

## Open Call for artists

Buffer Fringe Performing Arts Festival / Cyprus 2022

Category: **Performative Arts (Performance, Theatre, Dance, Visual, Installation)**

Reach: **Cyprus-based and international**

Application Deadline: **April 24<sup>th</sup>, 2022**

Organiser: **Home for Cooperation<sup>1</sup>**

Festival period: **7, 8, 9 October 2022**

For the 9th year in a row, the Buffer Fringe Performing Arts Festival invites Cyprus-based and international artists from the performing arts and all forms of experimental performance work, which can contain (but are not limited to) theatre, music, dance, acrobatics, installation/visual art and other cross-disciplinary elements. We welcome proposals for participatory, durational, and/or site-specific formats. We welcome new works, works in progress and works that have been previously presented, in Cyprus or abroad.

- **Open Call Duration: 14th of March until 22nd of April 2022**
- Selection Committee: Cyprus-based and international curators
- Results: made public by mid May 2022

## The Festival

Buffer Fringe Performing Arts Festival (BFPAF) showcases new and experimental work by local and international artists, challenges physical and artistic barriers, and creates opportunities for artists to meet and exchange ideas. It creates the environment to question preconceived ideas about the performing arts, the relationship between artists and audience, and shines a new light on the relationship between arts and society. The festival hosts innovative work, artists who practice cutting-edge methodologies, and are open to inter-disciplinary work.

Our 9th edition marks the inauguration of an inclusive model of festival curation, with the participation of three curatorial teams (two individuals and one group). The curatorial team, in collaboration with the Buffer Fringe Hive, a team of *Thinking Partners* acting as organizers and creative consultants, will select the artists and put together a diverse program.

## **A manifesto for the post-pandemic Festival**

The precarity of our times render social and collective responsibility to change, to engage, and to share all the more important, which we feel strongly from our vulnerable place: a buffer zone. In 2022, our vision embraces a cross-cultural/cross-disciplinary/cross-generational approach, and we continue to embrace a decolonizing agenda. We are particularly concerned with the role the arts can play in addressing the fault lines of post conflict societies. We believe that such fault lines can become hubs for activist interventions to deconstruct and decolonise the dominant narratives of Cyprus.

You can access to our full manifesto on our website through the link [HERE](#)

## **The Theme for 2022: Pockets (beyond)**

Buffer Fringe 2022 aims to initiate a discussion on who is visible/invisible and why. **Pockets (beyond)** become a space to start thinking about difference and identity, past and present, inside and outside, inclusion and exclusion. The theme aims to transfer agency back to the marginal, the forgotten, the invisible.

**The Pocket** in question is one of resistance against the inhumanity of the new world and a place where we keep things we need or love: pockets contain and hide things, yet they also keep them close to us. What pockets contain may also be traces and remnants of the past that stay alive in the stitches that keep the pocket together. In that sense, a pocket may look like a blind spot, but blind spots resist the logic of the main frame and go beyond expected ways of seeing.

**Beyond** implies a disturbance of direction, a restless movement. Beyond promises the future and yet acknowledges a sense of disorientation brought by the precarity of our times. The festival asks the artists to respond to the following questions:

- Will there be a place for me to live and to create?
- Can a pocket become an alternative space to live and to create?
- What is beyond our blind spots?
- How can artists puncture dominant notions of culture, race, sexuality, and environmental and human crises?
- How could everyday life and art intersect?
- What power do we have to ask these questions?

