

Accelerator 2019 (new writing) Open Call Guidelines Stage One



We are currently seeking a playwright who is looking for support to develop a new piece of writing for young audiences.

Information about Accelerator

Accelerator is a new way of working with artists and organisations for Imagine, offering mentoring, producing support and performance opportunities for artists to create new theatre and/or dance works in progress, with the aim of finding funding to bring them to a full production.

Accelerator (new writing) will offer producing and artistic support for playwrights to develop new writing for young audiences in partnership with the Traverse Theatre. This opportunity will include the chance to present early stage work as part of a new three-day festival of new writing from 7 – 9 November 2019. This festival is a celebration of new plays that have come through the Traverse Open Submission Window, presenting them as script-in-hand readings, including the Accelerator (new writing) work. The festival will also feature an exciting mix of talks, master-classes, open castings and networking events that invite artists and audiences to influence the future of New Writing now.

Selected playwrights will receive:

- a seed fund commission of £4,000 to write an early stage script to a rehearsed reading stage
- inclusion in the Traverse Theatre festival of new writing programme in November 2019
- a budget for professional actors to workshop ideas and prepare for the performance at the Traverse and any other relevant costs required for the reading
- producing support to create a full budget and schedule with Imagine taking on administrative tasks such as contracting and paying actors and other production staff
- artistic, producing and mentoring support from Imagine during 2019 to include support beyond the festival reading
- feedback from Imagine and the Traverse Theatre

Application process

Accelerator has a 2-stage application process so you can focus on your idea and not the budget and administration tasks.

Stage One

This stage is all about your idea and ensuring that the panel understand why this would be an excellent piece of new writing for young audiences.

All you need to do is tell us about the idea you would like to develop, thinking about who the work might be for and why you want to develop this work. Accelerator is production/performance-focussed so really paint a picture of what your idea is and why it is important for your chosen audience.

We are not expecting you to have written much yet, however, if you are able to give an example of the style of writing you would like to explore this will help the panel understand your idea and its potential.

Stage Two

The panel will shortlist a short numbers of applications for Stage Two, all these applicants will be offered time with Imagine to create a budget and plan for their idea so we can be sure your idea can be realised.

How to apply

You should write down your idea with examples of your writing style if possible. Please don't send any CVs or any other additional documents.

You should send this to applications@imagine.org.uk with **Accelerator (New writing) 2019** as the subject title by the deadline of **5pm on Monday 4 February 2019**.

Information on the selection process

The Accelerator panel will be made up of representatives of Imagineate, Traverse Theatre and a freelance playwright. The panel will meet on Wednesday 6 February.

Stage one:

Deadline **5pm on Monday 4 February 2019.**

All applicants will hear if they have been selected by **28 February 2019**

Stage Two:

Meetings with the shortlisted artists will take place in March 2019.

Applicants will hear if they have been selected by 29 March 2019.

FAQs

- What kind of writers are you looking for?

We are looking for playwrights who have a strong idea for a new script/production. You don't need to have written for young audiences before but you should have a strong passion for the importance of children and young people as an audience.

We are keen to see a more diverse range of artists making work for young audiences that is excellent and relevant to our audiences. Applications can come from individuals, collectives or companies.

- What information should I include in my application?

We are looking for artists who have experience in writing for professional performances and who are excited about the artistic potential in writing for children and/or young people. You can use images and words to give us examples of what you're aiming for.

What you shouldn't include is a CV or a list of productions, this Stage One panel will focus only on the quality of your idea and how much it inspires, intrigues and excites the panel.

- How will the panel assess the applications?

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

The quality of the idea and writing

The need for this work to be made

The potential impact of this opportunity for the artist

- **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.

- **What happens if I am invited to Stage Two?**

A small number of applicants will be shortlisted for Stage Two. At this point, you will be offered producing support from Imagine to create a budget and schedule. This will enable the panel to make the final selection with artistic and logistical information. You will hear if you are through to Stage Two by 28 February 2019.

- **How many Accelerator playwrights will be selected?**

This is open as we won't know the answer to this question until we can see how much each Stage Two idea would cost. It is very likely to be one or two writers for 2019.

- **Can I apply if I have no existing connection with Imagine, Traverse or the young audiences sector?**

Yes, we would encourage applications from any playwrights based in Scotland who are interested in work for young audiences.

This opportunity is only open to artists based in Scotland; additional budgets are available if there are any access requirements for the application process or the project itself. Please get in touch with us if you would like to discuss this prior to application.

We aim to ensure the application and selection process is straightforward and fair. If you have any questions about the process, or the project in general, please email Fiona Ferguson (Creative Development Director, Imagine) at fiona@imagine.org.uk