interest in our Little Wonders commissions. These are opportunities for those interested in developing new work for children and families. Both commissions in this pack are proudly supported by the Gillian Dickinson Trust.

Please read this information pack before you complete the application form. The closing date for applications is ***Monday 19 February at 9am.***

Please note that we are currently looking to award two Little Wonders Commissions.

### **COMMISSION 1 - Crawl Through Adventures**

We are seeking to commission a crawl through play experience for babies and toddlers aged 0-24 months and their grown-ups, suitable for the outdoors. We are looking for artists with strong visual and design experience and a keen interest in developing outstanding work alongside very young children. This is a joint commission offered by Theatre Hullabaloo and Redcar & Cleveland Council, with the work being presented at both Hullabaloo in the Park and Between the Tides Festival this summer. **Commission Value: £10,000**

### **COMMISSION 2 - Early Wonder**

This commission is specifically aimed at artists from communities currently underrepresented in work for the very young, particularly those who identify as part of the Global Majority or who are d/Deaf or disabled.

We are seeking to commission a brilliant new performance piece for the very young. The work must have a performance element but can crosscut other art forms. We have set a broad aged bracket of 0-48 months for this commission, giving artists scope to focus on any age group within that bracket - please specify the exact audience ages you intend to make the performance for in your application.

**Commission Value: £7,000**

This Information Pack is also available in:

- Large print
- Plain text (no formatting)
- Shortened Version

Please download these formats from Theatre Hullabaloo's website –

<https://www.theatrehullabaloo.org.uk/who-are-we/>

If you would like additional support with making your application, please contact Theatre Hullabaloo on [info@theatrehullabaloo.org.uk](mailto:info@theatrehullabaloo.org.uk) or call the office on 01325 405680.

## **Information included in this pack:**

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## **What?**

### **Little Wonders – What is it?**

Little Wonders is Theatre Hullabaloo's artist development and commissioning programme. It spans our entire portfolio of work for 0-10 year olds and their families and takes in all art forms. It includes outdoor commissions for Hullabaloo in the Park, as well as targeted work with artists engaged in developing a new show, creative play space or play programme.

We're interested in investing in brilliant, playful ideas and artists who are genuinely interested in developing their work for young audiences.

We are kicking off 2024 with two commissions focusing on work for the very young and following our fascination with the possibilities for performance and play to intersect.

If we select your idea for a Little Wonder commission you will receive;-

- Fees and time to develop your idea
- A budget to cover materials and costs to realise your idea
- Mentorship and producing support from Theatre Hullabaloo (up to 5 days with our Artistic Producer, support from our Production Manager), including

practical and technical support, budgeting and Health & Safety management

- Artists successfully awarded Commission 1 will receive 3 days support, advice and guidance from the Between the Tides festival team
- Marketing and promotion support
- Support with making your idea as environmentally responsible as possible
- Costs covered of event management and security associated with your work.

Further call-outs for Little Wonders will be made during the year, so keep an eye on social media if you have a brilliant idea that you think will make us smile!

## **Where?**

Little Wonders commissions cover all areas of Theatre Hullabaloo's work. We'll be looking for wonderful ideas for our Hullabaloo in the Park festival, and our venue – The Hullabaloo – as well as for creative play spaces that we are developing across the region.

Hullabaloo in the Park takes place in Darlington's South Park. This year's festival will be 26-28 July.

Between the Tides is a free festival of adventure and exploration, imagination and messiness for children,

young people, and families of Redcar & Cleveland and beyond. It takes place in the heart of Redcar on August 24 and 25.

The Hullabaloo is open all year round and we have a variety of spaces, including a studio theatre and creative play space. We also have a rehearsal studio.

## **Who?**

### **About Theatre Hullabaloo**

Theatre Hullabaloo is one of the UK's leading children's arts organisations. We believe that creativity should be part of everybody's childhood, and we make, produce, present and advocate for the arts as an important part of child development, with a particular focus on creativity for the very young.

