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|  |  | In partnership with: |



LAUNCH Academy

Application Pack 2018

#makeyourownfuture

About 20 Stories High

20 Stories High make theatre with young people from excluded communities, emerging & world-class artists to tell stories that are…

**gritty, jumping, melodic, rebellious,**

**contemporary, mashed-up, authentic, original,**

**visual, challenging, lyrical, tender**

**anarchic, diverse, surprising, booming,**

**political, funny, collaborative and heart-felt.**

We bring young people into theatre venues and go out into their communities.

We hail from Liverpool, but our reach is national and international.

We believe everybody’s got a story to tell...and their own way of telling it...

Founded in 2006, 20 Stories High has established itself as one of the leading young people’s theatre companies nationally, and has won a series of prestigious awards and commissions. Toxteth-based 20 Stories High tours to theatres, schools venues and community spaces and runs a range of participatory projects.

20 Stories High is a National Portfolio organisation, funded and supported by Arts Council England and Liverpool City Council.

About Unity

Unity Theatre gives audiences and participants opportunities to engage with live performances that excite, entertain and inspire. Our theatre spaces are intimate, allowing visitors to experience the exhilaration of live performance, up close.

We’ve been behaving radically onstage since the 1930’s and to this day, our theatre serves as a counterpoint to the mainstream, championing equality for diverse audiences and artists.

We develop theatre-makers at every stage of their careers and make work which sets trends, breaks boundaries, and champions the community.

Unity Theatre is a National Portfolio organisation, funded and supported by Arts Council England and Liverpool City Council.

About LAUNCH

20 Stories High, in partnership with the Unity Theatre, introduce LAUNCH - a brand new professional development programme for emerging theatre makers in Merseyside.

Funded by Arts Council England, its main mission is to equip emerging artists, theatre-makers and brand new companies with the right tools to enable them to launch a career in the arts.

What is LAUNCH Academy?

LAUNCH is designed to enable, equip and empower.

It is a free, 6-month programme of workshops for 8 participants starting this September. It will cover everything from finance and marketing to developing and producing your own project (*see programme for the first three months below).*

It will also have a wide range of artist led workshops, networking and mentoring opportunities, as well as training budgets and access to free creative space.

In 2019, Academy participants will then be able to apply for other LAUNCH opportunities…

LAUNCH Projects

Participants in the Academy will be invited to submit their project ideas to be commissioned. The successful applicants will then get a chance to see their project realised.

LAUNCH Trainees

Emerging professionals will be able to sharpen their skills by applying for paid trainee roles in areas such as directing, producing or designing.

What do Participants Receive?

Each member will have the opportunity to:

* Develop your practice.
* Work with industry professionals and artists to develop your artistic/entrepreneurial skills.
* Expand your networks locally, regionally and nationally.
* Develop and share a project idea with key members of the arts sector.
* Gain knowledge and confidence about how to work within the arts sector .

Programme offers:

* A minimum of 20 skills workshops.
* Opportunities to meet industry professionals from Liverpool and beyond.
* Artistic and professional mentoring.
* An individual training budget of £200.
* Travel expenses for activities outside of Merseyside.
* The opportunity to share a piece of work at the LAUNCH showcase event in March 2019.
* Financial assistance with daily travel and childcare costs where appropriate.

Who is it For?

The programme is for people who are serious about making a career in the arts and are ready to take the next step, but may have previously faced some barriers to doing so. It is for people from backgrounds under-represented in the arts workforce.

For example:

* People of colour.
* People with barriers to accessing education or training.
* People who have faced financial challenges.
* People who have experienced mental or physical health challenges.
* People with physical and/or learning disabilities.
* People with extra responsibilities at home (e.g. primary caregiver for a relative or responsible for the care of children).

Schedule

Launch workshops will take place on Wednesday evenings 6-9pm, usually at a venue Liverpool city centre. **Participants will be required to attend all sessions.**

There will also be individual one-to-one sessions, and training opportunities, which we can diary with individual participants.

The schedule from September and December is pretty much confirmed, although we will add some additional optional activities and theatre trips too. The programme for January-March will be curated in collaboration with LAUNCH participants.

