

Are you a theatre maker or company with an idea for a new piece of drama/ theatre you want to develop and tour to rural and community venues?

Background

Create Tour Connect (CTC) is a new innovative partnership project commissioning, developing and touring theatre and drama across the rural touring network in England. CTC supports the regional creation and touring of new work and connects this with a network of partners dedicated to small-scale touring.

CTC is a unique collaboration of over 18 partner organisations from the rural touring network, with four regional hubs (consortia) covering the North, Midlands, South West and South East. They represent a diverse range of small-scale community spaces including village and community halls, libraries, pubs, and other locally led venues. Each regional hub will offer a commissioned opportunity for new contemporary theatre and drama pieces for national touring.

CTC is led by South East based arts charity Applause Rural Touring and supported by Arts Council England.

The commission for the South West will be led by regional consortia lead Artsreach, based in Dorset.

Commission opportunity

- Proposal for a new piece of theatre relevant to contemporary rural adult audiences (3 hander + 1 tech).
- Fully funded (minimum) 36 date tour across the Network (Sept-Dec 2026)
- The company or artist must be based in the South West region of England as defined by Arts Council regions. (Commissions for artists based in the South East will be announced later).
- The company or artist must demonstrate understanding of or experience in touring to community spaces
- Availability to develop a new show and tour across the network in Autumn 2026

Budget:

Development: £30,000 (inclusive) for the creation and production of a tour ready 3 hander theatre show.



Associated Touring: The company will tour in autumn 2026 fulfilling a national tour of a minimum of 36 dates over a 9-week period organised by the regional touring partners.

Touring fees: £54,900 (inclusive) to cover all costs for four people on tour (3 + 1 tech) to deliver a 9-week national tour. Touring fees will be paid in part by the project and by the regional partners on completion of tour dates.

Additional funds will be available to support marketing and promotion and community engagement.

All fees stated are inclusive of VAT

Timescale:

- Development period (tbc during 2026)
- Touring – 36 dates (minimum) from Sept-Dec 2026

Application process

Deadline: **29 August 12 noon**

Shortlisted interviewees informed: w/c **15 September 2025**

Interviews (online): w/c **22 September 2025**

Decision: **early October 2025**

Draft publicity assets for tour menus: **March 2026**

The successful artist/company will be selected by a panel of representatives from the commissioning organisations. A shortlist will be selected from the received applications who will be invited for an informal online chat to discuss your proposal further before a final decision is made.

How to apply

Applications will be via the [Eventotron](#) online platform.

If you are already registered with **Eventotron** you can apply to **Create Tour Connect – South West**. Otherwise, you will need to [register](#) first and then apply to the season above.





Create Tour Connect – South West Commission

We are committed to equality of opportunity and welcome applications from individuals or companies, regardless of age, gender, ethnicity, disability, sexuality, social background, religion and/or belief.

We want to hear about

- you/your company and the work you do
- your proposal and your experience or understanding of rural and community touring
- your budget and touring fees
- your approach to sustainability

If you feel more comfortable applying by video or voice recording, please contact Applause – **office@applause.org.uk** for further information.

If you have any questions about this commission, call out and want to discuss your application before applying, please get in touch by emailing Kerry Bartlett kerry@artsreach.co.uk



Cultivating creativity
Connecting communities