We create pioneering work which puts the young person at the heart of the creative process. Our work is driven by the belief that young audiences have an entitlement to creative experiences of the highest quality which inspires the imagination and challenges the mind.

We work closely with specialist creative teams, embedding young people's contributions at every stage of the artistic process to make and tour our own shows. We also support artists who want to develop work for

young audiences and venues who want to offer great theatre for families.

In 2017 we opened a purpose-designed venue for children and families in Darlington called The Hullabaloo. From there, we run a busy programme of performances, events, creative play and family fun for our local communities to enjoy together.

We believe passionately that creativity can boost parental mental wellbeing and have positive impacts on the development of children in their early years.

Artistically, we are fascinated by the way children – particularly young children – learn about the world and we are fascinated by the intersection between performance and play.

## Current Commission Opportunities

We are delighted to have two new Little Wonders commissions to kick off 2024.

- (1) **Crawl Through Adventures** presented in partnership with Between the Tides Festival

We are looking for artist(s) to collaborate with to create a new sensory play experience for babies and toddlers (0-24 months and their grown-ups) which will feature at Hullabaloo in the Park (July 2024) and at Between the Tides Festival in Redcar (August 2024).

We're looking to work with artists with a track-record in creating extraordinary and playful designs to create a fantastic weather-appropriate play experience for very young children and their grown-ups to enjoy together in the outdoors.

You needn't have made work for this age group before, but you will have a keen interest in making an experience for them that is as brilliant as they are. You will also probably have made similar experiences for the outdoors or other site-specific spaces.

Support will be given around the pedagogies of play that underpin Theatre Hullabaloo's work and for the practical



realisation and hosting of the experience when it features at the festivals in the summer.

The toddler play installation must be suitable for an outdoor festival.

If you're considering building something that will stay on site throughout the festival, it must be able to withstand the elements and be resilient enough to be viewed and played with by people over a period of time.

Commission Value: £10,000 (to include all artist fees, materials and making costs).

## **Current Commission Opportunities (continued)**

### **(2) Early Wonders Commission**

We are looking for artist(s) to collaborate with to create a new performance experience for very young children. This commission is specifically aimed at artists from communities currently underrepresented in work for the very young, particularly those who identify as part of the Global Majority or who are d/Deaf or disabled.

Our preferred age bracket is 0-48 months, which we know is very broad, so we expect you in your application to explain which specific part of this age range your idea best suits and why.

You will be a brilliant artist with some experience of making work or performing for very young children. There is no theme for this commission, but your idea will intersect the worlds of performance and play.

We are open to this commission being research and development time to develop an ambitious idea that we can support to full production. The timeline is flexible although we would enjoy a sharing of the work at an appropriate point.

This new work should have a performance element but can crosscut art forms.

Commission Value: £7,000 (to include all artist fees, materials and making costs).

## **Your idea**

There is no theme for Little Wonders, we just want to hear ideas that make us smile and at Theatre Hullabaloo, we're always interested in things that are of interest to children.

We like variety, so be bold and get thinking.

We're not looking for something enormous.

Don't be too constrained by the practicalities. We will work with you to think through the adaptations we might need to make to ensure your idea can be accessed by as many people as possible and to overcome any logistical issues. We'll also help you structure and manage your budget.

We are particularly interested in artists and artworks that work in an environmentally responsible way. See below for more information on what we mean by this.

You can submit an application for both commission opportunities but you will need to have a different idea for each one, and submit two separate entries.

## **Environmental Responsibility – what do we mean by this?**

Theatre Hullabaloo are committed to following the ABTT's (Association of British Theatre Technicians) Theatre Green Book guidelines in order to be the most environmentally responsible we can be as an organisation. More information can be found here: <https://www.abtt.org.uk/theatre-green-book-initiative/>

Essentially this means we are striving to:

- Use more reused components, set pieces, props and recycled materials in our productions, events and activities.
- If items have to be new, think about where they comes from:
  - Can it be sourced locally?
  - Does the company have similar ethics to ourselves?
  - Is it FSC certified (if paper/wood)?
- Reduce the use of harmful chemicals in making, producing and presenting our work
- Reduce the use of single use plastic
- Reduce travel
- Reduce deliveries
- Make sure everything gets used again where possible.

