



Commissions for Hotbed 2013

Hotbed is the Cambridge new writing theatre festival produced by Menagerie and co-produced with The Colchester Mercury in association with the Cambridge Junction and Soho Theatre. This year the festival is being held in July 2013 in Cambridge and Colchester with extended performance opportunities in other venues later in 2013.

Held since 2002, the festival has commissioned work by Tim Etchells, Naomi Wallace, Steve Waters, Fraser Grace, Ed Harris, Judy Upton, Chris O'Connell and Janice Okoh as well as dozens of first-time or up-and-coming writers.

What's Up Doc? Six collaborative monologues

Overview

What's up Doc? is a festival commissioning project designed to bring ideas and people together. Inspired by our current and recent work with leading academics at Cambridge University, we are now commissioning six 15 to 20 minute monologues from six writers each inspired and informed by a collaborator ... the 'Doc' of our title.

Each commission will be written and created in response to a question or challenge established by the 'Doc' in conversation or correspondence with the writer. The 'Doc' should be someone who sits as a Thought Leader in their field. The key here is that the collaborator is inspiring and challenging and that they are 'up for' a project that will engage their thinking in a theatrical form.

The sort of person you may choose to work with might be an Academic, Politician, Lawyer Scientist, Religious Leader, Activist, Entrepreneur, Sports Person etc. They can come from anywhere in the world and we encourage international collaborations as well as those from the UK.

Menagerie can potentially set up collaborations but at this stage we are keen to explore relationships which writers already have, or can establish, with collaborators outside of our existing network.

Each piece should be developed and written as a collaboration, and whilst the 'Doc' doesn't need to perform they should be 'present' in the process i.e. actively contributing by supplying questions, entering into dialogue, allowing access to archives or articles, making or supplying videos, sound recordings or written statements etc.

The resulting text will be rehearsed and performed by a member of the Hotbed Acting Ensemble, working with the collaborator, writer and a director.

Each monologue will be performed multiple times both alone and alongside other monologues throughout the festival i.e. performed in pairs or groups. No work will be recorded or captured without permission.

The work

If I told you what I was thinking... what would you think? How could you capture the dilemma, the challenge, the excitement or frustration of my ideas?

The resulting theatre piece should be invested in the thinking of the collaborator and responses of the playwright, but it is not a lecture or polemical exercise. The resulting work must be a play or performance response that should be accessible and engage, inform, challenge and entertain audiences in its dramatic form. Beyond being a monologue, it can be made in any genre or style and we encourage comedy and off-kilter responses as much as we do dramatic work.

Further details and commissioning information including potential collaborators (if you can't find your own!) will be posted on the Menagerie website. www.menagerie.uk.com/hotbed

Guidelines

- Please submit your idea for a 15-20 minute monologue by the date below... on one page please!
- If we don't already know your work please send us info to help us know more about you and your writing.
- In your submission let us know if you have direct access and agreement from your 'Doc' to work together. If not, please let us know the likelihood of being able to access your 'Doc'.
- If you are seriously interested in this work but do not have a collaborator please contact us and we can discuss potential collaborations from our network.
- Please submit ideas by email to: office@menagerie.uk.com

Deadline Dates

- Submissions: 11th March
- Commissions offered: 18th March
- Outline script or ideas for development week: 22nd April
- First draft due: Monday 20th May
- Rehearsal draft due: Monday 10th June

Performances

- 11th -14th July 2013: Cambridge Junction
- 18th – 21st July Colchester Mercury
- And before end of 2013:
 - 2-4 performances at Bury Theatre Royal, Bury St Edmunds
 - 2-6 performances at Soho Theatre, London

Fee

£750 for the playwright. £250 for the collaborator.

Rights and licenses

The exclusive performance license will be retained by Menagerie until the end of 2013 for performances as outlined above, after which all rights and the license shall return to the commissioned writer subject to any copyright agreement established with the collaborator. *

For more information call 01223 322111 or email Paul@menagerie.uk.com

*The intention is for Menagerie and partners to continue developing the work for national and international touring, for which additional payments and contracts would be negotiated.