



## Ready, Steady, SHOW! 2020

### A Tale of Provocation & Transformation: Commission for Early Years and Children

Briefing Document and Application deadline for stage 1, 12 noon, Friday Jan 31st 2020

Once upon a time, long, long ago, in the not too distant past, it all seemed to happen, as if by magic... But slowly, the world began to change and before we knew where we were there were forms, and cuts, and strategies and “complications” and lo and behold the artist - who once dreamt the great dream and brought forth vistas of great wonder - shrank beneath the burden of the three headed beast, Formulae, Deadline and.... Paperwork!

It became a distant memory - imagining, daring, playing, failing, reaching for the stars – but one which the true artist never quite gave up on.

Surely, there must be a way to go forward by going back, and hence rescue prince-and-princess process from its locked and lofty tower? Surely, we can't be left out here in this Wasteland to fend all by ourselves?

Then suddenly, one January in 2020, along came the intrepid and determined Civic with a whole fresh approach designed to liberate the artist from this dungeon of despair and to once more motivate a flight of wings back up to the light.

It was quite simple really.

Natural, one might say.

SOIL. SEED. TEND. FLOWER.

These were our watch words. This is our Manifesto.

#### **SCENE ONE:**

We are holding an Open Call for proposals from practitioners who work with children at the centre of their practice. Work should be at the early stages of development. Artists should have a big question they want to play with, answer or explore with children in Early Years and/or schools Settings.

The Civic has curated a four-phase structured commissioning process with a series of opportunities and invitations. These include provocations to stimulate commissioned artists, to push and stretch current ideas about their practise and the work they make.

We want to create space for people to take risks, be brave and to embark on a journey of artistic discovery and exploration in a supported environment.



2 Commissions of €2,500 will be available for **Phase 1: SOIL | R&D Engaging in a Learning Setting** and will culminate in a 15-20 minute scratch showing of work at the RSS festival in June 2020.

1 Commission totalling €15,000 (lead artist fee of €6,000 and a Production budget of €9,000) will be available to facilitate the Commissioning process from **Phases 1-4** outlined below. This will culminate in a series of showcase showings as part of Ready Steady **SHOW!** in June 2020.

#### **Phase 1: SOIL | R&D Engaging in a learning setting**

X1 week of thinking time for commissioned artists to play with their big question and idea in a school/ learning setting.

#### **Phase 2: SEED | Research and Development Phase 2 With an Outside Eye**

X1 day workshop. As a precursor to the artists going back into development of their own new piece, The Civic will seek to create an opportunity for our artists to be exposed to new areas of practise from a creative thinker. This might not necessarily be an artist, it might be a scientist or someone who works with technology in new ways. The aim of this interaction is not to try to force our artists to in some way incorporate what they have been exposed to in any thematic sense, but simply to allow themselves to be stretched and to offer the opportunity to perhaps question their practise and their thinking around their practice and / or the theme with which they are working in a new way.

#### **Phase 3: TEND | Intensive Rehearsal**

X2 week intensive rehearsal.

Culminating in a scratch performance in the studio to which Children who took part in R&D phase 1 are invited.

#### **Phase 4: FLOWER | Showing**

X1 week rehearsal culminating in a series of performances at Ready Steady **SHOW!** 2020.

### **SCENE TWO: A BIT OF CONTEXT**

The Civic opened in 1999 and has grown to be a pivotal and much-loved cultural beacon in South Dublin County and is an integral part of the cultural landscape in Ireland. The theatre has worked tirelessly to build and maintain a reputation for artistic excellence and accessibility, providing a year-round programme of drama, dance, opera, music, comedy, workshops and youth arts.

We have an ongoing commitment to creating high quality arts experiences for early years and children including those with complex needs. We believe in access to the arts for all, no matter your age and that this is a fundamental human right. We also believe that through engagement with the arts our children and young people learn to self-advocate about their own rights.

We support these principles through commissioning, programming and touring work in Dublin and across Ireland. We are increasingly commissioning and showcasing exciting new work by early years artists that provide genuine engagement with young audiences, creating a nurturing and inspiring relationships to the arts at the earliest possible age where play, story and imagination become central to a child's way of interacting with life.

A key cornerstone of this policy is our annual children and early year's commissioning festival, 'Ready, Steady, **SHOW!**' where we invite some of the best practitioners in this field to come and play at The Civic and present their ideas.



Building on the success of the previous three years The Civic is keen to cement the importance of developing work of excellence at the heart of our children's and early years audience and keep it firmly at the heart of our programme. The four phase development structure reflects our commitment to practitioner development whilst maintaining, as intrinsically important, the participation of our children at the heart of the making process.

We are asking applying artist/s to consider the following in expressing their interest in this commission:

- Be willing to take part in workshops with local children as part of the process of project development.
- Focus on the natural world and the environment and examination of these values:  
Possibility and transformation  
Creativity and Innovation  
Access and Diversity

Please download the Document of Ideas for a bit more info about work that is getting us excited at the moment!

### **SCENE THREE: SELECTION OF THE ARTIST**

The Ready Steady SHOW! Commissions will be awarded following a Two Stage Open Competition Selection process, explained below. Selection will be based on the information you give us and in Stage 1 and Stage 2.

No detailed proposals are required in Stage 1 and we have tried to keep the form filing and writing to a minimum. We have even included a section where you can simply have a chat with us about you and your ideas on video. It doesn't have to be tech heavy, just turn on the video function on your phone and email it through to us. We want to hear your enthusiasm for the project, not rate your tech skills!

Stage 1: Artists are invited to express their interest in being considered for this project by completing the 3 questions listed at the bottom of this document. Please include of a recent copy of your CV and submission of a 3-5min video of you chatting about what your big question is and why you want to be part of Ready Steady SHOW! this year.

**The closing date for receipt of Stage 1 completed application form together with supporting documentation and material is 12 noon, Friday Jan 31st 2020.**

Stage 2: From the completed Stage 1 applications; a shortlist of artists will be selected by the selection panel to come in for a chat here at The Civic on the 20<sup>th</sup> February.

A Stage 2 brief will be available to shortlisted artists on Thursday 13th February. The Selection Panel will consist of Hannah, our Associate Producer for Children and Early Years, one professional artist, and will be chaired by Michael, our Artistic Director.



#### SCENE FOUR: PROJECT DELIVERY TIMELINE

It is anticipated that this project would kick off during March 2020 and all four phases be completed by June 2020. Applicants must be available for the week of the Ready Steady SHOW! Festival 7th - 13th June 2020.

Artists should be able to show their ability to work to this timeframe.

#### SCENE FIVE: BUDGET

The total budgets for each project are:

2 Commissions of €2,500 available for Phase 1: SOIL | R&D Engaging in a Learning Setting.

1 Commission totalling €15,000 (lead artist fee of €6,000 and a Production budget of €9,000) Phases 1-4 of the Ready Steady SHOW! Commissioning Programme.

#### GRAND FINALE: GUIDELINES, APPLICATIONS AND QUERIES

Have a read of these guidelines and supply supporting documentation and application material by email to Hannah on [early\\_years@civictheatre.ie](mailto:early_years@civictheatre.ie) by **12 noon, Friday Jan 31st 2020.**

- Include a current CV
- Include the highest quality examples of your work/working practice that best demonstrate your experience for this commission. Please don't send original artworks.
- Include submission of a 3-5min video of what your big question is and why you want to be part of Ready Steady *SHOW!* this year.
- Keep a copy of your application and any materials you submit for your own reference purposes.

On one page of A4 please:

- Outline your experience in making work for young audiences (max 500 words)
- What aspects of this commissioning programme appeal to you? What do you hope to learn from it? (max 500 words)
- What are your plans/ambitions for future work for young audiences? (max 200 words)

**The closing date for Stage 1 completed application together with supporting documentation and material is 12 noon, Friday Jan 31<sup>st</sup> 2020. Please contact Hannah, Associate Producer, Early Years on [early\\_years@civictheatre.ie](mailto:early_years@civictheatre.ie) with any questions.**

#### EXEUNT PERSUED BY A BEAR

Ready, Steady, SHOW! Is funded by The Civic, South Dublin County Council and The Arts Council.

