

Launchpad 2021

Guidelines

We are currently looking for an early career artist based in Scotland who is interested in making theatre and/or dance performance for young audiences as part of Launchpad 2021.

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 first two years Launchpad supported four artists who 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. This year, two new Launchpad artists joined the project, Cynthia Cheung and Ruby Hirsch. You can read about all six Launchpad artists here -

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

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

What does the project offer:

Stage One - Research

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 the Launchpad artist's time which can include researching a performance idea, talking with other 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 Imagine's Creative Development Director and time with other members of the team
- A visit to an international festival for young audiences

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 July 2021 – March 2022. The schedule is flexible and will be agreed with the artist on selection so that we can work around any other commitments.

The international festival visit will happen if we are able to travel within covid restrictions, and if the Launchpad artist is comfortable to travel at that time. If this is not possible we will offer online and/or opportunities closer to home. The festival, or alternative options, will be chosen depending on the Launchpad artist's interests 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 visit when Rosa Duncan went to Krokusfestival in Belgium in February 2019 -

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

Stage Two - Performance

- £1,500 to rehearse and present a scratch performance idea for young audiences to cover the Launchpad artist fee, fees for any collaborators, and materials
- Space and tech support to present the scratch at an Imagine event in either October 2021 or Spring 2022
- A professional set of production shots from the sharing

The scratch performance is optional with no obligation to share if the timing isn't right. If taken up, it will offer the Launchpad artist the chance to create a short 10-minute scratch performance based on their research idea and present it at an event for artists and industry peers. Alternatively, this budget and time could be used to document or present the idea online. There would be the option of performing at an earlier Scratch in October 2021 themed around COP 21 or one in Spring 2022.

After the official period of Launchpad finishes, we will offer the Launchpad artist ongoing support including artistic and producing advice. For example, if there is a desire to progress with the idea, we will help with the submission of a funding application to take the idea on beyond Launchpad.

How to apply

If you are interested in applying please tell us about yourself, your artistic practice and your performance idea. These are the types of questions you could think about although there is no need to use them if they are not 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?
- Would you define your voice as underrepresented in the young audiences sector?

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 potential of the performance idea for young audiences

The potential impact of this opportunity for the artist

The need for the work in addressing underrepresented voices

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 with **Launchpad 2021** as the subject line by **Monday 7 June 2021** at 5pm.

Information on the selection process

The selection panel for this call out is:

Ruby Hirsch	Freelance Artist/Launchpad 2021 Artist
Rosa Duncan	Freelance Artist/Launchpad 2018 Artist
Fiona Ferguson	Creative Development Director, Imagine
Pamela Walker	Senior Producer, Imagine

Key Dates

The deadline for applications is **Monday 7 June**

The Launchpad panel will take place on **Monday 14 June**

All applicants will hear if they have been selected by **Friday 25 June 2021**

We will email all applicants who are not selected with the offer of feedback which if asked for will be an email with anonymous written quotes from each panel member.

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 based in Scotland, at an early stage of their career who is excited about creating theatre and/or dance performance for children. You do not need to have experience of making performance for children and young people before, as long as you are excited about the artistic potential of making work for young audiences.

The term artist includes all who are interested in leading a creative performance process, for example you could be a theatre maker, choreographer, writer, visual artist/designer, director, musician or someone who works across different artforms.

We are especially keen to hear from artists currently underrepresented in the young audiences sector in Scotland. We have a budget to support access needs for Launchpad and this would be additional to the artists' own budget for the project.

- **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, or those who have made a recent shift into making theatre and dance performance from other artforms/careers. Age is absolutely not associated with early career for Imagineate; artists of all ages are welcome to apply.

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

- **What do we mean by performance for young audiences?**

We are interested in dance and/or theatre performance ideas but beyond that it's very open in terms of form, themes and style. Your idea might be something you imagine performed in a venue, in a school, outdoors or somewhere else we haven't yet thought of. If you are unsure if your idea is a good fit, feel free to get in touch with us to talk that through.

We are looking for performance ideas for any age from babies up to 14+ years. You might not know yet what age group your idea would be best for, that's not a problem as this is something you could explore as part of Launchpad.

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

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

The Launchpad artist would have a guaranteed place in a 2021 Imagineate Scratch programme if the timing and context is right, there is no obligation to share.

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

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

The potential of the performance idea for young audiences

The potential impact of this opportunity for the artist

The need for the work in addressing underrepresented voices

Everyone who sits on an Imagine panel is asked to provide written feedback on each application, which we will then email to you if you request it.

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

You should aim for a maximum around 2 pages for Word/PDF documents and 5 minutes max 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 who will join Ruby Hirsch and Cynthia Cheung as Launchpad artists for 2021 -

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

PUSH+ - <https://www.pushproject.eu/>

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