For these commissions, this means that we are particularly interested in artists working in an environmentally responsible way. We can support you with this and you do not have to have all the answers at this stage, but we'd like to see that you have considered how this might affect your proposal so please do include this where you can.

For example, you could consider the following:

- Using sustainable and/or more efficient technology e.g. LED lights
- Using recycled and/or repurposed materials rather than buying new
- If buying new, sourcing materials responsibly and buying locally
- Renting or hiring equipment rather than purchasing new
- Only printing or using paper if necessary
  - Can any information about your work be read online or via a QR code instead of a printed handout perhaps?
- What will happen to your creation after the festival
  - Will it be used again, repurposed, put into storage or disposed of responsibly?
- Can your work be presented without a power source? If not, is there a way of using the least amount of power possible i.e. using a mains charger rather than a diesel generator? Or rechargeable batteries?

You might be repurposing an existing show/idea/prop or it may have a future life beyond the festival.

You might be travelling together in one car or on public transport.

You might already have a commitment to being Environmental Responsible in some way or have a Green Policy in place.

It might be that none of these may apply to you and your proposal, but please include any thoughts on environmental responsibility in your application where possible.

## **The Selection Criteria**

Commissions will be given based on:

- The quality of your idea – is it original and playful?
- How inspiring it will be for our youngest audiences and visitors
- How the idea might fit with other things in the programme
- Your ability to work with us to create the artwork within the budget, taking into consideration the technical requirements, installation and material costs. Please be clear with your predicted budget for this work, including fair pay to all involved.
- How you've considered the environmental impact of your work so far

## **Who is this for?**

The scheme is open to artists aged 18 or above from anywhere in the UK.

We are particularly interested in hearing from those who are currently underrepresented in our work, particularly:

- Those who identify as being from an alternative background to White, for example People of South, East, West and Central Asian heritage, African and Caribbean heritage,

Middle East Heritage, Latinx people and mixed heritage.

- Those who identify as d/Deaf and Disabled

**Please indicate if you identify as any of the above in your proposal.**

Please let us know if you will need any additional access support to apply for this commission and/or to make the work.



## **What happens if my idea is chosen?**

Little Wonders artists will be supported by Theatre Hullabaloo to develop and present their work. For the installation, the work will be presented at the summer festivals, for the Early Years commission, Theatre Hullabaloo will work with the artists to determine the best timeline for the development of the work across 2024. Commissioned artists also receive ongoing mentoring and advice.

If your idea is selected, you will receive:

- Fees and time to develop your idea
- Materials and costs to realise your idea
- Support from Theatre Hullabaloo's Producing team, including our Production Manager, to realise your idea.
- Support from Theatre Hullabaloo's Producing team, to make your work in the most environmentally responsible way possible.
- Theatre Hullabaloo will pay for the costs of event management and security associated with presenting the installation at the festivals.
- Press coverage and marketing support, including promotional pictures and video so that your Little Wonder gets the visibility it deserves.
- Access to spaces at The Hullabaloo, subject to availability

## **Contractual Dates & Deadlines:**

- Applications for both commissions close **Monday 19 February 2024 at 9am**
- Artists will be notified if they have been shortlisted for interview by **Friday 23 February 2024.**
- Meetings with shortlisted artists will take place in the week beginning **Monday 26 February 2024**
- Successful applicants will be notified by **Tuesday 12 March 2024.**

## How do I apply?

### **Stage One**

Complete our short Application Form and Equal Opportunities Form to apply for Little Wonders.

We ask you to tell us a little bit about yourself, provide an outline of your idea and how audiences might experience it.

There is a space on the form for you to tell us about any other artists you would like to work with, about the materials you intend to use if you are going to be making something and how you've considered the environmental impact of your work.

Please give us a rough estimate of how much it would cost (including a breakdown and fees for everyone involved) and tell us if you have a particular environment in the park in mind for the festival commission.

