



# Programming Information for Artists

**BAC's mission is 'to invent the future of theatre'**

## **What we do**

We are interested in theatre that pushes at the boundaries of what the art form can be, that questions what you can say and do in performance and how you can say and do those things. We are excited by theatre that combines a radical *and* a careful approach to the audience experience. We like theatre that knows its audience and how to communicate with it, but we are also looking for artists who want to reach out to new audiences. We are interested in theatre that looks and feels new and different and that explores possible cross-over with other art forms. We believe in the importance of all the elements that make up theatre – design, performance, sound etc. Although we are very excited by how text might figure in performance, we do not believe that the playwright is automatically the most important artist in the theatre. Most of the work at BAC is devised – it does not start life as a script.

Above all we are looking for theatre that moves us, makes us think in new ways about the world we live in, that challenges orthodoxies and that offers us a fresh, exciting experience.

We use a process called **Scratch** to create new theatre.

BAC created Scratch ten years ago. Scratch is about testing ideas. As well as being a process, it is also a way of thinking that embraces experiment and learning. In a theatre context Scratch means artists sharing work at various different stages of its development with an audience. Audiences then help enrich the work through their immediate response, through their feedback, and sometimes through getting involved and creating the work themselves.

## **The Programming Framework**

### **Residencies**

For up to 5 artists or companies at any one time, residencies at BAC can last anything from 1 day to 4 months, giving artists a dedicated producer, space and time to develop ideas

### **Scratch Nights**

Instead of running a series of festivals, BAC is looking to show scratch work throughout the year, in a new model that runs Thursday – Saturday, with a lively bar at its hub. Residency artists will be encouraged to scratch work they are developing, in either a scheduled or an unscheduled way.

Each month there will be one further developed piece which runs over a number of weekends, and occasionally, we will programme earlier more finished work made by the artists in residence.

## **Freshly Scratched**

This is where artists who have never had their work programmed at BAC get to try out the scratch process, presenting no more than 10 minutes of material at a very early stage of its development. Freshly scratched opportunities will be programmed over weekends throughout the year, rather than in a festival model.

## **BAC Homegrown**

An integral part of what we do, Homegrown is a creative programme for 12 – 25 year olds. Thursday nights are focused on work by, for and about young people, and all groups will perform here as part of our programme.

Some artists are specifically invited for residencies at BAC to develop work through our schools programme, at local schools with an age range of 7-11yrs

## **How to start a conversation with us**

### **Invite us to see your work**

We rarely programme, or invite an artist to take up a residency, on the strength of a proposal alone, even if it comes with a DVD or other materials. We do not read unsolicited scripts. We like to see artists' work live and develop a relationship with them over a period of time. Typically we might see a show by a company outside of BAC and then start a conversation. So, do what you can to inform us about your work and invite us to see performances if opportunities arise.

Your key contact for invitations is the Assistant to the Artistic Directors, **Thea Jones** at [theaj@bac.org.uk](mailto:theaj@bac.org.uk).

If you are not performing or workshopping, and would like to start a conversation with us, please **register your interest in freshly scratched opportunities.**

Send us an email to the following address [scratch@bac.org.uk](mailto:scratch@bac.org.uk) and let us know:

1. About your company and/or work;
2. Whether you have a specific project that you would like to develop, and if so, a little bit about it (no more than 500 words)
3. Why you feel BAC is the right place for you

We will get in touch with you as and when opportunities arise. And in the meantime, please continue to invite us to see your work.

## **BAC Homegrown**

If you are a practitioner who would like to develop work with young people specifically, please register your interest as above, and invite us to see your work. If you would like more information please contact **Bethany Haynes**, Junior Producer at [bethanyh@bac.org.uk](mailto:bethanyh@bac.org.uk).

## **Comedy**

We continue to programme festivals of comedy at BAC. If you are interested in taking part, please invite us to see your work (again, your contact is Thea Jones, Assistant to the Artistic Directors at [theaj@bac.org.uk](mailto:theaj@bac.org.uk)), and register your interest in an email to [scratch@bac.org.uk](mailto:scratch@bac.org.uk), putting 'Comedy' in the subject line.

## **Café Music Gigs**

We occasionally have opportunities for new bands/musicians to perform. We are interested in bands that have a performative / theatrical aspect to what they do. We rarely do open mic sessions, or stand alone gigs at BAC. Any live music is usually programmed because it in some way complements the theatre work that is happening in the building. If you would like to register your interest please send an email to [scratch@bac.org.uk](mailto:scratch@bac.org.uk), putting 'Gigs' in the subject line.

## **Rentals**

We do not hire out our theatre spaces to amateur or professional theatre companies for public performances of work that has not, in some way, been developed through BAC. However, at certain times of the year we do hire out our theatre spaces to drama schools, universities and further education colleges for showcase events. For more information please contact **Amy Sibley-Allen**, Events Coordinator at [amys@bac.org.uk](mailto:amys@bac.org.uk)

We also hire out our spaces for rehearsals and for filming. For details of all our available spaces please visit [www.bac.org.uk](http://www.bac.org.uk), and for more information and availability please e-mail [venues@bac.org.uk](mailto:venues@bac.org.uk).

## **Scripts**

We do not accept unsolicited scripts or treatments for plays, as most of the work we develop at BAC is devised.

## **New Opera and Music Theatre**

Although in the past opera and experimental music theatre played a big part in BAC's programme, we do not currently focus on developing seasons of this sort of work.

## **Visual Artists**

We do not rent our spaces for visual art exhibitions, unless the work has been developed with BAC and in connection with a particular strand of theatre work.