

COVE PARK

The Play Park Call for Applications

Deadline: Monday 8th Nov 2021.

The Play Park is an invitation to 8 mid-career theatre makers to explore the dramaturgy of thresholds: the places where disciplines, practices, species, and systems meet. It is an opportunity to think, move and be together as researchers and collaborators curious about deepening or extending practice. It will be held over the week of Monday 28th March - Monday 4th April 2022 at Cove Park on Scotland's west coast. Participants will be paid a fee for their contribution to the week.

Background

Founded in 1999, Cove Park is based on a 50-acre rural site overlooking Loch Long on the west coast of Scotland. The charity's national and international artists residency programme has hosted nearly 4,000 individuals working in all art forms, from all backgrounds and at every career stage.

<https://covepark.org>

Cove Park provides uniquely designed private accommodation, studios and workspace to create a professional and inspiring context in which artists can progress ideas, acquire new skills, benefit from peer-to-peer discussion, meet international practitioners and develop new work for audiences throughout the UK and beyond.

The Play Park

Funded by Foyle Foundation and Garrick Charitable Trust, the Play Park is a pilot residency programme which takes shape around ideas and acts of 'thresholding': finding, inhabiting and expanding the edge between forms of practice, physical environments, species, social spaces, and gestures of communication. It will be led by practitioners who work on and across boundaries of theatre, dance, literature, visual arts and film, and whose own investigations have produced new forms of storytelling, interspecies collaboration and ethical reorientation. There will also be

individual dialogues and facilitated movement, object manipulation and environmental research workshops on and around the Cove Park site.

Over the course of a week, we will consider dramaturgy as a relational practice with wide and deep cultural application, and explore together ways of understanding and navigating with awareness and care the entanglements, complexities and interdependencies of the creative process.

What does the week offer?

The Play Park is a week of collaboration, reflection and foraging. We will look at storytelling and live performance through the lens of lived, contingent experience. We will spend time writing, walking, talking, cooking and eating, blurring the lines of the formal and informal and treating the entire week as a collective learning experience.

The facilitators will be, amongst others:

[Alex Bird](#)

[Xiaolu Guo](#)

[David Harradine](#)

[Adura Onashile](#)

[Janice Parker](#)

[Amanda Thomson](#)

The dramaturgical lead will be [Ruth Little](#).

Who should apply?

UK-based mid-career theatre/performance-makers (with 10-20 years professional experience) of all backgrounds and abilities, interested in a deeper investigation and re-centering of dramaturgy as an exploration of thresholds and edges (physical, environmental, social, cultural, metaphorical and conceptual).

Please see below for how to apply.

Site, Accommodation & Facilities

Cove Park is in a rural location and situated on a hill, 1 hour west of Glasgow.

Central to the site is the Jacobs Building which houses the communal work and meeting spaces, a movement/rehearsal studio, library, wood-burning stove, offices, communal kitchen, dining area and laundry facilities.

The Play Park programme will take place in and around the Jacobs Building, the 50-acre site and in a newly constructed outdoor classroom adjacent to it.

The Jacobs Building has an accessible bedroom and one further bedroom, both with adjoining studios, which are located at the top of our site, with direct access from the main car park.

Further accommodation units are situated down site and are accessible via a farm track and a footpath over a bridge. We have 6 self-contained, self-catering live/work units created from converted and insulated shipping containers available, and 2 co-living spaces.

In 2020-21, Cove Park's site and facilities underwent major refurbishments, including a complete overhaul of the fittings and furnishing of the two largest units.

All participants will stay in private accommodation, each equipped with its own bed, desk, WC/shower and kitchen/kitchenette. Please refer to images on the website and our Accommodation Overview [here](#) for more information.

Dates and Duration

Monday 28th March - Monday 4th April 2021.

Fees & Travel

Participants will receive £425 for the week and a travel allowance. (We would encourage participants to travel via public transport - train, ferry and bus - rather than via car, taxi or plane)

Submission of Applications

We welcome applications from theatre makers with 10-20 years of theatre-making / performance experience, of all ages, abilities and from across the UK.

Please send your application by Monday 8th Nov 2021 to catrin@covepark.org with the subject line: **The Play Park 2022** and include the following information:

1. **Contact details:** Postal, e-mail and website addresses, phone number and how you heard about this call for applications.
2. Any **access requirements** (if you would prefer to talk this through, please email catrin@covepark.org to arrange a chat).
3. **Statement:** We are keen to know more about your creative practice and, in particular, your interest in or experience of working on edges and thresholds (however you define these). This includes a curiosity about and commitment to collective learning as well as personal research. We don't need formal CVs but invite you to send a statement of no more than 500 words describing your practice and experience, with links to relevant documentation of productions, reviews, etc.
4. Please state whether you would be willing and able to mentor an emerging theatre-maker from Royal Conservatoire Scotland (3 x 1-hour sessions on Zoom, April - June 2022).

We can accept submissions in audio or video formats if this is preferable to a written statement.

We encourage applications from all backgrounds, communities and industries, and we are committed to having a residency programme that is made up of diverse

skills, experiences and abilities. We actively encourage applications from African Diaspora people; South, East, and South-East Asian Diaspora people; Middle Eastern and North African Diaspora people; ethnically diverse people; people with disabilities; and all those who have been historically underrepresented. Our intention is to better reflect society as a whole in terms of race, religion, ability, gender, age and socio-economic status.

If adjustments to the above application process would improve this for you, please let us know.

Please note: We will store applications electronically for one year. The data contained within your application will not be used for any purpose other than short-listing, running and evaluating the programme. We will not share your details with any third parties without obtaining permission from you to do so.

We would prefer not to receive applications by post. However, if you would like to submit supplementary material, such as published books, with your application, please post these to the address below. If you would like this material to be returned to you, please enclose a self-addressed and stamped envelope.

The Play Park 2022

Cove Park, Peaton Hill, Cove, Argyll and Bute, Scotland, G84 0PE

Deadline for applications: Monday 8th November 2021.

You will be notified by Monday 29th November 2021 with the outcome of your application.

For further information please contact:

Catrin Kemp, Director of Partnerships & Business Development

catrin@covepark.org

01436 850500

www.covepark.org

Please sign up for newsletter updates [here](#), and follow us on Twitter (@CovePark), Instagram (@cove_park) and Facebook (@CoveParkResidencies).

With thanks to Foyle Foundation and Garrick Charitable Trust for their generous support of the Play Park.



FOYLE FOUNDATION

