

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 17 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.

Community touring is facing an increasing lack of suitable performance work, particularly 2-4 hander drama and theatre which is relevant to contemporary rural audiences. This is evidenced by the current touring offers available nationally and is caused by a multitude of factors including the pause in production during pandemic, high costs associated with making and touring currently and the lack of available funds to underpin them.

CTC addresses this by developing a nationwide network of localised commissioning consortia that will work together to source and develop new, relevant, multi-hand touring products and strategically maximise its reach and impact through a joined-up approach.

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

FAQs for applicants

WHAT TYPE OF DRAMA/THEATRE ARE WE LOOKING FOR?

We are looking for:

- scripted or devised new writing, that could include physical theatre, but it should not be predominantly a circus or dance show.
- work that resonates with rural and community audiences nationally – this does not mean we are just looking for work which reflects specific rural issues.

We are **not** looking for theatre aimed at children and young people or work that has previously toured.

WHO CAN APPLY?

We are looking for:

- artists or companies based in the South West region (Arts Council England definition).
- artists or companies with a track record in creating and touring theatre
- artist or companies who can demonstrate understanding of or experience in touring to community spaces

LENGTH OF SHOW

We are looking for work that is a minimum of 75 minutes.

Often rural venues are looking for a ‘full night’ of entertainment – by that they mean a show with an interval and two halves. We are open to different approaches to duration, but we are mindful that our audiences and venues have expectations of what a night out in their venues entails.

TOURING

Touring dates will be organised by the consortia leads. We will be placing work in a variety of rural, library and community settings including venues that can provide very little technical or other support. We need you to be technically self-sufficient (including PA/lighting/set etc.) and to have excellent communication skills. Many of these hosts are volunteers and have no specialist theatre knowledge – you will need to be flexible, understanding and informative. We will also require you to support the marketing of events by creating material for social media and general PR – we can supply further information and support on what marketing assets are essential for touring schemes and venues.

TRANSPORT

It is essential that you have the means to tour rural and isolated communities. Many of our venues are not near to regular train, bus or taxi services.

ADDITIONAL SUPPORT There may be additional opportunities for in-kind support from the consortia lead during the development of the show (rehearsal space/venue support for scratch performances). This will be discussed with the successful company.



Create Tour Connect – South West Commission

FEES

All fees have been calculated using industry standards and will need to be reflected in budgets and company contracts. Please use the Artist budget template available online and upload to Eventotron in support of your application. All info is available to download from Artsreach <https://artsreach.co.uk/projects/create-tour-connect>

