

Open Call for artists

Buffer Fringe Performing Arts Festival / Cyprus 2023

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

Reach: **Cyprus-based and international**

Organizer: **Home for Cooperation¹**

Festival period: **5, 6, and 7 October 2023**

Open Call Application Deadline: **the 14th of May 2023**

Selection Committee: **Organizing team, Cyprus-based and international curators**

Results: **announced by early June 2023**

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 notions about the performing arts and the relationship between artists and audiences. It shines a new light on the relationship between arts and society. The Festival hosts innovative work and artists who practice cutting-edge methodologies and are open to interdisciplinary work.

Festival Theme 2023 “Turning Point”

Our 10th edition marks a critical landmark regarding the Festival’s presence in the Cypriot art scene, its contribution to the peacebuilding efforts, and of course, the artistic community on the island. A turning point implies an achievement, yet a critical reflection of the commitment moving forward. It reflects on the role of Festivals and arts, more specifically in conflict transformation, acknowledging that Buffer Fringe assumes more responsibility than other Festivals owing to its peacebuilding mission. Artists are invited to creatively respond and artistically showcase what such a turning point might be and in essence, answer the question: what comes next?

As such, it has shaped the following questions:

- What is a turning point for you?
- What is change, and what can it bring?
- How does change resonate with us, what is its impact artistically, personally, and collectively?
- How can we understand the self in an imagined future?
- How can an imagined future tell our story, both private personal and collective and collective story?
- How can we all belong in one common future?

¹ Home for Cooperation is a shared cultural space within the UN buffer zone in Nicosia, Cyprus. Our work is stimulated by our vision of a multicultural society in Cyprus, where all cultures co-exist without 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 to weaken the stereotypes and misperceptions about the "other" that results from the existing divide. Art and culture are among the most effective tools for positive change, confidence building, and reconciliation. Accessible to all communities in Cyprus regardless of their background or citizenship status, we take pride in our projects' inclusiveness, quality, and innovation.

The Festival encourages artists who employ innovative methodologies to reimagine future or futuristic approaches, while utilizing engaging methodologies that challenge conventional artistic and cultural paradigms. The Festival seeks to feature artists who utilize immersive approaches, technologies, and/or community engagement to create meaningful and impactful works. Through the theme of 'Turning Point' the Festival seeks to showcase the embodiment of change through transformative objects, methods and unconventional perspectives.

So, what do we need from your proposal?

- All forms of experimental performance work are accepted, including but not limited to: theatre, music, dance, acrobatics, installation/visual art, and other cross-disciplinary elements.
- We welcome workshop suggestions to accompany performances relevant to the Festival and the performance.
- We welcome participatory, durational, and/or site-specific proposals.
- While we accept performances in all languages (surtitles in English must be made available), we also encourage work that does not exclusively rely on language.
- Applicants can be Cyprus-based or international
- We welcome solo work as well as collaborations
- Applicants should be open to being part of the development process of the Fringe community on the island and internationally.
- The festival values work that recognizes and incorporates its decolonizing agenda, its peacebuilding mission, and social solidarity aims.
- Must adhere to values of artistic freedom and mutual respect and strive for artistic excellence and producing meaningful art.

Support for participating artists:

- An honorarium of €1,200
- Support in fundraising
- Promotion of the performance and sharing of the process (if artist chooses to share updates on your creative process)
- Rehearsal space
- The opportunity to meet other artists, attend performances and parallel activities, participate in social and networking events, and an opportunity to showcase your work to further international festival directors.

Parameters / Requirements:

- **The duration** between 30 and 70 minutes (Exceptions are installations, durational, promenade, and loop performances)
- **Minimal Technical Requirements and works that are adaptable** to unusual venues/stages (work will be adapted and adjusted to the final venues of the Festival)
- Brief outline of standard tech provided can be found [here](#)
- **English text/subtitles** must be available for the performance if language is used

Selection Criteria:

- The direct relevance of the work with the theme of the Festival
- 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 express and communicate the work, will be appreciated in the application.
- Special focus is given to work that challenges the relationship artist/audience and work that reaches across disciplines.

The Festival Days

The Festival's programming offers both local and international artists a platform to showcase their work and is organized in a way that artists can meet and interact both amongst themselves and with the audiences in a true celebratory spirit of multiculturalism and peaceful coexistence.

Day One: 5th of October at the Home for Cooperation will feature participatory installations, immersive art experiences, digital installation art, and visual arts.

Day Two: 6th of October at Common Room (next to Prozak Kafeneio), and **Day Three:** 7th of October at Rustem's Bookstore, featuring performance works nurturing a certain level of intimacy and exploration of what exists at the fringes yet at the same time at the center of the city.

Other Terms:

- If you are performing or adapting a work under copyright, you must provide permission in writing from the author or their literary agent or publisher.
- Given the instability of the past three 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 concerning this issue, please do so in your application.
- Selected artists must present materials for the social outreach strategy, which the Home for Cooperation can use at their 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.

Applications must be in English* and contain:

- A description of the work (max. 300 words)
- Relevance to the Festival Theme 'Turning Point' (max. 300 words)
- A short bio of the artist or group (max 300 words) and/or links to website/ blog of the artist/group
- Accompanying materials: YouTube or Vimeo link to video documentation of the work OR video excerpts from the rehearsals OR outlining of the work-in-progress concept
- A technical rider (note that works must be adaptable to the Festival venues)
- If languages other than English or Greek, or Turkish are used, the documentation must be subtitled OR accompanied by a complete script in English.

APPLY [HERE](#)

*If you need any assistance in Turkish or Greek while filling the form, and for any inquiries, we are happy to help! Please email us at bufferfringe@home4cooperation.info