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| **Date** | **Session** |
| 12th September | Introductory session |
| 21st September | 20 Stories High BLACK Production and Platform event |
| 26th September | LAUNCH social (getting to know your peers) |
| 3rd October | Defining core values as an artist and planning my creative career |
| 10th October | Research visit (outside of Liverpool) |
| 17th October | Business Basics – thriving as an artist and managing my finances |
| 24th October | Research visit (outside of Liverpool) |
| 31st October | Creative Portfolio – developing my creative portfolio |
| 7th November | Communication & Marketing |
| 14th November | Networking & Navigation |
| 21st November | Project Management |
| 28th November | Finance & Fundraising |
| 5th December | Policies & Procedures |
| 12th December | Recap & forward planning session |

How to Apply

There are three ways in which you can apply:

* Complete this application form either in writing or digitally.
* Audio record or film your answers and send and unedited version to (this must be no longer than 15 minutes).
* Book a slot with a member of the 20 Stories High team to answer each question in person.

Completed forms, hard copies of recordings can be posted to:

20 Stories High

Toxteth TV

37-45 Windsor St

Liverpool

L8 1XE

Or completed forms, audio or film recordings, or requests for a one-to-one interview can be emailed to:

siofra@20storieshigh.org.uk

The application deadline is **Friday 29 June.**

The interview day will be held on Wednesday 18 July. This day will consist of an interview and a group exercise.

For more information about the Academy and the application process please contact Leanne or Guy at 20 Stories High on 0151 708 9728.

*Remember to fill out the Equal Opportunities Form at the end of this pack and send with your application – this will be separated and made anonymous as soon as we receive it.*

LAUNCH Academy 2018

APPLICATION FORM

1. General information

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| **Surname:** |
| **First name:** |
| **Address:** |
| **Telephone:** |
| **Telephone (mobile):** |
| **Email:** |
| **What is your preferred means of communication? (please delete)**  **Telephone (day/evening/mobile)**  **Email** |
| **Date of Birth:** |

2. Education

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| **Please let us know the name of the last educational establishment (school/college/University) you attended:** |

3. About You

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| **3a. Tell us about your artistic interests and your background in theatre-making. Please do add any links to work.** |

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| **3b. Tell us why you want to participate in LAUNCH? And what would you hope to gain from it?** |

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| **3c. Do you have a particular project you are ready to make happen? And what support do you need in order to realise this idea?** |

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| **3d. Launch Academy is designed for people who may have previously faced barriers to developing a career in the arts e.g. extra responsibilities at home, financial challenges, disability or mental health issues, or barriers in education, training or work.**  **Please feel free to tell us anything about yourself you feel might be relevant.** |

We look forward to receiving your application!

Don’t forget to complete the Equal Opportunities Form on page 11. This will be detached from your application and made anonymous as soon as we receive it.

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Equal Opportunities Monitoring Form

20 Stories High believes in Equal Opportunities for all our staff, volunteers and participants. We also have a requirement to collect this information for our funders and partners.

*All information will remain confidential and if you prefer not to answer any of the questions, please leave it blank.*

**1. Gender**

\_\_ Male \_\_ Female \_\_ I would prefer not to say

\_\_ I prefer to describe my gender as *\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*

**2. Do you identify as transgender?**

\_\_ Yes \_\_ No \_\_ I would prefer not to say

**3. What age group do you belong to?**

\_\_ 11 - 15 \_\_ 16 - 18 \_\_ 19 - 25 \_\_ 26 – 35 \_\_ 36 – 45 \_\_ 46 – 55

\_\_ 56 - 65 \_\_ Over 65 \_\_ I would prefer not to say

**4. How would you describe your ethnic origin?**

\_ Asian or Asian British \_\_ Black or Black British \_\_ Chinese or Chinese British

\_\_ Mixed or Dual Heritage \_\_ White \_\_ I would prefer not to say

\_\_ I prefer to describe my ethnicity as \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**5. Do you consider that you have a disability?**

\_\_ Yes \_\_ No \_\_ I would prefer not to say

The Equalities Act defines a disabled person as someone who has a physical or mental impairment that has a substantial and long term adverse effect on their ability to perform normal day to day activities. It also covers people who have been diagnosed with HIV, cancer or multiple sclerosis ('substantial' means more than minor or trivial, 'long-term' means that the effect of the impairment has lasted or is likely to last for at least twelve months, 'normal day-to-day activities' include everyday things like eating, washing, walking and going shopping)

**6. How would you describe your sexuality?**

\_\_ Bi-sexual \_ Gay man \_\_ I would prefer not to say

\_\_ Gay woman \_\_ Heterosexual (Straight)

\_\_ I prefer to describe my sexuality as \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_