

SUMMERHALL



BIRDS OF PARADISE
THEATRE COMPANY

Mary Dick Award Fringe 2024 Summerhall and Birds of Paradise

Introduction

The Mary Dick Award aims to support UK based D/deaf, disabled and/ or neurodivergent artists who are already producing work for Edinburgh Festival Fringe 2024. This award is a partnership between Summerhall and Birds of Paradise.

Birds of Paradise

Birds of Paradise is the only professional, disability-led theatre company in Scotland. The company exists to:

- Make world-class, innovative and accessible work that embeds Creative Access and is made by disabled and non-disabled artists, writers and theatre-makers drawn from diverse cultures to reach a wide demographic nationally and internationally.
- Play a key strategic role in Scotland's theatre ecology and wider arts industry by supporting the sector to nurture the next generation of disabled artists, performers and audiences through addressing barriers to opportunities and involving disabled people in these processes.

Birds of Paradise has many years' experience of success at the Fringe and International Festivals, having won Herald Angels, Fringe Firsts and many other awards, as well as generating extensive onward touring opportunities. They will offer mentoring to the successful applicant, passing on their experience and helping you to make the best of your Fringe run.

Summerhall

“Summerhall has effectively rewired the Fringe.” The Stage

Summerhall is a year round venue presenting work from a wide range of artistic disciplines, including theatre, literature, visual art, music and film. The focus is on high-quality, engaged, experimental work; work that has something to say about the world and is saying it in an interesting way. Our Fringe programme presents a mix of work from international, British and Scottish artists. Summerhall has built a loyal audience who are willing to try work in our programmes that is new to them, and is popular with programmers looking for work for onward touring. It has won multiple awards in its ten years as a festival and year-round venue, most recently Outstanding Venue at The Herald Scottish Culture Awards 2019.

Who was Mary Dick anyway?

Summerhall's building was previously The Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies. Although it was named after William Dick, he set up and ran the college with his sister Mary. She kept an eagle eye on the finances and the students and remained associated with the Dick Vet until her death at the age of 92. Being female, she doesn't get the credit she deserves, and we thought it would be nice to celebrate her.

Callout

We are looking for applications that meet the following criteria:

- Projects of high quality, engaged, contemporary performance (including theatre, dance, spoken word or live art)
- Projects created by artists who identify as D/deaf, disabled and/ or neurodivergent, basing their practice in the UK
- Projects that are already in the process of being produced for a run at Edinburgh Festival Fringe 2024. This award is **not suitable** for projects which have no other sources of funding

- Projects from artists who are in the early stages of their career. By “early stages” we mean artists who have a track record of making work, but may not be considered to have “broken through” - we appreciate identifying what stage a career is at depends on many different variables. As such we are not setting any specific criteria with which to measure this (such as age) - but please be aware it will be a consideration for the decision panel.

Two examples:

- If you have had multiple runs of past shows at different venues or festivals, you will not be selected.
- If you have had a run of a past show undertake a small tour, then you will be considered for selection.

What do we mean by disabled?

BOP uses the term ‘disabled people’ or ‘disabled artists’ to refer to anyone who self-identifies as disabled. This can include D/deaf people if they identify as disabled as well as others living with impairments (physical, sensory, learning, cognitive, mental health, etc) that identify as disabled. BOP uses the Social Model of Disability and recognises that some people experience disabling barriers.

Some D/deaf people may not identify as disabled. BOP recognise that three predominant terms are used with regards to deafness - ‘Deaf’, ‘deaf’ and ‘D/deaf’. To be deaf (small d) means you have a hearing loss but you do not identify as part of the Deaf Community. Generally deaf people use oral communication. They may have some knowledge of SSE (sign supported English) but this does not make them culturally deaf.

Deaf - with a capital “D” - is used to refer to people who are culturally Deaf. These people actively use British Sign Language or Scottish Sign Language; they see themselves as being culturally Deaf and part of the Deaf community.

