



Magnetic North^o



Residency at Macrobert Arts Centre 17–28 January 2022

Applicant information

What is Rough Mix?

Rough Mix is a paid creative development residency for practising artists from any discipline. Developed and run by Magnetic North, a theatre company that specialises in creating new work and encouraging multi-art form approaches, this will be the thirteenth edition of the residency. Following 2021's online version, we are delighted to be working again with Macrobert Arts Centre to present an in-person residency in Stirling.

Rough Mix encourages boldness and innovation in the work of the artists who take part by giving them a unique opportunity to have a creative interaction with artists from different disciplines in a focused and supportive atmosphere. It is curated and led by Magnetic North's Artistic Director Nicholas Bone, who has developed a distinctive and widely-respected approach to developing new work and creating links between artists and art-forms. Previous participants include playwrights, choreographers, visual artists, film-makers, and composers. Previous editions of Rough Mix have been run in Edinburgh, Glasgow, Aberdeen, Peebles, Perth, Auckland and online.

Who can apply?

Professional artists from any art-form are welcome to apply. There are two categories of places available:

- Lead artists (5 places available)
- Collaborating artists (2 places available)

See **How to Apply** below for more information about these categories.

There will be a separate call-out for performers towards the end of October.

Equalities and Diversity

We are committed to developing and widening opportunities for all artists, so we will prioritise at least one place for an artist who identifies as d/Deaf or disabled and another for an artist who identifies as Black, Asian or ethnically diverse. The aim is both to make Rough Mix more accessible and to support and encourage diversity within contemporary theatre and performance practice. We believe that this will be to the benefit of all participants in Rough Mix, and also to artists and audiences more widely.

Exactly what I wanted and needed. A development experience in a safe space with a dynamic and interesting group.

Sara Sharaawi, playwright

How does it work?

Rough Mix brings together a small, carefully selected group of artists from different art forms – for example, theatre, dance, music, film and visual arts - for a two-week residency.

Five Lead Artists each bring to the lab an idea or starting point for a project, or a new approach they are interested in exploring.

During the course of the lab, the lead artists have dedicated time to work on their own idea as well as the opportunity to observe and collaborate with others. They can work with the ensemble of performers, have access to space to work in, materials to work with, and, perhaps most importantly, each other. The residency ends with a public sharing of the work that is developed.

Aims:

- to bring together artists from different disciplines to share learning and skills
- to enable the exploration of new ideas and the development of new creative partnerships
- to give artists time and space to experiment with ideas for new work
- to enable artists to share their working practices and philosophies in a supportive atmosphere
- to enable artists to try out work in front of a supportive audience and to benefit from structured and facilitated feedback.

All participants are paid a fee for their time; lead artists are paid a fee of £1,300, collaborating artists are paid a fee of £1,100. If you live more than 25 miles from Stirling we will also pay travel costs and, where appropriate, provide accommodation. There is a budget for additional support needs.

There will be positive and significant resonances from this experience felt in my work for many years to come.
Alan McKendrick - playwright & director, 2021 lead artist

How to apply

Please read this section carefully to make sure you send the right information with your application.

Rough Mix will take place at Macrobert Arts Centre, Stirling from 17–28 January 2022 (Monday to Friday both weeks) and you must be fully available for both weeks in order to take part. There are two categories available to apply for:

- **Lead artists** will have the opportunity to develop an idea or approach. They will usually have a significant track-record of making work professionally and have had their work produced, performed or exhibited over a period of at least five years (these do not need to be consecutive).
- **Collaborating artists** will have the opportunity to observe, support and collaborate with the lead artists. They will be interested in expanding their experience and will be professional artists from any art form who have had work produced, performed or exhibited. This is not open to students who have graduated in the last 2 years unless they had a previously existing professional practice.

Please contact us for advice if you want further information.

You will be able to indicate if you identify as Black, Asian or ethnically diverse, or as d/Deaf or disabled when you apply.

