

## Launchpad 2021 Guidelines



We are currently looking for an early career artist of colour based in Scotland who is interested in making theatre and/or dance performance for young audiences as part of Launchpad 2021. This project is in association with Project X and Bijli Productions.

### **Information about Launchpad**

Launchpad is a project offering professional development, producing support and performance opportunities for early career artists to develop new theatre and/or dance ideas for young audiences.

In the last two years Launchpad has supported four artists who have used the time and resources to develop new scratch performance ideas, attend an international young audiences festival, and present their idea at an Imagine event.

You can read about the first four Launchpad artists here -

<https://www.imagine.org.uk/artists/projects/launchpad>

### **What does the project offer:**

#### **Stage One (March - September 2021)**

This period is time for research, attending relevant performances, events and meetings, professional development (taking part in workshops, learning about areas of the sector of interest, and opportunities as part of Imagine's Creative Development programme) and spending time with members of the Imagine team and other industry professionals.

- A budget of £2,700 to cover up to 5 weeks maximum of your own time which can include researching a performance idea, talking with artists and freelancers relevant to developing your idea, meeting with organisations you are interested in talking to, watching performances
- Go and See funding to cover ticket costs for performances and events
- Mentoring from either Project X or Bilji Productions
- Mentoring from Imagine's Creative Development Director and time with other members of the team

The £2,700 fee can be used to cover up to five weeks (or 20 days), that can be consecutive weeks/days or spread out anytime between March – September 2021. The schedule is flexible and will be agreed with the artist on selection so that we can work around any other commitments you have.

### Stage Two (September - December 2021)

- A visit to an international festival for young audiences
- £1,500 to rehearse and present a scratch performance idea for young audiences to cover the Launchpad artist fee and any collaborators plus materials.
- Space and tech support to present your scratch at an Imagine event
- A professional set of production shots from the sharing

The international festival visit will happen as and when we are able to travel and the festival will be chosen depending on artist interest and availability. Launchpad will cover the costs of all festival tickets, travel, accommodation and a fee to cover time and per diems. You can read about a previous Launchpad artist's (Rosa Duncan) visit to Krokusfestival in Belgium -

<https://www.imagine.org.uk/news/blog-1-rosa-duncan-launchpad-25032019>

The scratch performance is optional with no obligation to share. If taken up, it will offer you the chance to create a short scratch performance based on your research idea and present it at an event for artists and industry peers.

Alternatively, you could chose to use this budget and time to document your idea online.

### Ongoing

- After the official period of Launchpad, we will offer you ongoing support including artistic and producing advice. For example, if you felt you wanted to progress your idea, we will help with the submission of a funding application to take the idea on beyond Launchpad.

Additional budgets are available if you have any access requirements for the application process or the project itself including providing BSL translators and captions.

## How to apply

If you are interested in applying please tell us about yourself, your artistic practice and your performance idea. We have given some suggested questions here if helpful.

- What inspires you as an artist?
- What excites you about performance for young audiences?
- What is your performance idea?
- What would you like to do during the paid research time?
- Why is this opportunity interesting to you?
- How do you define yourself as early-career?

Whatever you tell us, think about how it gives us information for the selection criteria as these are what the panel will use to make their decision:

*The quality of the performance idea*

*The rationale for the paid research time*

*The potential impact of this opportunity for the artist*

### Applying in writing

You can send this to us as a Word or PDF document. You are welcome to include images and website/film links with your document, just include them all within one document.

### Applying by film

If you are applying by film, it will ideally be uploaded to YouTube or Vimeo. Copy the film link and password into a Word or PDF document. If you would like to include images or website links, copy and paste them into this same document.

With written or filmed application, please don't send us any additional attachments including CVs or budgets, everything should be within one document.

You should send your application to [applications@imagine.org.uk](mailto:applications@imagine.org.uk) with **Launchpad 2021** as the subject line by **Friday 29 January 2021** at 5pm.

