

In Good Company

2021/22 Mid-Career Commission Information Pack

This is the In Good company's Mid-career Commission Information Pack. There is an audio version of this pack for people who access information differently and find audio information easier.

To discuss the content of this pack or for more information please contact IGC Assistant Producer **Aoife O'Connor** (a.oconnor2@derby.ac.uk)

About In Good Company

In Good Company, or IGC 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. IGC works in partnership with 12 organisations to produce these opportunities and receives funding from Arts Council England through the National Lottery, in addition to ERDF funding through the D2N2 Big House project. In Good Company has transformed how artists and venues communicate and co-creates exciting new performance platforms, commissions and touring networks.

In Good Company (IGC) was born out of a consultation with our community of artists in 2014 and is now a multi-venue partnership made up of: [Derby Theatre](#); [Attenborough Arts Centre](#); [Burton Brewhouse](#); [Lincolnshire One Venues](#); [Mansfield Old Library](#); [Arena Theatre](#) in Wolverhampton; [Nonsuch](#) in Nottingham; [Curve, Leicester](#), [Nottingham Playhouse](#)

About the Commission

The mid-career is a £5,000 grant for independent artists or companies who create live performances for public engagement. This might be for the stage or in a community setting. Whatever project you're working on, as long as it involves live theatre (in the broadest sense of the word!) and it has public engagement, we want to hear about it!

We are happy to receive applications from projects that would like to involve partner venues, but this is not essential. You may prefer to work with community organisations, as long as there is a benefit to the Midlands, we can consider your application.

This is a national callout, but you will be expected to engage with midland audiences and partners if selected and be able to show a positive impact for people in the Midlands.

Who is it for?

This grant is for those who consider themselves “mid-career”. Some examples of what we consider as mid-career include –

- ‘Having an established practice, identity and a strong track record of creating contemporary theatre’
- ‘Having made 2-3 shows/projects, which have preferably toured these outside of their region’
- ‘Having worked in partnership with other venues to create work’
- ‘Having the infrastructure and capacity to deliver the project and provide a meaningful learning experience for an early-career producer.’

We also consider alternative pathways into the arts and recognise not every person has the same experiences. Although these examples we listed can indicate mid-career artist, we will accept any application if there is justification or demonstration of mid-career experience.

This commission is about understanding that struggle for artists who are no longer eligible for early-career support and who are in that difficult stage of development where projects are becoming larger and more ambitious, and significant funding is harder to find.

We expect this funding will be used as part of a much larger budget. In Good Company wants to support artists to create projects of national reach and significance.

What does it include?

So, what does this commission include? We’ve got

- £5,000 grant (plus £1,000 additional fee for recruiting and mentoring Assistant Producer – we will explain more on this later)
- 2 weeks rehearsal space at one or two of the IGC partner venues
- An opportunity to premiere the final piece at our Departure Lounge Festival, if this is the right fit for your timeline

IGC aims to provide more than just financial support. We will work with you to identify other areas we can support you in.

Some examples of additional support include:

- Mentorship from IGC's producers; including fundraising, making partnerships, access, tour and project planning.
- Support from IGC venue teams; including marketing, fundraising, touring.
- Signposting to relevant communities and groups linked with IGC and our partners

Alongside this commission we are announcing an **Early-Career Producer Scheme** which is the opportunity for an earlier career producer/assistant Producer.

This Assistant Producer will support the commissioned project for ten days, and we will pay their fee. You will be able to lead on when and how the Assistant Producer role fits with your project, as long as it will be a meaningful experience for them.

This role will be openly recruited, and you will of course have a voice on who is selected.

We will also pay you a further £1,000 for your time on this, and for mentoring the Assistant Producer on their own development as well.

We expect all applicants to be able to engage with this development scheme in order to be eligible for the Mid-Career Commission.

What are we looking for?

IGC support exciting, new performance. We're looking for big, bold, ambitious work that will make a statement. What that statement is, is up to you.

Ideally, we would like to see projects delivered within 12 months of the grant being awarded in April 2022.

