

PILLSBURY HOUSE THEATRE

mainstage breaking ice chicago avenue project

Jerome Performance Art Commissioning Program
Produced by Pillsbury House Theatre
2012 Artist Guidelines

Informational Meeting for Naked Stages—February 27, 2012
6:30 pm at Pillsbury House Theatre, 3501 Chicago Avenue
South, Minneapolis, MN 55407

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Deadline for Submissions—March 16, 2012 5p.m.

Purpose of Naked Stages

Pillsbury House Theatre, with support from the Jerome Foundation, seeks to provide a mentorship opportunity for emerging performance artists in Minnesota. This program is designed to give artists a supportive environment for building their performance and production skills while creating a new performance art piece. Naked Stages is an intensive performance research program for those artists ready to dig deep into creative process. The program is most suited to emerging artists with experience creating their own work.

What is Performance Art?

Below is a lively summary adapted from the essay "Fluid Landscapes," by Lois Keidan and Daniel Brine.

Performance art is not a singular form of art, but an umbrella term for work that pushes the boundaries of a diversity of disciplines. Whether challenging the orthodoxies of visual art, exploring the limits of theatricality, appropriating the idioms of mass culture, pushing the boundaries of choreographic conventions, or exploring the performativity of cyberspace, performance art practices converge all kinds of mediums in a provocative discourse. Disrupting borders, breaking rules, defying traditions, resisting definition, asking questions, and activating audiences, performance art is a research engine where the limits of art and ideas are tested and new possibilities imagined.

Application to Naked Stages

Artist proposals will be sought through an open call and through nominations by Twin Cities' presenters. All applicants, even those nominated, must submit an application and go through the evaluation process. The Program Artistic Director and Artistic Associate along with a panel of experienced artists and presenters will review proposals. Four artists will be selected to present their work at Pillsbury House Theatre in December, 2012. Selections will be announced in early April 2012 and the program will begin in May 2012.

Description of Naked Stages

The goal of this program is to assist artists in acquiring tools to further their performance careers, including workshop opportunities in performance, critical response skills, marketing, and technical production. This program emphasizes the development of artistic process rather than technical production. To this end, artists are not permitted to supplement their technical budget with additional grant funds. Artists are expected to be in residence in the Twin Cities for the mentorship program and production period. This is a time intensive program and artists should consider their ability to commit to the program prior to the application process.

The selected artists meet as a group to participate in workshops and provide a critical and supportive environment for creating work. All parts of this process will be coordinated and facilitated by the Program Artistic Director, Laurie Carlos and Program Artistic Associate, Molly Van Avery. Artists receive support for marketing, technical production, and photo and video documentation from the Pillsbury House Theatre staff, as well as program funding for a director and additional artistic personnel. Each artist will share a four-night run at Pillsbury House Theatre, with one of the other selected artists, December 5th – 8th or Dec. 12th – 15th, 2012.

Summary of Commissioning and Mentoring Support

- An honorarium of \$2000 to artist(s).
- A Program Artistic Director and Artistic Associate to coordinate the creative and production process with artist(s), technical staff, director, and audiences.
- A Performance Director to assist artist(s) with the development of the performance piece; the Performance Director is selected by the artist in cooperation with the Program Artistic Director and the Artistic Associate. The Performance Director will be someone experienced in directing performance in a live venue.
- Critical response workshops preceding the presentation of the work, a facilitated critical response session with the audience, and a post-production meeting with all artistic, production and technical staff.
- Workshops in performance practice with Twin Cities artists and an intensive mentoring session with a national artist.
- Promotional support, such as marketing photos, a promotional piece, and media relations.
- A small budget of \$500 for additional artistic personnel (e.g. actors, dancers, musicians).
- Modest technical support is provided; there is a small materials budget of \$500 available for artistic development and production-related expenses. A lighting designer, production manager, and stage manager will be provided. Artists also have access to the available lighting, sound, and audio/visual equipment inventory of Pillsbury House Theatre.
- Access to the Pillsbury House Theatre facilities throughout the process.
- Photo and video documentation of the performances.

Qualifications

Applicants must be Minnesota residents and considered emerging artists. For purposes of this program, artists will be considered emerging if they are deeply engaged in developing their artistic process, if they have not had a full-scale production of an original performance produced by a major venue and if they have not yet received significant recognition for their artistic achievements. Full-time students, organizations, staff or board members of Pillsbury House Theatre, or artists who have received direct project support from the Jerome Foundation for performing arts projects are not eligible to apply.

