

PUSH+ - OPEN CALL Guidelines

LAB 3: Different Bodies

8 – 18 September 2020



Co-funded by the
Creative Europe Programme
of the European Union

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.

This application is for the **Different Bodies Lab** which will take place in Stamsund, Norway. Artists will arrive in Stamsund on Tuesday 8 September and depart on Friday 18 September.

You can find out more about the project on the dedicated PUSH+ website: www.pushproject.eu.

PUSH+ will pay for return travel to the Lab from your home country and accommodation for the duration of the Lab. Breakfast, lunch and dinner will be provided in Stamsund, and per diems of £40 per day for the two travel days. All artists' will be paid a fee of £850 (inclusive of the two per diems days).

Information about the Different Bodies Lab:

This Lab will bring together fifteen artists based in five different countries in Europe to explore ideas around different bodies in theatre and dance for young audiences. Artists will work together from **Tuesday 8 September to Friday 18 September 2020**. Over 8 days, we will be looking at ideas around the topic of 'different bodies', incorporating ideas from artist applications as well as the following questions:

- What is a body and how do our bodies connect with our sense of self?
- What is the connection between body, society and performing arts?
- What kind of bodies do we see on stages - and whose bodies are missing?
- What is the impact of how we treat our bodies and how we talk about (or not talk about) bodies?
- How does the lack of diversity of bodies on stages impact on young audiences?
- How can we open up for new perspectives, and perceptions, where ideas and practices about different bodies are being stretched and challenged?
- How can an artistic space be given for different bodies to move and communicate, and at the same time move our perceptions and minds?
- How can a broad variety of bodily expressions help us reflect through a psychological approach?

In addition to sharing and working with each other, we will introduce the participating artists to other local and international artists, working alongside them during the lab.

The lab aims to explore an open and varying interpretation of different bodies, opening up discussion around bodies missing from our sector. The lab will visualize how many different bodies and expressions exist and work to create better representation in performing arts for a young audience.

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 choose to think about one or more of them in your ideas around different bodies or to select other forms of performance that interest you. Information about these formats can be found here -

<https://www.pushproject.eu/about-push-plus/formats/>

We will arrange the lab in Stamsund and work with the local institutions and theatre companies [Nordland Visual Theatre](#), [Eilertsen&Granados](#)

[Teaterkompani](#), [Teater NOR](#), and the British circus company [Extraordinary bodies](#).

The PUSH+ partners will all arrive on Tuesday 15 September. In addition to the Lab content, the schedule will include a welcome meal for all Lab artists on Tuesday 8 September, a day off on Saturday 12 September and a final meal with artists and partners on Thursday 17 September.

Lab Leader

Tone Pernille Østern was studying at the Laban Centre for Movement and Dance in the 1990s, when CandoCo dance company, with dancers with and without disabilities, was up and coming in U.K. Much inspired by their work she co-funded Inclusive Dance Company in Norway in 2000, a small independent company that since then has had “difference” - in many ways - in focus in its artistic search. She further funded The Dance Laboratory, a community-based company with differently bodied dancers in 2003 and was artistic leader for them for 10 years. The Dance Laboratory also was her doctoral project for a Doctor of Arts in Dance at the University of the Arts in Helsinki, which she fulfilled in 2009. Since then, she works as an artist-teacher-researcher in an academic context as professor at NTNU Norwegian University of Science and Technology. The question of different bodies runs as a red thread through her work.

Read more at [NTNU](#), [Danselaboratoriet](#) and [Inclusive Dance Company](#).

Co-facilitators

Nordland Visual Theatre (Figurteatret i Nordland):

<http://scene8.no/figurteateret/figurteatret/english-2/>

Eilertsen&Granados Teaterkompani:

<https://www.eilertsen-granados.com>

TeaterNOR:

<http://teaternor.com/TN/>

Visiting artists from Extraordinary bodies:

<https://www.extraordinarybodies.org.uk>

About Stamsund

Stamsund has for many years been a theatre hub in the north of Norway, with several theatre-companies and institutions established in the village. The village has been the host of Stamsund Theatre Festival for more than 20 years: www.stamfest.no

Stamsund is also the home of the Internationally acknowledged Nordland Visual Theatre (Figurteatret).

Stamsund is located in the Lofoten Islands, in Nordland region north in Norway, a fishing village of only 1000 inhabitants, and a popular destination for tourists and locals. The nearest airport to Stamsund is Leknes, about 2,5 hours flight from Oslo. The nearest largest city is Bodø.