We have not defined any artistic expectations for this commission, we want you as the artist to have the freedom to lead on this. We are interested in supporting new work and work already in development.

We are, however, more likely to support projects if they are:

- A piece of 'theatre' - this can be interpreted in its broadest form, for example: live art, new writing, devised, physical, spoken word. For this opportunity, we will not be considering dance pieces, although theatre that involves dance or movement will be considered.
- We'd like to see a project that has already had some development and has a clear end goal and strategy for reaching it
- A project that considers diversity and inclusion, particularly those which have a diverse delivery team and cast. Diversity includes but not limited to disability, race and gender, ultimately, the work should consider those that have been marginalized from the creative industries.
- We want a project that is accessible and interesting for a wide audience
- A project that intends to tour venues or community spaces in the UK.
- A project that could go on to tour to some, if not all, of the IGC partner venues (or other community spaces in the areas they serve)
- We are happy to work with you to develop access for Deaf people and to work with technology like Talking Birds' A Difference Engine or other ways of integrating captioning or signing into the work.

Timeline

- Deadline for applications: Midnight on Sunday 30th January 2022.
- Shortlisting: w/c 31st January. The shortlisting panel will include a freelance artist or practitioner.

We will let you know whether we'd like to invite you to an interview by Monday 7th February.

- We'll email all applicants whether they've been shortlisted or not and will also publish a statement about the selection process for wider transparency.
- Interviews will be w/c 21st February 2022. Again, there will be freelance representation on the panel, and we will seek to make the panel as diverse as possible. We will let you know who is on the interview panel in advance.

All shortlisted applicants can request feedback on their application, and you will be given a decision by Monday 28th February.

In previous rounds of this commission, we have received too many applications to offer feedback to those who are not shortlisted.

How to apply?

As a way of making this commission more accessible to more people, there are three ways to apply: by video, audio file or written application) – You can contact the team for a conversation about the application process and for support in applying.

For more information, Access advice or support in your application please contact **Aoife O'Connor** a.oconnor2@derby.ac.uk

Written Application can be found [here](#)

A written application must be submitted via the form on our website. A link for this can be found above and on the callout page (where you found this info pack.)

Audio or Video Applications - If you want to submit an audio or video file, please contact Aoife in advance, and she can help you transfer the file safely and confirm when she has received them. Your files must be no longer than 6 minutes and must cover all the information we need.

You will not be judged on the production quality of your file, as long as we can understand your information, that's fine.

Access - We have additional funds to support applicants with access needs throughout the life of this commission. We are happy to discuss this in more detail, please contact Aoife.

Questions?

The written application form includes all the questions but for audio or video applications please find the questions below. This is all the information we need to see in your application. Please make sure you answer all the question thoroughly.

Please tell us:

- Your company/collective or Theatre Maker name.
- The title of project
- Please confirm you have read or listened to the Application pack (this).
- Please tell us about your previous work and practice. If you'd like to, you can tell us about your main artistic influences as well.

{You may wish to demonstrate your strong track record in delivering good quality work, which is audience focused, financially robust, accessible and sustainable; including the people who have endorsed your work previously.}

- Please tell us about your connection to, or how you intend to work in the Midlands.
- Tell us what you aim to do and why, including the ideas behind your project.

{You may wish to talk about the projects aims, bullet point what will happen and highlight to us any artistic inspirations for the project and a brief budget breakdown.}

- Give a description of your key target audience for your project and how they would benefit from your project.
- Please tell us about how you think IGC can support you in developing this work. This isn't a trick question; we just want to get a sense of your needs.

- Please tell us how you intend to work with the Assistant Producer over 10 days. We don't need a detailed plan as this will be agreed later, we just want to see you are able to provide a meaningful experience for them.
- Please tell us about your access requirements, if you have any. Feel free to send additional information on this if you would like.
- Lastly, please provide preferred contact details for us to get back to you.

For more information about the Mid-Career Commission or to apply with an audio or video application, feel free to email Assistant Producer Aoife O'Connor at a.oconnor2@derby.ac.uk