Artists must be able to attend all of the following:

Monthly Artist Meetings Saturdays 1-4 pm - May 12, June 9, July 14, Aug 11, Sept 8 & Oct 13.

A workshop intensive with Sharon Bridgforth July 26-29.

Additional Production and Marketing Meetings as well as workshops with local performance artists will be scheduled throughout the program.

Selection Criteria

Applicants must be emerging artists who:

- Exhibit skill and talent in presenting original material in the performance art form (*quality of past work as demonstrated through video or audio samples or images of performance of short works and/or in the work of others will be considered*);
- Demonstrate the ability to artistically accomplish a full-scale performance piece 30-50 minutes in length;
- Articulate interest in participating in a critical response process with peers;
- Are interested in working with a director; and
- Demonstrate a need and interest in further developing their artistic process.

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APPLICATION

Check List:

- ___ Cover page (*You must submit the printed cover page!*) – 1 copy
- ___ 1 pg. Resume/Bio – 4 copies
- ___ Proposal – 4 copies
- ___ Work sample description(s) and samples – 4 copies of the work sample description, 1 copy of the work sample
- ___ Self-addressed, stamped envelope for return of work samples (*if you would like your sample returned*)

Resume/Bio

The artist resume/bio must include name, address, and day and evening phone numbers. If this is a collaboration or group, include resume/bios of all involved parties, noting the role of each person's involvement in the proposed piece. (*No more than 1 page per person*)

*Note: In the case of collaborations, the artist honorarium of \$2000 will have to be split amongst the collaborators.

Application:

Please answer the following questions in a narrative of no more than 3 total pages for individuals, 4 pages for groups.

1. Why are you applying to this program at this time? Explain your artistic experience thus far in creating performance work and discuss how this grant program's focus on creative process will benefit your development as an artist. (limit one page)
2. Describe your proposed project (although the project that you are proposing may change). What questions are you asking in your work right now? What tech needs are you anticipating for your proposed performance? What artistic forms are you exploring? (limit one page)
3. Naked Stages involves group work, artist meetings/workshops, intense process, and evaluation. Have you had any experience with this methodology? How do you feel about making a full commitment to this way of working? (limit one page)
4. If you are applying as a group, describe the roles of your creative partners and the way in which you envision the artistic interaction for this project. (limit half page)

Work Samples

The following are acceptable work sample formats; you may submit no more than two of the following (*please do not send originals*):

- VHS or DVD video (*10-minute maximum, cued to the 10-minutes you would like the panel to view. Please test for playability on multiple devices*)
- Images of previously performed work (*25 maximum*)

Please enclose a written description of the work samples, indicating the titles and lengths of works and your role in each.

Provide the panel with work samples where you are clearly pictured so the panel can gain a sense of *your* unique performance style.

Return of Work Samples

If you want your work sample returned to you, please provide a self-addressed, stamped envelope and packing material. All other work samples will be recycled.

Timeline

All applications must be received at Pillsbury House Theatre by March 16, 2012. No exceptions. This is *NOT* a postmark deadline. Applications may be dropped off at the Pillsbury House front desk during regular business hours.

Mail or deliver complete application to:

Pillsbury House Theatre
Attn: Naked Stages
3501 Chicago Avenue South
Minneapolis, MN 55407

All productions will be scheduled during the time frame December 5th – December 15th, 2012. For more information, contact Program Artistic Associate Molly Van Avery at (612) 558-7179 or mollyvanavery@gmail.com.

2011 Naked Stages Recipients

Max Wirsing, Ephraim Eusebio, Paulino Brener, Moe Lionel

2010 Naked Stages Recipients

Esther Ouray, Janaki Ranpura, Andrea Jenkins, Cochise Anderson

This program is made possible by generous support from the Jerome Foundation.

Produced by Pillsbury House Theatre

(612)787-3620 (Noel Raymond, Co-Artistic Director)

www.pillsburyhousetheatre.org

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COVER PAGE

Naked Stages 2012 – COVER PAGE

Jerome Performance Art Commissioning Program

Name

Address

City, State, ZIP Code

Telephone Numbers

Email

Project Title

Description of work samples included (format, # of pieces)

*self-addressed stamped envelope included: ___yes ___no