



Spot On Lancashire: Thompson Park Outdoor Commission 2020

Information for companies applying to be part of the Spot On Lancashire Outdoor Commission for Thompson Park in 2020.

Background

Spot On Lancashire is a rural & library touring network. The network is funded by the Arts Council and Lancashire County Council along with four local authorities. In total the network enables over 80 communities and venues across the county to curate and host professional touring arts.

In early 2019, Spot On submitted a bid to ACE for a project entitled 'Commissioning New Lancashire' - the successful bid sees a series of commissions (outdoor and digital) enabling Spot On to work with partners across Lancashire to create new work in 2019/2020. Commissioning and hosting outdoor work is a new endeavour for Spot On.

This commission is one of two outdoor commissions in Lancashire for 2020. The Thompson Park Outdoor Commission is managed by Spot On in partnership with Burnley Leisure. The commissioning group is made up of Spot On staff, members of the Burnley Community Promoters Group and representatives from Burnley Leisure.

Project Aims

We seek to commission a professional company/artist to create and perform a new piece of outdoor performance work in July 2020. Premiering at Thompson Park Burnley, this work will then tour to a minimum of two other outdoor settings/events/festivals in Lancashire. It is hoped that this work will be something which can tour beyond Lancashire, crediting Spot On, Burnley Leisure & Burnley Community Promoters as commissioning partners.

Brief

Spot On Lancashire are commissioning a new outdoor performance at Thompson Park in Burnley with a view to the show touring to other existing, locally organised events and/or community settings in Lancashire during the summer of 2020. These events will take place almost exclusively at weekends from July to September. The £10,000 commission includes the fee for the premiere performance in Burnley and guarantees two additional shows with a fee of up to £650 for each performance arranged by Spot On elsewhere in Lancashire.

This brief will involve the successful artist working with the Burnley Community Promoters Commissioning group. They have identified the following criteria for selection:

- We are looking to commission a company / artist with an established interest and understanding of working outdoors who would like to be part of this project

- We are looking for work that entertains and engages a diverse audience - something which might appeal (and be suitable) to both adults and families
- We are looking for work that is self-sufficient (i.e. not requiring technical or other support / involvement by the host organisation)
- We are open to applications for work from all disciplines and genres, including walkabout, circus, digital, street theatre and dance
- Whilst the performance will premiere at Thompson Park it is then intended to be toured to other locations so it cannot be site-specific
- We are open to applications with any length of performance - ie. this could be a stand alone performance, a durational piece or could be something which sits within a range of event activities. (The commissioning group are happy to work with the selected artist to embed the chosen commission into an event or to host it as a performance in it's own right for the purposes of the premiere, but this performance needs to be flexible enough to transfer to other venues / events. If you were to choose to create a short piece which occurs within a festival type activity you would be expected to perform this up to three times in a day.)
- The group have expressed an interest in work which encourages audiences and families to explore their local area and outdoor spaces more.
- They would be particularly interested in work which would move audiences around the park, however, the piece can not be too site specific as it will need to tour to other outdoor venues.
- Based on the aims and interests of the group they have identified 'adventure on your doorstep' as the central theme of the piece.

Eligibility

- Proposals must include planning, budget and resources for a scratch performance/update for review by the commissioning group and the premiere performance at Thompson Park
- Applicants must be eligible to work in the UK
- Applicants must have the appropriate insurance cover for their proposal
- Artists must be prepared to work within the spirit of collaboration - in a positive and open way allowing space for active sharing and learning throughout the process of developing and touring the work, through regular communication and ongoing evaluation.

Equal Opportunities

- As part of our commitment to the Arts Council's Creative Case for Diversity, the selection panel encourages applications from artists and companies with protected characteristics including artists of colour and/or who identify as LGBTQ and/or disabled that are currently under-represented in Lancashire.
- We are committed to ensuring this opportunity is open and accessible to everyone. If you experience or anticipate any barriers within the application process or require any help to make an application, please contact us.

Budget

£10000 +VAT (inclusive of all costs)

The £10,000 commission fee includes travel, accommodation, show development costs, performer fees, per diems and equipment hire as well as the fee for the premiere performance at Thompson Park. There is a small budget to support marketing/print costs from Spot On in house. There is a guarantee of two additional bookings for the show in Lancashire - a show fee of up to £650 per performance will be additional to the commission monies.

Further performance dates will be booked only on satisfactory development of the piece and an agreed show fee.

