

PUSH+ OPEN CALL
Guidelines for Irish/Ireland –based Artists
Lab 1: HOME. 23 Jan – 1 Feb 2019
Edinburgh



Information about PUSH +

PUSH+ is a Creative Europe-funded project led by Imagineate (Scotland) alongside Krokusfestival (Belgium), The Ark (Ireland), Aaben Dans (Denmark), Scenekunstbruket (Norway) and associate partner Bangkok International Children's Festival (Thailand). PUSH+ will stimulate European dialogue and initiate new artistic ideas and performances around three important topics in performance for young audiences – **HOME, Failure and Different Bodies**. These are topics that push us to take more risks as makers and presenters, to address the underrepresentation of different lives and bodies on our stages and to tell stories that really connect with children and who they are.

We will soon have a dedicated PUSH+ website (at www.pushproject.eu) but for now you can read a little more about the full project here <https://ark.ie/projects/details/push-plus>

This application is for the HOME Lab which will take place in Edinburgh, Scotland. Artists will arrive in Edinburgh on Wednesday 23 January and depart on Friday 1 February.

Information about the HOME Lab

This Lab will bring together fifteen artists based in five different countries in Europe to explore ideas around HOME in theatre and dance for young audiences. Artists will work together from Wednesday 23 January to Friday 1 February 2019. Over 8 days, we will be looking at ideas around the topic of 'home', incorporating ideas from artist applications as well as the following questions:

- Does home have a different meaning for children? How are we impacting on children by portraying home in theatre and dance as a place of cosiness and safety where this is not their experience of life?
- How does our experience of place create identity and belonging, both of which are essential to an understanding of home?
- How much is a sense of home connected to 'physical' space or place and notions of permanence. What is it to live in the middle spaces where sometimes nowhere feels fully like home?
- Is *wherever I lay my hat, my home?* privilege, assumption, exclusion?

- How does our relationship to our environment - built and natural - effect and inform our sense of self, place and home?
- How do experiences of migration inform the place-making that is involved in making a home?
- Do we really know who lives in our cities as immigration itself diversifies, with immigrants from new countries moving in resulting in an increasing and/or changing range of nationalities?
- Do elements of our home affect the art we make – landscape, language, culture, bodily expressions, rituals, communal storytelling, history?
- What are the non-permanent and non-human aspects / qualities of home?

We are also interested in experimentation with form as well as content so will explore these three ‘formats’ over the duration of PUSH+ - **Participatory, Site-specific** and **Intergenerational**. Through these formats we will play with the ways in which we create and present material, who performs it and how we engage with the audience. You can chose to think about one or more of them in your ideas around home or to select other forms of performance that interest you. Information about these formats can be found here -

<https://ark.ie/projects/details/push-plus>

We will spend the first three days at Wiston Lodge, a charity housed in a former Victorian Hunting Lodge built in the 1870s. From there we will have access to outdoor spaces to walk and talk in as well as indoor spaces in the main house. On return to Edinburgh, we will work in the Royal Lyceum Theatre Rehearsal Room to explore performance ideas together with additional input from external artists and experts. The PUSH+ partners will all arrive on Tuesday 29 January and will join the Lab on Thursday 31 January. In addition to the Lab content, the schedule will include a welcome meal for all Lab artists on Wednesday 23 January, a day off in Edinburgh on Sunday 27 January and a final meal with artists, the Imagine team and PUSH+ project partners on Thursday 31 January.

Lab Leaders

- **Wild Journeys** – an organisation based in Mull who create and lead outdoor journeys and experiences for individuals and groups. Wild Journeys partner with Imagine to offer a range of artist walks and retreats for the young audiences sector in Scotland. Wild Journeys will lead us in outdoor activities at Wiston Lodge, a space to explore our connection with landscape and where we call ‘home’. <https://www.wild-journeys.co.uk/>

- **Luke Pell (Artist Facilitator)** – Fascinated by detail, nuances of time, texture, memory and landscape Luke Pell is an artist living in Scotland. Maker, curator, dramaturg he collaborates with other artists and organisations imagining alternative contexts for performance, participation and discourse that might reveal wisdoms for living. Noticing threads that weave between people and place his work takes form as intimate encounters, poetic objects, installations and environments – choreographies – for physical and virtual spaces. Luke will facilitate the Lab, bringing together different artistic ideas, external input and participants’ needs to create a thread throughout the time.
<http://www.lukepell.org/>

Information about the selection process

Applications should be made by 5pm on Wednesday 24 October 2018.

Each PUSH partner will select its own artists participating in the LAB. The Ark’s selection panel will include an Ark representative and one external party and will select three artists based in Ireland to take part in this Lab. All applicants will hear if they have been selected by 5 November 2018.

There are three places on the HOME Lab for artists based in Ireland, who will join the three artists selected by our partners in Belgium, Denmark, Norway and Scotland. Our artists will be paid a fee of €1080, which includes subsistence. Return travel to the Lab and accommodation will be provided.