There is a space to attach any drawings or photos that will help us better understand your idea.

- Applications can be submitted online via this link – <https://airtable.com/appYblkZu59y9F7wC/shrxYmDshaCkl8l4G>

- Equal Opportunities Forms can be submitted online via this link -

<https://airtable.com/shr6rsYOMXjakQV6Z>

If you would like to submit your application in another format, please download the appropriate version from our website <https://www.theatrehullabaloo.org.uk/who-are-we/> and email it to [info@theatrehullabaloo.org.uk](mailto:info@theatrehullabaloo.org.uk)

We will also accept video applications. If you'd like to submit a video application, please include the information listed above and submit a video no longer than 3 minutes in length. This can be sent to us via WeTransfer (or similar software) and directed to [info@theatrehullabaloo.org.uk](mailto:info@theatrehullabaloo.org.uk)

We know how time-consuming applying for commissions can be as a freelance artist, so once you've dreamt up your wonderful idea, this application should take you less than one hour to complete.

**The deadline for Stage One applications is Monday 19 February 2024 at 9.00am.**

Please do not send hard copies as they will not be considered.

Artists will be notified if they have been shortlisted by Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2024.

If you have any questions about how to apply or would like to discuss making an application in an alternative format, please contact our Senior Programme Manager, Sarah Churlish on [sarahchurlish@theatrehullabaloo.org.uk](mailto:sarahchurlish@theatrehullabaloo.org.uk)

**Because of the focus of the Early Wonder commission on artists currently underrepresented in this field, please clearly indicate if you are from the Global Majority and / or d/Deaf or disabled in your Stage 1 application.**

## **Stage Two: Shortlisted Applications**

If your Stage One application is successful, we will invite you to a meeting with Theatre Hullabaloo's Artistic Producer, Miranda Thain, and Senior Programme Manager, Sarah Churlish, to discuss your idea in more detail. This can be online or in person.

These meetings will take place during **the week beginning Monday 26<sup>th</sup> February** and the commissions will be announced at the beginning of March.

If we select your idea, we'll work with you to align a budget and support you with any artist contracting, health and

safety risk assessments, sourcing materials and any other issues so we can realise your idea wonderfully.

## **Terms & Conditions and key things to remember:**

- You must be living in the UK to apply.
- You must be aged 18 years or over.
- Applicants can only submit one application for each commission opportunity and we will consider your first application only.
- Ideas must be original.
- You cannot change your application form once it has been submitted.
- Little Wonders commissions will be decided on by a panel working to agreed criteria. We will contact you after the closing date to let you know the result of your application. We will endeavour to feedback to all applicants, but please be aware that, due to the high number of applications we anticipate, we may not be able to offer feedback on unsuccessful Stage One applications.

For installation applicants...

- Your work must be exclusively available to show in Darlington for the entire festival period and for an installation period of up to one week in advance. It must also be available to present at Between the Tides (end of August 2024).
- You should be present for the install and deinstallation of your artwork or plan to provide an

appropriate person on occasions where you cannot be present.

- You must be available to attend production meetings and site visits when required (dates will be discussed with you in advance).
- Theatre Hullabaloo's production team will support you to create your artwork. You will need to agree to a fabrication timeframe and budget in advance. You will be issued with a written contract that will refer to this.
- You must be willing to assist Theatre Hullabaloo with the promotion of your work and be available to give interviews to the press and media if required. The final work will be produced and promoted by Theatre Hullabaloo and its partners.
- The copyright and intellectual property of your artwork and services will belong to you. However, if your idea is selected for Little Wonders, you will agree that Theatre Hullabaloo has exclusive rights to presentation of the work at Hullabaloo in the Park and Between The Tides festivals, exclusive rights for further presentation or touring for three years following the date of commission (with appropriate royalty payments), and that Theatre Hullabaloo has first option around future exploitation thereafter.
- When exhibiting or presenting your work independently after this time, you must acknowledge it was commissioned by Theatre Hullabaloo.



- You will be responsible for the disposal or future storage of your work.