

HERE+NOW

How and why we work

Introduction

Here & Now is a partnership between FABRIC, BAC and GIFT.

The partners have been awarded funding by Arts Council England to deliver two showcases of world-class performance created in England, at the Edinburgh festivals in 2024 and 2025. Here & Now follows on from the work of the Horizon showcase, supporting artists based in England to internationalise their practice. Horizon was commissioned by Arts Council England, and delivered by BAC, FABRIC, Fierce Festival, GIFT, MAYK and Transform between 2021-23.

Here & Now

Here & Now supports artists creating world class live performance to showcase their work at Edinburgh's festivals to an aligned delegation of international presenters. It initiates and enables onward touring, catalysing long-term international relationships of creative and financial benefit.

It is a values-driven project which is:

- Transparent
- Inclusive
- Collaborative
- Professional

Our commitments

1. **Transparent** – We will be clear, open and honest about what we do, how we do it, and what we don't do. We will ask everyone who works with us for their honest feedback and share our learning with our colleagues and the wider industry.
2. **Inclusive** – We will involve a wide group of experts in our work and decision-making, working on a basis of parity of esteem and respect for expertise in different contexts.
3. **Collaborative** – We will be good partners and respectful collaborators.
4. **Professional** – We aim to support artists to develop their resilience, and to build our own so that we can support more artists in the long-term.
5. **Representation** – Our curatorial policy commits us to presenting a programme which reflects the diversity of artists making work in England.
6. **Access** – We will support disabled artists and work with all our partners to ensure that our programmes are accessible to disabled audience members. Our Allyship agreement with Unlimited allows us to benefit from their expertise and pushes us to keep doing better.
7. **Sustainability** - Here & Now is committed to working with all our partners to achieve international cultural exchange at the lowest possible carbon cost, and with a focus on climate justice.

Curatorial Policy

Here & Now seeks to showcase works which:

- have strong appeal to international multi-artform venues and festivals presenting contemporary performance:
 - The work is likely to be characterised by: being *new or different* in comparison to work which is already on those international touring circuits, its *considered aesthetic choices*, its *potential to resonate with audiences outside the UK*, and being *feasible to tour* in relation to its scale and audience reach.
- which challenge ideas about what ‘performance created in England’ might look like, in terms of formal innovation, or who is making the work
- and which reflect the diversity of artists working in England.

How Here & Now works with partners at the Edinburgh festivals

Here & Now respects the context of the Edinburgh festivals and recognises the challenges the festivals face in terms of access to public funding, the relationship with the city of Edinburgh, access and sustainability. We share all of these challenges, and we want to work with our partners in Edinburgh and elsewhere to address them.

We are aware that ‘festivalisation’ and over-tourism are live issues for the city of Edinburgh and we want our interaction with the city and its residents to be respectful and positive.

- We will never use ‘Edinburgh’ to mean the Edinburgh Festival Fringe or the Edinburgh festivals.
- We will collaborate with our venue partners and the showcase artists to reach audiences who might not be regular attenders.

We will ask showcase artists to consider the following criteria when choosing a venue for their work:

Fair Work

Here & Now recognises that good practice volunteering is beneficial to both the volunteer and the host organisation. We also believe that volunteering should never replace paid work or make unreasonable demands on the volunteer. We will advise our showcase artists to:

- **only** work with venue operators who have indicated that their employment and volunteering practices are aligned with the Edinburgh Festival Fringe Society’s best practice guidelines. <https://www.edfringe.com/take-part/working-in-venues> and (2021 list)
- **prioritise** working with venues who pay the [Real Living Wage](#).

Access

Showcased artists will:

- **only** work in accessible spaces
- **prioritise** working with venues who have reached level 2 and above of the Edinburgh Festival Fringe Society’s Venue Access

Award <https://www.edfringe.com/experience/how-to-plan/access-at-the-fringe/venue-access-award>

- include at least one BSL interpreted or captioned performance and at least one relaxed performance in their run

Sustainability

We will advise the showcase artists to:

- **only** work with venues which have an environmental sustainability policy.
- **prioritise** working with venues which exist in Edinburgh year-round, because this reduces the environmental impact of production transport and temporary staff travel.

Community

We will advise the showcase artists to:

- **prioritise** working with venues which exist in Edinburgh year-round, and therefore employ people who live in the city, support local artists and have local audiences.