D/deaf is used to refer to both groups of people and on occasion we will use this distinctly from disabled. However, in most of our work when we use the term disabled we are also thinking about D/deaf people.

Non-disabled is the antonym of disabled and as such BOP never uses 'able-bodied', which is a term that ignores the fact that many disabled people face barriers that do not relate to their bodies. (source: [BBC Ouch](#))

What if some of our team identify as disabled and others do not?

We are looking to support companies or groups of artists which are disabled-led. By this we mean that a majority of the team who are creating and/or presenting the work identifies as D/deaf, disabled and/ or neurodivergent.

Decisions

We will pick the award winner based on the criteria above but we will also consider how well your show fits with Summerhall's artistic policy and Summerhall's Fringe programme as a whole, and the practicality of producing the show in a Fringe context. The decision panel will include Robert Softley-Gale (Artistic Director) and Mairi Taylor (Executive Director) from Birds of Paradise and Tom Forster (Fringe Producer) from Summerhall.

Award

- The successful artist or company will receive a £4,000 cash award
- Summerhall will offer a straight box office split (typically 70% to the company, 30%+VAT to the venue - but this depends somewhat on the form of the work) with no minimum amount payable to the venue.
- Summerhall will cover the Fringe registration fee
- Summerhall will offer some in-kind technical and marketing support, but the successful applicant will need to invest in both of those areas
- Summerhall can offer up to a weeks worth of in-kind rehearsal space in Edinburgh
- Birds of Paradise will offer the successful individual/ company three mentoring sessions. These sessions can be held pre-fringe, during fringe or post-fringe - or split across these periods. The content of the mentoring sessions will be guided by you, but we will ask for some details of what you wish to discuss prior to each session, so we can ensure the most suitable member of the BOP team is working with you.

- The successful application will commit to making at least one performance of their run accessible through providing a minimum of at least one access type: Audio Description; British Sign Language interpretation; Captioning; Relaxed environment. BOP can provide advice and support around this if required.

Information and How to Apply

Please go to the Summerhall webpage where you will find the Summerhall Fringe 2024 Information Pack in PDF and Word.

The information pack includes details of the venue spaces at Summerhall, including access information.

Please read it carefully and then submit a proposal via the [Mary Dick Award page on the Summerhall Website](#), answering the additional questions relating to the Mary Dick Award.. The questions are listed on the following page so that you can prepare your proposal offline.

If you need to apply in a different way because of access requirements, please email programme@summerhall.co.uk letting us know how you would like to submit your application.

Timescale

Deadline for applications 10am Friday 26th January 2024 with shortlisting commencing that week. We inform successful applicants no later than Friday 9th February 2024.

Any questions?

For more information about taking part in the Edinburgh Festival Fringe please see <https://www.edfringe.com/participants>

If you have any questions about Summerhall or would like to arrange a site visit please contact Tom Forster on programme@summerhall.co.uk

MARY DICK AWARD 2024 - QUESTIONS

Company Name

Show Title

Primary Contact Name

Email

Phone Number

Address

Please give a brief description of your previous work

Please give a brief description of the show you are proposing

In what ways does your identity as a disabled artist influence your creative practice?

Supporting Material

Please include or attach any material that will help us to get a sense of your show. Links to streaming video documentation of the show in performance, however simply shot, is particularly useful. We would much prefer that to a trailer. Please send a link to an online video (on YouTube or Vimeo) not video footage!

Website (URL)

Video (URL)

Links to any reviews of this or previous work

Why are you interested in doing a Fringe show? What do you aim to achieve?

How would being part of Summerhall's 2024 Fringe programme, benefit you as an artist/company?

How do you plan to make your Fringe performances as accessible as possible to different audiences? For example you may want to include BSL interpretation, captioning, audio description and relaxed performances for some/all of your run.

Please tell us how you plan to manage and deliver your Fringe run: including any preparatory work you've done, any risks you've identified and any previous relevant experience of the Edinburgh Fringe or similar contexts?

Please also attach a budget that covers the entire Fringe run of your show, including how you will spend the £4000 cash award.