

# EARLY YEARS FESTIVE THEATRE PRODUCTIONS

Multi-year, multi-location,  
early years commission



Supported by Creative Scotland  
through the Performing Arts Venues Relief Fund

**Three of Scotland's largest cultural organisations are joining forces to offer a unique, multi-year commission(s) to create and produce three small-scale festive productions for early years audiences, each to be presented in Aberdeen, Edinburgh and Inverness between Christmas 2021 and Christmas 2023.**

Aberdeen Performing Arts, Capital Theatres and Eden Court Highlands are inviting proposals from individual artists, producers or companies, based in Scotland, to create and produce three festive productions to be staged in The Lemon Tree in Aberdeen, Studio in Edinburgh, and at Eden Court in Inverness. All three productions will be produced and presented in 2021, one per venue, and each production will be restaged in 2022 and 2023, therefore playing at all three venues over the three-year period.

We are looking to create engaging, accessible productions which address the following criteria. The production should:

- **Be created for early years audiences, suitable for attendance by family groups and nursery/school groups (age recommendation of under 7 years).**
- **Have a theme suitable to the time of year – e.g. Christmas, festive, winter etc.**
- **Last 35-45 minutes.**
- **Be designed to be staged in a studio theatre setting, incorporating audience seating for a capacity of 60 within the staging.**
- **Be fully accessible and suitable for a range of audiences including those with disabilities and/or additional sensory or communication needs.**

We are open-minded to the approach and will accept individual proposals for a single production, or a single proposal to create all three productions. Proposals should allow for simultaneous rehearsal and performance as the dates will be broadly similar in each of the three locations, therefore it will not be possible for all three productions to involve the same team.

There will be a budget of up to £30,000 per production available to create and stage each piece in 2021. We anticipate a reduced budget for subsequent years to cover restaging and running costs only. The budget should include the costs of creative team and performers, set design and build, stage and production management, transport, travel and any other production costs. The venues will provide rehearsal space and one member of their technical team to support the production through tech week and the run. Marketing, graphic design and print costs will be covered by the venues, as will any front of house or other venue costs.

Each production will open in early December and run for up to three weeks prior to Christmas.

All three organisations are committed to improving diversity and representation in our industry, and so we positively encourage and welcome applications from those who represent diverse and under-represented backgrounds.

## How to Apply

To express an interest in this commission, please provide an initial proposal which includes:

- **An outline of the production including narrative, themes and production style.**
- **A breakdown of the people involved including lead artists, number of performers, and indicative creative team.**
- **Be fully accessible and suitable for a range of audiences including those with disabilities and/or additional sensory or communication needs. We would also welcome ideas on how the production could potentially be adapted to allow for attendance by children with multiple and profound learning disabilities if appropriate.**

The initial proposal should be no more than three sides of A4 per production and should be accompanied by an indicative budget and a CV of the lead artist, producer or company, and any other confirmed personnel.

Proposals and accompanying information should be sent to Hanna Louise, Associate Producer, Aberdeen Performing Arts at [hanna.louise@aberdeenperformingarts.com](mailto:hanna.louise@aberdeenperformingarts.com) by **Monday 6 September 2021**.

The initial proposals will be shortlisted by representatives from each of the commissioning organisations, and those shortlisted will be invited to present their proposals on Thursday 16 September. Please try to retain some availability on this day.



## Aberdeen Performing Arts

Aberdeen Performing Arts is an arts charity based in the North-East of Scotland. We run three venues in Aberdeen - His Majesty's Theatre, the Music Hall and the Lemon Tree. We produce three festivals and have our own producing company, Freshly Squeezed Productions. We're a cultural hub for the North-East connecting with artists and communities. We welcome nearly 500,000 people to performances each year and 13,000 people take part in our creative engagement projects. We employ nearly 300 people and provide work for hundreds of artists and creative freelancers. We have been recognised locally and nationally for excellence in a variety of areas from programming and community engagement to environmental sustainability. In 2019 we were named the Business of the Year in the North-East.

[www.aberdeenperformingarts.com](http://www.aberdeenperformingarts.com)



## Eden Court Highlands

Eden Court is a registered charity and Scotland's largest single-site arts venue housing two theatres, two cinemas, two studios, exhibition spaces and meeting rooms. Eden Court presents approximately 500 live performances and 2,000 film screenings every year as well as almost 60 community classes a week. This activity attracts an audience of over 300,000 people annually. In 2018 Eden Court launched their summer outdoor music festival, Under Canvas, generating footfall of over 25,000 and providing employment opportunities to hundreds of Scottish musicians. The organisations' Engagement programme is one of the largest in the UK with a skilled team of creative staff delivering projects across the entire Highland region, a landmass the size of Belgium.

[www.eden-court.co.uk](http://www.eden-court.co.uk)



## Capital Theatres

Capital Theatres present world-class shows to entertain and inspire audiences of all ages. In a normal year we stage over 700 performances, at the Festival Theatre (1,915 seats), the King's Theatre (1,300 seats) and The Studio (155 seats) in a broad and inclusive programme featuring the very best in drama, dance, musical theatre, live music, comedy and pantomime.

Much of our programme is exclusive to our venues in Scotland, providing the only opportunity for audiences to see the biggest shows touring north of the border, the best in international contemporary dance and the latest productions from leading local and national companies.

We support access to the arts for everyone and have an extensive creative engagement programme of talks, workshops and events to introduce and develop engagement and interest in the heritage of our buildings and all areas of live performance.

Since the pandemic closed our theatres we have developed a new co-producing and commissioning strategy, and have continued to connect with our audiences and communities through Raise the Curtain – a variety of online performances and events which have continued our pioneering work with young people and those living with dementia.

We are a registered Scottish charity (SC018605) and our theatres and our programme are supported by the City of Edinburgh Council.

[www.capitaltheatres.com](http://www.capitaltheatres.com)



[www.aberdeenperformingarts.com](http://www.aberdeenperformingarts.com)



[www.eden-court.co.uk](http://www.eden-court.co.uk)



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