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# THEATRE COMMISSIONS OPPORTUNITY

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With Waterside & Creative Industries Trafford

*Application deadline: 14 May 2018*

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with Waterside & Creative Industries  
Trafford

Waterside, a vibrant arts venue in Sale and Creative Industries Trafford (CIT) have joined forces to launch a new round of theatre commissions: an opportunity to support an artist/company, culminating in the development and performance of a new piece of work.

Waterside and CIT can offer something really special to artists; easy access to resources, close working relationships with the small team and a concentrated focus on the artist. We provide a space in which both artists & their projects can breathe, develop and grow.

We are excited to hear from creatives and companies based in, or working in the North and look forward to building a long term relationship with the supported artists.

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## HEADLINES

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The successful company or artist will receive:

- A £2,000 commissioning fee to support the production, towards production costs and script/dramaturgical development.
- Support from the Theatre Commissions Coordinator as well as the CIT & Waterside teams.
- A minimum three day-run to stage the new production at Waterside in The Chambers, in November 2018 (on a box office split).
- A bespoke mentoring and support package tailored to the artist/companies' needs.

- Fundraising support to help secure match funding.
- Rehearsal space and time.
- Dedicated marketing support (PR, digital & print).
- Technical guidance and support.
- Support in the development of a tour pack.

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## MORE ABOUT US

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Waterside is a vibrant destination for performance, culture and events, housing two dedicated theatre spaces, galleries, workshops and studios. The venue welcomes over 100,000 visitors per year and delivers a thriving programme of activity and participatory events.

Creative Industries Trafford is dedicated to supporting visual artists, writers, theatre-makers, animators and designers through talks, workshops, surgeries and mentoring as well as performance, publication and exhibition opportunities.

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## WHO WE'VE WORKED WITH

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Starting in 2013, our commission opportunities have been highly successful and have provided vital support for companies such as Mighty Heart, Thick Richard, Four Shadows Theatre and Square Peg Theatre.

We are extremely proud of our previous commissionees. After receiving their award, our commissionees' achievements have included; touring work nationally, producing Edinburgh Festival campaigns and received further support & residencies from venues including Dep Arts, Harrogate Theatre & York Theatre Royal. Square Peg Theatre became 'Developed With' artists at The Lowry and Mighty Heart Theatre are currently an associate company at HOME, Manchester.

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## WHAT WE'RE LOOKING FOR

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We are looking for an artist or company who are ambitious in both the work they create and their future growth. As with our last commissions, we do not have prescribed criteria in terms of style, substance, or form other than this has to be new work. However, we are particularly interested in supporting work that may not be regularly seen in the region and is risk-taking and innovative in its nature.

Your proposed piece must be able to be performed in our Chambers studio space; cannot be a restaging of a published text and can be no longer than one hour in length. The commission will be performed at Waterside in late November 2018.

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## HOW TO APPLY

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We want to make the application process straightforward, but there are a few things we need to assess this and want to hear about you and the production you want us to support.

**Contact details** including a telephone number, an e-mail address & social media links e.g. Twitter handles/ facebook pages. If applying as a company, please specify a main contact person.

**A project outline** (max 2 sides of A4) including:

- (1) Description of your proposed project that contextualises the show you will develop.
- (2) Rationale for why this project needs to be created now and why this opportunity is right for you.

(3) Description of what mentoring or support you want to receive and why is this important for your artistic development.

(4) Your target audience.

(5) An outline of what you think makes your production unique or original.

**A bit more about yourself** (1 side of A4 max) including:

(1) Ambitions for yourself as an artist/ company.

(2) short biography of you/your company's work and background.

(3) Links to websites, video, photos etc.

(4) A list of any key creative team/ cast that are part of this project if any are already in place.

We also ask you to fill out the **equal opportunities form**, for ease this can be completed online and you'll find the link at [watersidearts.org/commissions](http://watersidearts.org/commissions)

*Please note the equal opportunities form will in no way be linked to your application and therefore won't have any bearing on the outcome of your proposal. This just allows us to monitor and assess our reach to artists and companies we engage with in opportunities such as our commissions.*

Additionally, you may also include **a piece of supporting information**. This could be from an advocate who champions you and your work, perhaps a great review you've received from a past production, some feedback from an audience member, an artist you've worked with or maybe a venue, or a someone from the cultural sector that has supported you.

*Please note this is not mandatory.*

*NOTE: If you are applying with a script please provide a synopsis and either one sample scene or a five-page extract which you feel demonstrates a flavour of your writing. If shortlisted we will ask you to provide a full copy of the script.*

Applications should be submitted via email no later than **17:00 on Monday 14th May 2018**, anyone applications received after this time will unfortunately not be accepted.

Send your submission to:-

**Ross Carey**  
Theatre Commissions Coordinator  
Email: [commissions@watersidearts.org](mailto:commissions@watersidearts.org)

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## WHAT HAPPENS NEXT

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We will aim to let all applicants (shortlisted and unsuccessful) know by Friday 18th May 2018.

If your submission is shortlisted, you will be invited for an informal interview with our panel (details will be released shortly) to see the space and talk about your ambitions and proposal. These will take place on Friday 25th May 2018.

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## COMMISSIONS CAFÉ

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If you need any support or guidance, or just want to chat over a few things, you can either email your questions to [commissions@watersidearts.org](mailto:commissions@watersidearts.org) or if you prefer face-to-face, Ross will be available on **Thursday 10th May** between **10:00 and 18:00** for one-to-one sessions. There'll be tea and biscuits and an opportunity to ask any questions you may have, either about the opportunity and support or about the application process.

This isn't mandatory, but if you'd like to book in a 30 minute slot, email Ross with your preferred session (ie 14:00-14:30). The sessions are for guidance only and will not affect the outcome of your submission.

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## CONTACT INFO

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We can't wait to hear from you and look forward to hearing about your project!

In the meantime, if you have any questions or queries please contact:

**Ross Carey**  
Theatre Commissions Coordinator  
email: [commissions@watersidearts.org](mailto:commissions@watersidearts.org)