## Information on the selection process

The Launchpad panel will take place in the week of **8 February 2021** and will be made up of representatives of Imagine, industry colleagues and freelance artists. All applicants will hear if they have been selected by **Friday 26 February 2021**.

The selection panel is:

Ashanti Harris	Co-director, Project X
Mariem Omari	Artistic Director, Bijli Productions
Fiona Ferguson	Creative Development Director, Imagine
Pamela Walker	Senior Producer, Imagine

Before the panel - we will email everyone by Wednesday 3 February to confirm we have received your application. If you do not hear from us by then please contact [fiona@imagine.org.uk](mailto:fiona@imagine.org.uk) so we can work out what happened and include your application in the panel.

After the panel, we will email all applicants with the offer of feedback for those who are not selected.

We aim to make the application and selection process straightforward, transparent and fair.

## FAQs

- **Who are we looking for?**

This opportunity is for an artist from the African and Caribbean diaspora, Latinx, the East Asian diaspora, from the South East Asian Diaspora, from the South Asian Diaspora, West Asian (includes Middle East) Diaspora, Indigenous people, bi-racial/ mixed heritage, or who self-identifies as a Person of Colour or Black.

You should be based in Scotland, at an early stage of your career and be excited about the artistic potential of creating theatre and/or dance performance for children. You do not need to have experience of making performance for children and young people before.

The term artist includes all who are interested in leading a creative performance idea, for example you could be a theatre maker, choreographer, writer, visual artist/designer, director or musician, as a solo performance or in collaboration with others.

- **What do we mean by early-stage artists?**

We are keen to keep this as open as possible to include artists in different life situations. This could include recent graduates, those who have been involved in productions as part of a team but who have never led their own idea, and artists who have made a recent shift into making theatre and dance performance from other artforms/careers.

If you have been funded as a lead artist to make and tour productions already, this is probably not the right project for you.

Age is absolutely not associated with early career for Imagine; artists of all ages are welcome to apply.

- **What do we mean by a scratch?**

We are looking for very early ideas that have not yet been developed; ideas that you want to play around with and test out in front of an audience of peers. Launchpad will support you to take that idea from your head to an early scratch presentation of around 10 minutes of initial material, with a small budget to work with other artists/freelancers.

Due to the current situation with many venues closed, we do not have a confirmed date for this but our aim is to host a Scratch Night in Autumn 2021. It is possible this event might go online but all of that will be an ongoing discussion with the Launchpad artist.

The Launchpad artist would have a guaranteed place in this programme (the rest would be curated through an open call out) if they would find that useful, it is not an obligation.

- **How will the panel assess the applications?**

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

*The quality of the performance idea*

*The rationale for the paid research time*

*The potential impact of this opportunity for the artist*

Everyone who sits on an Imagine panel is asked to provide feedback on each application, which we will then send to you if you want to read it.

- **Is there a word count/time limit for the application information?**

There is no word limit for your answers but ideally aim for a maximum around 2 – 3 pages for documents and 5 minutes for videos. Think about the panel and how you can make sure they get the main facts/opinions/ideas you want them to understand. Clarity is key.

- **How many Launchpad artists will be selected?**

We will select one artist for this call out with a second call out in early 2021. The Launchpad artist will be part of a community of artists working with Imagine over the year including those part of these projects:

Accelerator - <https://www.imagine.org.uk/artists/projects/accelerator>

Jerwood Fellows -

<https://www.imagine.org.uk/artists/projects/jerwood-fellowship>

Immerse - <https://www.imagine.org.uk/schools/projects/immerse>

**If you would like to arrange a phone call, zoom or email conversation before you apply, please get in touch. This could include any questions about the idea you have, to check eligibility, or about the project in general.**

**We will provide BSL, captions, or anything else requested for access purposes, for these discussions.**

**To get in touch please email Fiona Ferguson (Creative Development Director, Imagine) at [fiona@imagine.org.uk](mailto:fiona@imagine.org.uk)**