There are online application forms for both categories, if you would prefer to make your application in an alternative format, please contact us at artistdevelopment@magneticnorth.org.uk.

All applicants will need to provide

- An outline of their work and experience (up to 500 words)
- A CV
- Up to 3 examples of their work (files or links)

Lead Artists: you will also be asked to outline what you would like to develop at Rough Mix - this could be exploring an idea for a new project or trying out a new way of working - and to submit any background material that might be useful. You will need to say why you think your project might be particularly appropriate for Rough Mix; please read the **Guidance** below before completing your outline.

To apply for a **lead artist place**, please complete the online form here:

<https://forms.gle/trwDxmuHT5P5Rxm8A>

Collaborating Artists: you will also be asked to outline your work and experience, to provide a CV, and to say why you want to take on this role and what skills you will bring to the group.

To apply for a **collaborating artist place**, please complete the online form here:

<https://forms.gle/VSyYHXLpp14WgKmYA>

All applicants will be asked to complete an equalities monitoring form.

The closing date for applications is **5pm (GMT) on Monday 25th October**; all applicants will hear back from us by Friday 12th November.

All applications will be read and discussed by Nicholas Bone (Artistic Director, Magnetic North), Verity Leigh (Producer, Magnetic North) and Julie Ellen (Artistic Director, Macrobert Arts Centre). Decisions will take into account the following:

- The strength of the idea proposed and its suitability for Rough Mix (Lead artists only)
- The applicant's track record and experience
- The potential impact on the artist's development
- The overall balance of the cohort in terms of art-form and representation

If you would like this information in an alternative format - large print or audio transcription - or to make your application in an alternative format, please contact us at artistdevelopment@magneticnorth.org.uk.

The time gave me a space to re-think ideas in an environment that was truly sympathetic to experimentation. Such opportunities are truly so rare and I've pretty much traced everything I've done since back to that week.

Marisa Zanotti, choreographer/film-maker

Guidance

The resources we offer during the residency are limited. They include: performers, video cameras, projectors, sound recorders, PA system and basic props. Nothing more elaborate than working light is available and the studios will not necessarily have blackouts. We try to provide what is necessary, but working with limited resources is part of Rough Mix: the focus is on process rather than a highly polished outcome.

Ideas at an early stage of development work best – this is an opportunity to play with a hunch rather than hone an already well-developed idea. If an idea has already had development time elsewhere, it is unlikely to be selected.

We are looking for ideas which would benefit from a collaborative approach, with artists who are keen to observe and support each other's practice.

Projects where the artist wishes to work on their own on an idea are not suited to Rough Mix – it works best for artists who are open to stimulation from other artforms, want to explore new possibilities in their practice, and are keen to spend time engaging with other artists.

Please bear all this in mind when thinking about applying.

Projects that have developed from Rough Mix include:

- **Working on My Night Moves** by theatre-maker Julia Croft (Winner, Total Theatre Award 2019)
- **Space Ape** by theatre-maker Andy Cannon for Red Bridge (Winner, Best Work for Children and Young People, Critics' Awards for Theatre in Scotland 2018)
- **WhirlyGig** by composer Daniel Padden for Catherine Wheels.
- **Dispatches from the Source** by choreographer Clare Pencak for Tabula Rasa.
- **Money: The Game Show** by playwright/director Clare Duffy for Unlimited Theatre/Bush Theatre.
- **Walden** – a collaboration between environmental artists Sans façon and director Nicholas Bone for Magnetic North.
- **crying on the inside (laughing on the outside)** - by composer David Fennessy for Ensemble Modern, Frankfurt.

Covid-19: the safety and comfort of all participants is paramount. The residency will be conducted in line with (or above) any government guidelines which may be in place at the time. If it becomes necessary, the residency will move online, which we were able to do successfully in January 2021.

If you have any access or support needs, we will discuss these with you if you are successful in your application.

If you are unsure about anything, please email artistdevelopment@magneticnorth.org.uk for advice.

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