HOME Residency

After each Lab, all participating artists will be invited to apply to take part in an associated 2-week Residency, offering selected artists paid time and space to develop production ideas and collaborations from the Lab with support, advice and feedback. The HOME residency will take place in Belgium in mid-June 2019 hosted by CCHA/Krokusfestival. Up to 4 artists will be selected, as individuals or as a collaboration with fellow Lab artists. The residency will take place in THE LAB, a new artistic residential workspace for artist development in Hasselt, Belgium, which supports research, process and production development in performance for young audiences. This will allow the artists to research and develop their ideas in a quiet and safe environment while making use of the technical infrastructure of CCHA, if needed. CCHA/Krokusfestival will be closely connected to the residency both in terms of production arrangements (organisation, production, venues, logistical needs) and dramaturgical feedback. We will discuss with the artists all possibilities and opportunities to connect them to our network of schools, children, parents and invite them to meet local artists and see shows.

FAQs

- **What kind of artists are we looking for?**

We are looking for artists involved in making theatre and dance, ideally you will have made work for young audiences before (or can show us a strong interest). We would like to find a group of artists at different stages of their career although **due to the complexity of an international residency it's unlikely to be suitable for artists still studying or who have very recently graduated.**

We particularly encourage applications from artists with disabilities and artists from black, Asian and minority ethnic backgrounds. We have included designers, musicians and filmmakers in previous PUSH Labs so we are open to include a wide range of artists. Ultimately, if you have experience in leading the creation of performance for children, or have a strong desire to do so using your artform, then we would like to hear from you.

- **What information should I include in my application?**

We are looking for artists who have experience in making and touring work and who are excited about creating theatre and dance for children. We'd love to see examples of your work (images, descriptions, film clips, reviews etc.) so do include them in your application via web links and/or file transfer links (eg Dropbox or WeTransfer). We are also looking for artists who have a genuine interest in the Lab topic, who have interesting perspectives and ideas with a strong line of enquiry.

- **Is there a word count/time limit?**

While there isn't a word limit for your answers (or time limit for filmed/recorded ones) we would ask you to consider the panel and think about concise answers. Think about the key facts/opinions/ideas you want the panel to know and the best way for them to be clear and not lost in paragraphs of information.

- **How will the panel assess the applications?**

The panel will talk through each application thinking about these key criteria:

- *Quality of ideas around the topic of HOME, and how they intersect with theatre and dance for young audiences.*
- *Track record of work as an artist.*
- *Proven interest in theatre and/or dance for young audiences.*
- *Potential impact of this Lab for the artist and their career*

This means we are interested in hearing about your artistic work and what interests you. Tell us about what inspires you about the topic of HOME and what your main interest in exploring this would be. We are not looking for academic essays or perfectly written English, focus on getting your ideas across and who you are as an artist.

- **Do all artists have to stay in the LAB accommodation?**

Yes, all the participants (even those who live in Edinburgh) will be booked into the same accommodation. This is to allow all the Lab participants to live together for a week, to facilitate deeper discussion and opportunities to get to know each other and the Lab leaders.

During the Lab we will stay in two locations.

- 23 Jan; 26 Jan – 1 Feb: we will stay in 2-bedroom self-catering apartments in the centre of Edinburgh. All artists will have their own room sharing an apartment with one other person.
<https://www.bymansley.com/location/the-knight-residence/>
- 24 – 25 Jan: we will stay in dormitory-style rooms at Wiston Lodge with a mixture of double, single and bunk beds.
<http://wistonlodge.com/>

If any of this is a problem for you, or you have specific needs that you would like to talk to us about, please get in touch with us or let us know in your application.

- **Do I have to be available for all the dates from 23 Jan – 1 Feb?**

Yes, apart from the day off on Sunday 27 January we require full attendance. Artists should arrive in Edinburgh on Wednesday 23 January by 7pm for a welcome meal and stay until Friday 1 February, which is a travel day.

- **How many places are there?**

There are 15 places in total for this Lab with 3 places for artists based in Ireland. 3 artists will also be selected by each of our project partners in Scotland, Belgium, Norway and Denmark. A selection process will take place for each of the three Labs so it won't be the same artists taking part in all three.

- **Can I apply for more than one Lab as I'm interested in more than one topic?**

Yes, you can apply for more than one Lab though priority will be given to those who haven't taken part in a previous one. If you are really interested in other topics and are not selected for this Lab, you are welcome to apply for the other Labs.

- **How should I apply by video if I choose that option?**
You can film your answers to the three questions in the application and upload them to Vimeo or YouTube (password protected). It doesn't matter at all about the quality of the filming (phone footage is fine), we are only interested in what you have to say. Email us the link to your videos within the application form (so we have your details and biog) along with your photograph.
- **Can I apply if I haven't connected with The Ark before?**
Yes, we would encourage all theatre and dance artists interested in the topic and work for young audiences to apply.
- **Can I apply for this Lab if I'm not based in Ireland?**
Priority will be given to artists based and making work in Ireland. If you are based in Belgium, Scotland, Norway or Denmark you can contact us to be put in touch with our partner in your country.
- **How accessible is the Lab?**
Both the Lab venue and the artist accommodation are fully accessible and we welcome applications from artists with a disability. Please get in touch with us if you would like to discuss your accessibility needs.

How to Apply

To apply, simply complete our online application form [here](#) or download a Word version of the application form [here](#).

We aim to ensure the application and selection process is straight forward and fair. If you have any questions about the process, or the project in general, please email Aideen Howard at aideenhoward@ark.ie.

Data Protection: Any information that you supply in this application will be used only for the purposes of this application process. Unsuccessful applications will be retained for a maximum of 3 months. You can see more information on how we look after your data in our [Privacy Statement](#).