Applications

Deadline: 5pm, Monday 2nd December 2019

Please complete the application form and submit a detailed budget identifying how you intend to develop the idea within the timescale outlined. Send application forms by email to Stephie Jessop stephie@culturapedia.co (just .co)

For an informal chat please contact Stephie Jessop: 01254 674777 or stephie@culturapedia.co

Application timeline:

If you have been shortlisted, you will be notified by email by Monday 9th December.

We will acknowledge receipt of your proposal, however, we regret we are unable to provide feedback to non-shortlisted applicants.

Pitching day:

We anticipate that the pitching day will take place on the week beginning Monday 16th December.

Additional Information

Technical Challenges

We will be placing work in a variety of community settings including events that can provide very little technical or other support – the performance must be self sufficient for power and technical equipment.

Site Information

Information about Thompson Park can be found here:

<https://www.burnley.gov.uk/residents/parks-open-spaces/thompson-park>

Programming

Your piece may have to fit around other events in the host event programmes so please consider whether you require the audience to arrive at a certain time and remain for a set amount of time. We aim to offer you three guaranteed performance dates in the Lancashire region and we are exploring additional opportunities further in the North West and via other rural touring schemes. For more information about rural touring visit: <http://www.ruraltouring.org/work/what-is-rural-touring> and <https://ruraltouring.blogspot.com>

Show Fee Guide

Touring Fees must be fully inclusive of all accommodation and travel. We expect to pay within the range of £350 - £650 per show.

Artist / Company Administration

Artist / company administration needs to be very strong. Spot On will be responsible for booking a place and date for your show but the company will then be responsible for making specific arrangements and finalising details with host venues and promoters. Many of these hosts are volunteers and have no specialist theatre knowledge – you will need to be flexible, understanding and informative.

Availability

Your show must be ready and available for touring from the beginning of July 2020. You need to have very good availability for **weekends throughout July to September 2020** and prioritise dates for Spot On within an agreed time frame for shows in Lancashire.

We will expect most of the development work to take place between January 2020 and June 2020. Spot On will require evidence (photos and / or video) of the work undertaken and to see work in progress. Companies will be required to submit regular updates both during development and while on tour. Spot On will provide support and practical advice during the development process.

Application Process

Please fill in an application form including a budget and submit it by **5pm, Monday 2nd December 2019**

Applicants will be shortlisted and invited to pitch.

Activity timescale:

Final timetable to be agreed with partners/artist but performance activity must be completed in July 2020 with evaluation of the project by December 2020. We would expect a site visit /group meeting in February, with a scratch performance or update in April. Additional site visits/meetings are available should the artist request them.

FAQ'S

How much money can I request as a commission?

We will be looking for a project that requires no more than £10,000 to create the work and perform at one event.

What do I need to include in my budget?

Your creation budget includes all costs related to the development, build, design and creation of your piece, including all artists/creative fees, insurance, show materials, and any other costs related to rehearsing your project and attendance at the premiere.

Do I need to include technical costs in my performance fee?

Availability of resources and in-house equipment (staff or crew, power, PA etc) will be minimal. Please give a detailed list of your technical requirements, both those that you will provide, and those you will ideally need the hosts to provide. This includes event steward support during your time on site if you have a set. Ideally, the commission will be self sufficient with regards to power, technical equipment, and technicians.

Can I apply for support to tour an existing outdoor piece?

We cannot support the touring of projects that have already toured.

Can I apply for a commission to redevelop an existing piece?

The commission exists to support the development of new outdoor work, so it would be unlikely that we would offer investment to redevelop an existing piece. You would need to demonstrate that it was substantially different for us to consider this.

Can I apply for a commission to create an installation or a durational piece?

Yes, please explain how many people can experience the piece in the course of one day / session.

I have received some development money from the Arts Council to research my piece; can I still apply for commission funds to create my piece?

Yes, provided your R&D process is clearly separate from your creation process.

If I receive a commission can I still tour to other events that are not part of the network?

Yes, however priority should be given to booking Spot On events within an agreed timeframe. Spot On, Burnley Leisure and Friends of Thompson Park would expect to be credited as commissioning partners.

I already have some commission funds in place; can I still apply for support?

Yes, however you would need to give clear information as to how our commission money offers added value. Please explain which other events have committed support and confirm whether they require you to premiere the piece elsewhere.

I have applied for some funding but I don't know yet whether it is confirmed; can I still apply?

Yes but please be sure to tell us when the outcome of your application will be known. You would need to ensure the event would still happen regardless of the outcome of the other funding application.

We will shortlist and then invite applicants in for a pitching session to discuss ideas further.

Applicants will be given sufficient notice, receive reasonable travel expenses (where appropriate) and we endeavor to meet all access needs if we are made aware that support is required.



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