***SO, what do we need from your proposal?***

- All forms of experimental performance work are accepted, which can contain (but are not limited to) theatre, music, dance, acrobatics, installation/visual art, and other cross-disciplinary elements.
- We welcome proposals for participatory, durational, and/or site-specific formats.
- For performances in languages other than English, the text must be provided in translation in English by the artists.
- Applicants can be Cyprus based mono communal or multi communal groups, international or mixed.
- Can come from across disciplines, with different experiences, skills, ‘traditional’ structures, and experimental creatives.
- Applicants can work in more ‘traditional’ structures, but we welcome experimentation in terms of the roles of creatives in your process. Solo work is welcome, taking into account the criteria set forth.
- We welcome collaborations between artists that bring in different experiences and skills.
- Applicants should be open to the opportunity of engagement with the BFPAF creative Hive and with the curators, as part of a process of development of the Fringe community on the island and internationally.
- The festival values work that recognizes and/or incorporates its decolonizing agenda, its peacebuilding mission, and its social solidarity aim.
- Must adhere to values of artistic freedom and mutual respect and strive for artistic excellence and the production of meaningful art.

**Support for participating artists:**

- An honorarium of €1,500 for groups / €800 for solo artists
- Support in fundraising
- Promotion of the performance and sharing of the process (if you choose to share updates on your creative process) on the BFPAF blog and social media.
- Rehearsal space
- The opportunity to meet other artists, attend all performances and parallel activities, participate in social and networking events and an opportunity to showcase your work to other international festival directors.

### Parameters / Requirements:

- **Duration** between 30' to 70' minutes (Exceptions are installations, durational, promenade and/or loop performances)
- **Technical Requirements** for your work will be adapted and adjusted to the final venues of the Festival
- **English text/subtitles** must be available for the performance if the language is other than English

### Selection Criteria:

- *Direct relevance* of the work with the theme of the Festival. The description of the proposed work needs to answer at least one or more questions posed in the Open Call. Non-relevant works will not be considered.
- Innovative work will be preferred, but 'traditional' performances will also be considered.
- The use of collaborative creative processes, multimedia, interaction, and others, and the exploration of new ways to expression and communication of the work, will be appreciated in the application.
- Cross-disciplinary and cross-sectorial work will receive extra merit. Involving means of creation of the artistic work and presentation of the work from sectors such as academia, social work, peacebuilding, architecture and spatial design, and others, is welcome.

### Other Terms:

- If you are performing or adapting a work that is under copyright, you must get permission in writing from the author or their literary agent or publisher.
- Given the instability of the past two years due to the Pandemic, the organizers are aware of the precarity of the times. Hence, if there are special conditions you wish to share in relation to this issue, please do so in your application.
- Selected artists must present materials for the Festival's outreach strategy, which the Home for Cooperation can use at their own discretion, unless otherwise agreed.
- Artists are responsible for personal travel insurance and insurance for any injury that may be caused to the members of the audience by you or your set or props.

**ALL application material must be submitted ONLY in English\*, and must contain:**

APPLY [HERE](#)

The application form Includes:

- A description of the work (**max. 300 words**)
- Description of the process and means used to share the development of the work (**max 150 words**)
- Relevance to the Festival Theme (**max. 300 words**)

- A CV of the artist(s) (max. 3 pages) or link to the website or blog of the company/group
- Accompanying materials: YouTube or Vimeo link to video documentation of the work OR video excerpts from the rehearsals OR outlining of the concept of the work-in-progress.
- If languages other than English or Greek or Turkish are used, the documentation must be subtitled OR accompanied by a full script in English.

\*If you need any assistance in Turkish or Greek while filling the form, and for any inquiries, please email us at [bufferfringe@home4cooperation.info](mailto:bufferfringe@home4cooperation.info) or call: +357 22 445 740/ +90 548 834 5740

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<sup>i</sup> Home for Cooperation is a shared cultural space located within the UN buffer zone in Nicosia, Cyprus. Our work is stimulated by our vision of a multicultural society in Cyprus, in which all cultures co-exist without any segregation in any aspect of life. To this end, we are constantly working on creative ways to initiate interaction and communication between the communities of Cyprus in order to weaken the stereotypes and misperceptions about the “other” that results from the existing divide that has been in place since 1974. We believe that art and culture are among the most influential tools for positive change, confidence building and reconciliation. Accessible to all communities in Cyprus regardless of their nationalities, we take pride in the inclusiveness, quality and innovation of our projects.