



Magnetic North^o



**Callout for Lead Artists:
Rough Mix Residency at Summerhall, Edinburgh
30th September – 11th October 2024
Deadline: midday, Tuesday, 2nd July 2024
Fee: £1,414
In partnership with Summerhall Arts**

What is Rough Mix?

Rough Mix is a paid creative lab 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 fifteenth edition of this unique programme.

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, Stirling, Dumfries and Galloway, and online.

Who can apply?

We are looking for lead artists who:

- Have a significant track-record of making work professionally (in any art form) and have had their work produced, performed or exhibited over a period of at least five years (these do not need to be consecutive)
- Are looking to develop a new idea or approach in a multi-art form environment
- Are based in Scotland

There will be a separate opportunity for Collaborating Artists and Performers to apply from the 22nd of July.

*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

lab.

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 lab ends with a public sharing of the work that is developed.

Rough Mix will take place at Summerhall ([map here](#)) in Edinburgh. Sessions will run from 10am-5pm each day, Monday to Friday, with an evening sharing in the venue on Friday 11th September.

Lead artists are paid a fee of £1,414. If you live more than 25 miles from Summerhall we will also pay travel costs and, where appropriate, provide accommodation.

Rough Mix 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.

If you're interested in learning more about Rough Mix from a participant's perspective, [you can read 2023 Lead Artist Morven Macbeth's blog about her experience of the residency here.](#)

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

Access, 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 a Global Majority artist. 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.

We have a separate budget for access costs and are available to discuss access needs at any stage of the application process which feels right for you. Please note that this fund can be used by those who might need support with making an application, as well as those selected artists who might have access participation costs for the residency. Contact details are at the end of this document.

How to apply

Application is through a Google Form, linked here - [LEAD ARTIST FORM.](#)

You will have the option to submit your answers to the questions in writing or by audio recording. If you have any issues with applying or would prefer to make your

application in an alternative format, please contact us at artistdevelopment@magneticnorth.org.uk.

In the application form you will be asked to provide:

- An outline of your work and experience (up to 500 words)
- A CV
- Up to 3 examples of your work (files or links)
- An outline of the work you would like to develop at Rough Mix (up to 300 words)
- Why you think your project would be a good fit for Rough Mix (up to 300m words)

You will also have the opportunity to include any background material that might be useful, and if you wish to at this stage, an access rider. You will also be asked which artforms or performer skills you would be interested in working with during the residency.

Please read the **Guidance** note at the end of this document before submitting.

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

The closing date for applications is **midday (GMT) on Tuesday 2nd July**. All applicants will hear back from us by Friday 19th July.

All applications will be read and discussed by Nicholas Bone (Artistic Director, Magnetic North), Anna Hodgart (Producer, Magnetic North), and Ellen Renton (Artist Development Administrator, Magnetic North). Decisions will take into account the following:

- The strength of the idea proposed and its suitability for Rough Mix
- 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 have any questions about applying, would like this information in an alternative format (eg. large print or audio transcription), or require support from our access fund to complete an application, 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:

- **See/Not See** by Mamoru Iriguchi
- **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.

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

Supported by:

