

Northern Scottish Touring Fund 2010-2012

Application Guidelines

The Northern Scottish Touring Fund (NSTF) is a new interactive fund which awards production and touring grants to performing companies. It also supports the selected projects with marketing (social networking, printing and distribution) and tour booking services. The NSTF's aim is to encourage future potential artistic collaborations and the commissioning of indigenous theatre and dance in the North of Scotland.

NSTF is being funded by the SCOTTISH ARTS COUNCIL / CREATIVE SCOTLAND RURAL INNOVATION FUND, HIGHLANDS AND ISLANDS ENTERPRISE and PART-FINANCED BY THE SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT AND THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY HIGHLAND LEADER 2007-2013 Programme, CAIRNGORMS LOCAL ACTION GROUP LEADER 2007-2013 Programme, RURAL ABERDEENSIRE LEADER 2007-2013 Programme. MORAY LEADER 2007-2013 Programme.



Northern Scottish Touring Fund - NSTF

The NSTF is managed by a consortium made up of:-

HITN (Highlands and Islands Theatre Network, representing 23 professional theatre companies and venues in the Highlands and Islands)

PAN (Promoters Arts Network, representing promoters in the Highlands & Islands and Argyll & Bute)

NEAT (North East Arts Touring, representing promoters in Moray, Aberdeenshire and Angus)

HI~Arts (the Arts development company based in Inverness)

The NSTF offers an opportunity for Theatre and Dance companies to work with promoters in rural venues to develop and deliver high quality small-scale touring performances in the North of Scotland.

The NSTF will support 8 performance projects over two years. At least two of the awards will be for dance performance.

Each project will tour to 10 venues, each with a catchment area of under 3000 people. These venues will be in the **NSTF Region** as defined by EU LEADER areas. For the first year these areas are: Highland, Moray, Aberdeenshire, and Cairngorm. It is possible that Argyll & Bute and Western Isles will be added to the Region in the second year.

The scheme will offer grants of up to £45,000 per project, support with marketing under the NSTF brand, 10 guaranteed tour dates in the NSTF Region, and the possibility of a further showcase outside that area.

The Fund aims to encourage work to be produced as far as possible in the North of Scotland, involving artists from, or based in, the NSTF area, and other artists.

The fund will have two calls for submissions. The schedule is as follows:-

First Call for Submissions	25th June 2010
<i>Application submission Deadline 1</i>	<i>20th August 2010</i>
<i>Award announcement 1</i>	<i>1 October 2010</i>
Second Call for submissions	1st December 2010
<i>Application submissions deadline 2</i>	<i>9th February 2011</i>
<i>Award announcement 2</i>	<i>13th April 2011</i>

1. Funding

- 1.1. The grant award is for up to a maximum of £45,000 which consists of £40,000 to cover development, production, and touring costs (including mainland travel) and £5,000 performance fees (the equivalent of 10 x £500 performance fees per show).
- 1.2 Marketing costs of shows in receipt of grant awards including printing and distribution under a North of Scotland Branding will be covered directly by the Fund.
- 1.3 The Fund will offer assistance toward the costs of ferry fares to and from the Western Isles.
- 1.4 Net receipts from each performance will be split 50/50 between the promoter and the NSTF Fund. NSTF may use its share to assist one or more selected performances to be mounted at a Festival or event in Scotland to showcase the scheme.

2. Who can apply

- 2.1 The funding scheme is open to theatre and dance companies based in Scotland with previous experience of delivering professional performances.
- 2.2. Companies in receipt of SAC/Creative Scotland Flexible or Project funding may apply as long as
 - a) touring in the Region is additional to any already funded and
 - b) some or all of the work is made within the Region.
- 2.3 Companies may submit proposals which will also tour outside the Region as long as that external portion of the tour is funded from other sources.
- 2.4 Companies based elsewhere in the UK cannot directly apply to the Fund but may develop a project in partnership with an eligible Scottish company which will apply for the Funds.
- 2.5. Projects employing non-UK artists will be eligible providing the applying company is an eligible Scottish company.

3. Selection Process:

- 3.1 There will be two calls for projects. The call for applications will go out at least *eight* weeks prior to the deadline for submission.
- 3.2 Applicants will be told which projects have been successful within *eight* weeks following the deadline for submission.
- 3.3 Projects will be selected by a panel which will include representatives of the partner organisations (PAN, HITN, NEAT, HI~Arts) and Creative Scotland.

4. Criteria for Selection

- 4.1 Performance projects must be high quality small scale productions employing between one and four actors/dancers and designed to tour to 10 rural venues.
- 4.2. Preference will be given to companies proposing to undertake some or all of the creative making work/rehearsals within the Region.
- 4.3 Proposals should include measures to enhance the audience's experience by transforming the venue for the performance. *Examples of such measures could include ingenious set design, innovative multimedia, unusual lighting and soundscapes.*
- 4.4. Preference will be given to innovative and exciting approaches to making and touring small scale theatre.
- 4.5 Preference will be given to companies whose proposals include interpretative work relating to performances. *Examples of such work include workshops in the communities beforehand and aftershow discussions.*
- 4.6 Companies will be expected to administer their tour according to professional standards including, for example, Equity contracts.
- 4.7 The ideal target audience for the rural touring work is women, young people (14-25) young adults (up to 34) and older people (over 65); but the fund will not exclude works made for a wider audience.
- 4.8 Companies should plan to enable access to a work in progress performance by consortium partners and promoters.

- 4.9 Delivery dates and times of performances of the projects selected by the Fund will be set in discussion with the promoters.

5. Marketing

- 5.1 HI~Arts will work with the consortium partners to deliver an innovative and effective marketing strategy for the NSTF programme.
- 5.2 HI~Arts will work collaboratively with promoters and touring companies to facilitate strategic marketing.
- 5.3 Selected companies will design their own project artwork. HI~Arts will incorporate this within the branding design for the NSTF programme.
- 5.4 Social networking and website promotion will be part of the marketing and branding exercise.
- 5.5 NSTF will invite a variety of Scottish theatre reviewers to the venues.
- 5.6. An additional showcase of some of the touring work created under the scheme may be funded from income generated from NSTF's share of the net ticket receipts.

For further information contact: -

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Highlands and Islands Theatre Network (HITN) is a company limited by guarantee registered in Scotland (SC290889). Scottish Charity (SCO38332). HITN exists to promote the advancement of education and the arts in the Highlands and Islands of Scotland for the benefit of the public and specifically to promote and provide wider access to the professional theatre sector at regional, national and international level