

# Professional Development Labs: Information for Applicants \_ \_

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## What are Professional Development Labs? \_

Professional Development Labs are a new opportunity for artists to get together in creative ways without the pressure of working on ideas for a particular product or production. We know that artists find it hard to find the time to get together, share ideas, practice and process, especially those who live rurally and who have relied on more informal networks to stay connected to the sector. Professional Development Labs offer you and artists you want to work with the opportunity to design your own 'testing room', in a format that enables exchange and provides a space where something can emerge out of nothing.

We want to hear from creatives with various artistic backgrounds who want to conceive, apply for and deliver an intensive development period based on their needs. We'd like to support proposals for innovative (new or better!) ways to share skills, ideas and/or process more broadly, in formats that allow artists to get away from their everyday.

We particularly welcome submissions from artists who come from underrepresented groups (specifically artists from culturally diverse backgrounds or artists with additional needs). In your submission, we will be looking for examples of how you think your Lab will enable you, and those you choose to work with, to find something new.

We imagine that most Labs will last between a few days and a week with up to four artists (but this is flexible!).

## What kind of artists can apply? \_

Professional Development Labs are open to all artists who are interested in making performance - writers, directors, choreographers, designers, movers, makers, digital do-ers or all-round creative experimenters. We welcome applications from artists who are at any stage in their careers - from the emerging to the more established.

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We want artists involved in any given Professional Development Lab to already know each other or be connected or associated in some way.

**All participating artists/producers must:**

- \_ be aged 18 and over;
- \_ not be currently engaged in full-time education;
- \_ not carry out projects in connection to PhD research; and
- \_ based in Wales or able to demonstrate a strong commitment to the development of work in Wales.

**Where can the Labs take place? \_**

Anywhere in Wales. Labs can take place in an arts centre or theatre venue but we are looking for innovative ways to share practice so we'd encourage you to think about a location that would inspire, help and encourage this: indoors, outdoors, in an arts venue, up a mountain, in a boat or a caban. The choice is yours.

**And when will they take place? \_**

We envisage that most Labs will take place between 01 Mar and 01 Oct 2018 but we are happy to consider other times. Please do get in touch if you have questions about this.

**What's on offer? \_**

**Budget**

All lead artists and their collaborators working on the projects will receive a minimum fee of £500 per week for their time on the project, as well as there being budget to support the cost of travel, accommodation, materials etc. depending on the needs of each Lab. You do not need to complete a budget as part of our submission. We will work with you to allocate money to you project based on its needs.

**Support & Advice**

You will receive artistic and producing support from the Creative Development team and have access to the expertise of the whole company including Production, Collaboration and Communications.

## What's the application process? \_

- \_ You can submit an idea by downloading the submissions form and sending it to [submissions@nationaltheatrewales.org](mailto:submissions@nationaltheatrewales.org)
- \_ We'll reply to your email to let you know once it has been received safely.
- \_ After the deadline has passed, we'll send it to a supportive and friendly panel of industry professionals (made up of NTW staff and invited independent artists, or arts managers from Wales or further afield). We may give you a call if there are any questions we need to clarify before sharing it.
- \_ If we feel your Lab has real potential, we'll arrange for you to meet with representatives of the panel so you can tell us more about it, in whatever way you think best illustrates what you'd like to do, and how. If you are planning to work with a community we would expect them to be featured at this point in some way.
- \_ If your Lab is selected, you'll work with staff at NTW (Creative Development, Production and an Emerging Producer) as well as any collaborative partners/artists to design and carry out your Lab. Labs may develop at this point in any number of different ways.
- \_ At the end of the Lab you will be asked to share something of what you did for the rest of the artistic community for example, via NTW's Community.
- \_ We'll help you think about what could happen next and how. We'll also make introductions to other professionals or artists who we think may be interested in your work in the future. But we don't want that to be the end of our work together so we will find ways to keep in contact too.

We strongly recommend that you talk to us about your idea before submitting it. We are expecting a lot of submissions so please don't leave it to the last minute to be in touch!

## When's the deadline? \_

The deadline for applications is **Friday 12 January 2018**.

NTW's Professional Development Labs programme is supported by:



[www.esmeefairbairnfoundation.org.uk](http://www.esmeefairbairnfoundation.org.uk)

Thank you / Diolch \_

## Get in touch \_

If you want to discuss ideas  
or ask us a question, get in touch!

Simon Coates

Head of Creative Development

[simoncoates@nationaltheatrewales.org](mailto:simoncoates@nationaltheatrewales.org)

Gwenfair Hawkins

Creative Development Assistant

[gwenfairhawkins@nationaltheatrewales.org](mailto:gwenfairhawkins@nationaltheatrewales.org)

National Theatre Wales

30 Castle Arcade

Cardiff

CF10 1BW

☎ +44 (0)29 2035 3070

@ [info@nationaltheatrewales.org](mailto:info@nationaltheatrewales.org)

🖱 [nationaltheatrewales.org](http://nationaltheatrewales.org)

🖱 [community.nationaltheatrewales.org](http://community.nationaltheatrewales.org)

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