

New Directions 2018

NRTF Showcase Festival

26 – 28th June



On the 26th, 27th and 28th June 2018 the National Rural Touring Forum (NRTF) and Live & Local (the Rural & Community Touring Scheme covering parts of the East and West midlands) will host the bi-annual rural touring showcase festival, New Directions.

Taking place at Worcester University, this event brings together those involved in managing rural touring networks, rural touring promoters and crucially artists who together make possible over 3000 shows each year which are seen by over 220,000 people.

New Directions 2018 will enable touring schemes, venues and voluntary promoters to sample shows, see work, share experiences with other promoters and broaden their knowledge of work available. It is also a fabulous opportunity for companies to highlight the quality and style of their work and creates an opportunity to talk directly with touring schemes and start meaningful relationships and dialogue.

About New Directions 2018

China Plate have been engaged to curate a programme of work over 3 days showcasing a range of entertaining, surprising and stimulating performance reflecting the best of contemporary theatre, performance and dance available for rural touring in 2019.

The aim is twofold:

- 1) to introduce delegates to high quality work by artists whose work is moving in an exciting new direction - some artists they'll know well and some they may never have met or seen before
- 2) to introduce the wonderful world of rural touring to some artists and companies who've never encountered or experienced it.

Take Part

All work featured at the showcase will be selected on the basis of quality and appropriateness for the rural market.

We are looking for bold and exciting work from a diverse range of artists – performances and people that reflect and celebrate the best of Britain and beyond and we welcome applications from all disciplines undertaking innovative work including theatre, physical theatre, digital art, dance, spoken word and circus arts.

New Directions 2018 will not be a showcase for bands or musicians

We are particularly looking for companies and artists who fall into one or more of the following categories:

- Artists and companies at all levels of experience and longevity keen to be introduced to the rural touring networks

- Companies already known to the network whose practice is moving in a new and exciting direction.

The showcase programme will be selected by a working group of China Plate, Live & Local, Worcester University Drama Dept and the National Rural Touring Forum. They will prioritise companies that are developing work ready to tour to UK rural venues following New Directions from Autumn 2018 through to Autumn 2019.

The working group are particularly looking for tour ready work however a limited number of shows in development will also be considered.

We are keen to hear from artists and companies who are not currently making work for rural touring, but who have a genuine desire to engage with rural audiences, and to change or adapt how they work to become suitable for rural touring

All participating artists/companies will be offered a small showcasing fee to cover expenses.

Eligibility

The programme will include work presented as a pitch or in excerpt; no full shows will be presented.

Companies and their shows, wishing to be considered must be:

- Available to showcase an extract not more than 20 minutes on 25, 26 or 27 June 2018
- Have a genuine desire to engage with rural touring during 2018, 2019, 2020.
- Suitable for rural touring – size, cost, technical, genre, themes- or be interested in changing and adapting how they work to become suitable for rural touring

How to Apply

Complete the online application form at this link <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/Z9QF2KD> which will close at 5 p.m on 16th February 2018.

All applications will be considered by a short-listing panel of China Plate, Live & Local and NRTF.

This collective will make the final decisions with regard to the showcase shortlist by the end of March 2018, at which point unsuccessful candidates will be notified.

There will not be room in the showcase programme for every shortlisted candidate to be offered a place, but all shortlisted candidates will be kept informed of the progress of their application as the collective finalises the programme. All shortlisted candidates will be notified, and the full showcase line-up confirmed, no later than the end of April 2018.

We regret that it may not be possible to follow up all companies and that we will be unable to give feedback on the work submitted for consideration.