

Little Wonders Artist Commissions - Spring 2024

INFORMATION PACK – shortened version

We are delighted to have two new Little Wonders commissions to kick off 2024, one a co-commission with Between the Tides festival and both supported by the Gillian Dickinson Trust. Little Wonders is our artist development and commissioning programme which spans our entire portfolio of work for 0-10 year olds and their families and takes in all art forms. We're interested in investing in brilliant, playful ideas and artists who are genuinely interested in developing their work for young audiences.

COMMISSION 1 - Crawl Through Adventures

With Between the Tides festival, Theatre Hullabaloo are looking 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.

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.

This commission will be presented at Hullabaloo in the Park (South Park, July 2024) and Between the Tides Festival (Redcar & Cleveland August 2024)..

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

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 looking to commission a brilliant new performance piece for the very young. The work must have a performance element but can crosscut other art forms. 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. This new work should have a performance element but can crosscut art forms.

This commission will primarily be presented at our venue The Hullabaloo, Darlington.

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

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.

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 support you through the design process, including supporting you to structure and manage your budget.

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/> This means that we are particularly interested in artists and artworks that work 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.

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

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**.
- 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**.

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
- 3 days support from the Between the Tides team (commission 1 only)

How do I apply?

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

<https://airtable.com/appYbkZu59y9F7wC/shrxYmDshaCkI8I4G>

Other formats of the form are available on our website <https://www.theatrehullabaloo.org.uk/who-are-we/>

Please note that we will also accept video applications that address the questions in the application form and are 3 minutes or under.

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

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: If your Stage One application is successful, we will invite you to meet with us, either online or in person, to discuss your idea in more detail.

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

Terms & Conditions for these commissions can be found on our website

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