

Producers' Forum Minutes

Wednesday 28 November 2018

Macrobert Arts Centre, Stirling

2pm-5pm

Attendees:

Carla Almeida (Dundee Rep); Katja Armknecht (Red Note Ensemble); Steph Connell (Tron Theatre); Alex Fthenakis (Rootstock Arts); Chris Grady; Sarah Gray; Chantal Guevara (Independent Dance Managers Network (IDMN)); Rosemary James-Beith; Robyn Jancovich-Brown (Edinburgh Festival Fringe); Sara Kemal (Macrobert Arts Centre); Rocio Leza (Red Note Ensemble); Seona McClintock; Belinda McElhinney (Take Me Somewhere); Wezi Mhura (Edinburgh International Festival); Callum Smith; Kate Taylor; Karl Taylor (Take Me Somewhere); Pamela Walker (Imaginate); Jo Walmsley (Barrowland Ballet).

In attendance:

Chair: Anita Clark (The Work Room)

FST: Anna Broomfield; Agnieszka Swida

Creative Scotland: Jaine Lumsden

1. Welcome and Introductions

Anita Clark welcomed the group and led introductions around the room.

2. Creative Scotland Update (Jaine Lumsden)

Creative Scotland are undergoing various reviews:

- An RFO review was carried out by Wave Hill and the full set of recommendations are available here: https://www.creativescotland.com/__data/assets/pdf_file/0008/57617/CTEEA-Written-Submission-011118.pdf
- A wider review of funding is also underway.
- Open Change are reviewing CS' mission, values and culture. A new CEO will not be appointed until this is complete.

JL also noted that any applications for Touring now need to go to the [Touring Fund](#). Open Project Funding still supports R&D applications.

3. Sharing experiences of International professional development opportunities

Callum Smith – IETM Campus programme

- IETM is an international network for contemporary performance
- IETM Campus: A week long training and development programme in June focused on developing international practice. Mentors share experiences/knowledge, from different backgrounds:
 - large scale/business/commercial

- contemporary festival, community/participatory
- co-producing
- Lots of peer working and networking – built strong relationships with peers which resulted in project collaborations
- Anyone interested in attending needs to apply through IETM. There is a fee to attend which covers food and accommodation, but travel is self-funded.
- It is a good idea to keep aside a CPD fund for yourself as a freelancer
- Previous IETM Campus events:
https://www.ietm.org/en/evenements/pass%C3%A9s?date_filter%5Bvalue%5D%5Byear%5D=&taxonomy_vocabulary_3_tid_i18n=166&field_country_value=

Sarah Gray – FST Producer Placement

- FST Producer Bursary allowed Sarah to take up a Producer placement at Sydney Opera House (SOH) for 6 weeks.
- The initial conversation started at an informal networking event – SOH are usually a receiving house but they had the opportunity to produce their own family show and tour in Australia.
- Sarah worked with SOH on how to make this work, meeting other producers to understand the landscape and possible impact of SOH touring, learning about different funding structures and ways of working etc.
- FST Producer Bursary: Financial support to undertake a placement with established producers from the UK and internationally. It operates as a partnership between the applicant and host organisation. Successful applicants receive funding of a £350 stipend per week, including a contribution by the host organisation. Two deadlines a year (April and September).
<http://www.scottishtheatre.org/training-development/bursaries/producer-placement-bursary>

Belinda McElhinney (Take Me Somewhere) – ISPA Fellowship

- International Society of Performing Arts Fellowship: A programme to support emerging and mid-career leaders to expand international networks. Quite a competitive application process (open to freelancers or those at organisations)
- World Congress: Fellows from around the world, lots of opportunities for peer networking which was really valuable, plus a mentor networking event with senior figures. \$2000 stipend
- Regional Congress: Free registration, smaller programme so easier to build relationships
- ISPA also run events during the Edinburgh Festival Fringe
- https://www.ispa.org/page/fellowship_landing

Robyn Jancovich-Brown – European Festivals Association: The Festival Academy

- Training in festival management for emerging producers. A week long residency with 35 participants supported by 6 mentors with a range of different perspectives and ways of working
- Designed around a festival in the host city
- Peer-to-peer networking was extremely valuable: participants still in touch and meet up around the world.
- Alumni programme: access to Festival Academy meetings (2 per year) and a large pool of managers around the world
- £600 fee, discounts for members of festivals. Travel and accommodation must be self-funded.
- <https://www.efa-aef.eu/en/initiatives/the-festival-academy/>

FST members can apply for the Go, See, Network, Share Fund to support attending projects like these: <http://www.scottishtheatre.org/training-development/bursaries-and-funding/go-see-network-share-fund>

4. Group Discussions

Members of the forum split off into groups to discuss the networks available to the producers attending the forum, and how we can share these networks with others.

Examples:

UK Based:

- Creu Cymru
- Devoted & Disgruntled
- Imagine: Edinburgh International Children's Festival Delegate Programme and PUSH+
- Independent Dance Managers Network
- Live Art UK
- National Rural Touring Forum
- North East Arts Development Network
- North East Arts Touring (NEAT)
- North East Integrated Dance Network
- Surf the Wave
- Take Me Somewhere Artist Constellation
- UK Theatre
- Edinburgh International Festival Encounters (Royal Conservatoire of Scotland, the University of Edinburgh, and the Edinburgh International Festival)
- Edinburgh Fringe producers delegate programme (through Fringe Society)
- Made in Scotland showcase (Edinburgh Festivals)
- British Council showcase (Edinburgh Festivals)
- Momentum (Edinburgh Festivals)

International:

- Adelaide Fringe: Honey Pot
- CINARS
- Circostrada Network
- Classical: NEXT
- Creative Europe Desk
- Festival OFF d'Avignon 2019
- Goethe Institute
- In Between Time Festival
- International Association of Theatre for Children and Young People (ASSITEJ)
- International Performing Arts for Youth (IPAY)
- Italian Cultural Institute
- Kedja
- Montreal International Festival
- National Alliance for Musical Theatre
- PEARLE

- Performing Arts Meeting in Yokohama (TPAM)
- PuSh International Performing Arts Festival (Vancouver)
- Seoul Performing Arts Festival: Performing Arts Meeting in Seoul (PAMS)
- Shakespeare Theatres Association National Conference
- Shanghai China International Arts Festival
- Tanzmesse
- Tweetakt Festival

How can we share these networks with others?

- Shouting out about lesser known events and funds
- More open forum events at festivals, especially for earlier careers
- FST Producers Skills Audit - include membership of various networks, country specific touring ¹
- Events should be less top down and hierarchical
- Takes a few times to go
- Cross party group on culture – more focus on international relations
- If you get invited to things, can you bring other people?

¹ Post meeting note: FST are currently in the process of designing a new website. As part of this we plan to incorporate the Skills Audit into the new website and will take the feedback from this forum into consideration.