Information on the selection process

Imagine will select three artists based in Scotland to take part in this Lab. Deadline for applying is Friday 6 March. All applicants will hear if they have been selected by Monday 16 March 2020.

There are three places on the Different bodies Lab for artists based in Scotland (who will join three artists each coming from Belgium, Ireland, Denmark and Norway).

Each partner will select three artists to attend the Lab. The panel in Scotland will be:

Fiona Ferguson (Creative Development Director, Imagine)

Pamela Walker (Senior Producer, Imagine)

Freelance Artists x 2

They will focus on these criteria:

- Experience as an artist/maker
- Personal connection to the topic
- Underrepresented bodies and voices
- Ideas for making performance for children and young people

Additional Opportunities

Different Bodies Residency (8 February – 21 February 2021)

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 Different bodies Residency will take place in Roskilde, Denmark from 8 - 21 February 2021 hosted by Aaben Dans. Up to 4 artists be selected, as individuals or as a collaboration with fellow Lab artists. Aaben Dans will be in close contact with the Residency artists on a daily basis and bring the Residency artists to local events and opportunities that are relevant to the topic and the artform that they work within.

You can read about the two previous Residencies, for Home and Failure, here: <https://www.pushproject.eu/plus-home/home-residency/>
<https://www.pushproject.eu/failure/failure-residency/>

Different bodies - International Workshop

In partnership with Bangkok International Children's Festival (BICT Fest), PUSH+ will include a 5-day workshop in Thailand exploring elements of the Different Bodies topic. Over the five days, five artists from Europe and five from Thailand will work together exploring the topic of Different bodies, from 26 January to 1 February 2021. BICT Fest is a relatively new festival for young audiences who are developing a strong reputation through actively seeking to connect with European colleagues and bringing high quality productions and ideas to audiences and artists in Thailand. This activity offers a highly valuable experience for the participating artists while bringing ideas and viewpoints from a non-European context into the topic discussions. Workshop venue is Makhampom Arts Space, Chiang Mai.

One artist from each of the five partners countries will be selected to attend this workshop alongside five Thai artists and one from Cambodia. If you are available for the dates, and would like to be selected for this workshop, you can indicate that in the application form.

FAQs

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

We are looking for artists involved in making theatre and dance, ideally if you have made work for young audiences before or can share with us your motivation for making work for them. We would like to find a group of artists at different stages of their career although due to the intensity of an international residency, it is most suitable for those with experience of making performance work. 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.

It is important that the work you create or will create, and/or your lived experience outside of your work, are related to the topic. We are looking for artists with a clear connection to the topic, who want to explore and provoke the status quo of bodies most commonly represented on stages for children in Europe. This is open to you to define what that means to you but could include disabled bodies, older bodies, bodies of colour, fat bodies, bodies that don't move like other bodies, any body who is underrepresented on stage. Tell us about your connection and why this topic is important to you and/or to the work you create.

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

We are looking for artists who are excited about creating theatre and dance for children and can show this through work they have creatively led or been involved in. We would love to see examples of your work (images, production copy, film clips, reviews etc) so include them in your application. 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 and/or lived experience around the topic of Different bodies, and how this intersects 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*

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 Different bodies 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 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 leader.

During the Lab we will stay in Stamsund, in the Lofoten islands in the north of Norway. We will stay at Live Lofoten Hotel and fishermen's cabins: <https://www.livelofoten.com>

The cabins are 2-and 3 bedroom self-catering huts in Stamsund. All artists will have their own room sharing an apartment with one or two others. We will make sure that all participants will have full accessibility, and will also have rooms at the hotel building available. We have wheelchair accessible rooms and rehearsal spaces and will work with selected artists to make the Lab, travel and accommodation work for everyone.

If you have any access 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 8 – 18 September?**

Yes, apart from the day off on Saturday 12 September, we require full attendance. Artists should arrive in Stamsund on Tuesday 8 September by 19:00 for a welcome meal and stay until Friday 18 September, 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 Scotland. 3 artists will be selected by each of our project partners in Ireland, 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.

- **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 as long as we can clearly hear you), we are only interested in what you have to say. Email us the link to your film within the application form (so we have your details and bio) along with your photograph.

- **Can I apply for this Lab if I'm not based in Scotland?**

No.

- **How accessible is the Lab?**

Both the Lab venue and the artist accommodation are accessible, and we welcome applications from artists with a disability. We will also cover expenses if you need a Personal Assistant. Please get in touch with us if you would like to discuss your accessibility needs.

How to apply

Fill in the Different bodies Lab application form and send it with your photograph to push@imagine.org.uk by the deadline of Friday 6 March 2020.

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 at fiona@imagine.org.uk