

PILLSBURY HOUSE THEATRE

mainstage breaking ice chicago avenue project

Naked Stages

Jerome Performance Art Commissioning Program
Produced by Pillsbury House Theatre
2015 Artist Guidelines

Deadline for Submissions—March 13, 2015 5 p.m.

Informational Meetings for Naked Stages:

February 12, 2015, 6:30 pm at Pillsbury House Theatre
February 18, 2015, 6:30 pm at CHAT in St Paul

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Purpose of Naked Stages

Pillsbury House Theatre, with support from the Jerome Foundation, seeks to provide a fellowship 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 for the stage or a durational performance-based installation.

Mentorship from Sharon Bridgforth

Bridgforth will explore key elements of the Theatrical Jazz Aesthetic: creative process, improvisation, non-linear storytelling, the art of being present, and deep listening. She will walk participants through the process of giving voice to the personal: identity-culture-memory-family histories-dreams to the socio-political realities of their lives. The goal of this work is to offer participants tools for deepening and fully realizing their own artistic aesthetic and vision. With Sharon's guidance, participants will be asked to:

- Examine the personal as political
- Explore art as a vehicle for social justice
- Practice trusting their instincts
- Explore the relationship between art and their lives
- Consider the relationship between spirit and art
- Hold space as witnesses for other participants

"I believe that life and art are not separate. It is important that artists integrate all aspects of themselves, their histories, identities and beliefs into the creation process and into the vision of their lives as artists. As artists we document the cultures, place(s), issues, and times we live in. Who are you? Where are you from? How do you fit/or not fit in your world? This is the bone and marrow of the work. These are the areas of focus for our work together."—Sharon Bridgforth

Application to Naked Stages

The Program Artistic Director, Molly Van Avery, along with a panel of experienced artists and presenters will review proposals and select 3 artists to present their work at Pillsbury House Theatre in December, 2015. Selections will be announced on April 2 and the program will begin **April 3 with a mandatory meeting from 6-9 pm**. If you are applying, we request that you save that date.

Description of Naked Stages

The goal of this program is to assist artists in acquiring knowledge and experience 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. Artists receive support for marketing, technical production, and photo and video documentation from the Pillsbury House Theatre staff. Two artists will share a two-weekend run at Pillsbury House Theatre December 10-12 and Dec. 17-19, 2015, and one

installation-based artist will set their own schedule depending on their concept.

Summary of Commissioning and Mentoring Support

- An honorarium of \$3000 to artist(s).
- A Program Artistic Director to coordinate the creative and production process with artist(s), technical staff, director, and audiences.
- An honorarium of \$1000 for a Mentor/Performance Director to assist artist(s) with the development of their performance piece. The Mentor/Performance Director is selected by the artist in cooperation with the Program Artistic Director. The Performance Director must have experience 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 three intensive mentoring sessions with Bridgforth.
- 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).
- 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 programs and space when available throughout the later part of 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 and workshop intensives with Sharon Bridgforth August 13-17 & November 1-3
- Additional Production and Marketing Meetings
- Performances and immersive participation in the multiple programs taking place at Pillsbury House
- Workshops with local performance artists that will be scheduled throughout the program.

Selection Criteria

Applicants must be emerging artists who:

- Demonstrate the ability to artistically accomplish a full-scale performance piece 30-50 minutes in length or installation
- Articulate interest in participating in a critical response process with peers and mentors
- Demonstrate a need and interest in further developing their artistic process in the context of Pillsbury House Theatre

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APPLICATION

Check List:

Please email one PDF that includes each the following documents OR print out your application in the following order.

- ___ Cover page
- ___ up to 2 pg. Resume/Bio
- ___ 3 pg. Proposal Narrative

If you are emailing your proposal, please name your file with your last name_NS2014.pdf (for example, VanAvery_NS2014.pdf).

NOTE: For 2015 we are NOT requiring work samples and will make our decisions based on your narrative and bio.

Resume or Bio

The artist resume or bio should help us get a sense of your past experiences and projects and the role you played in them. 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 2 pages per person*).

*Note: In the case of collaborations, the artist honorarium of \$3000 will have to be split amongst the collaborators.

Proposal Narrative:

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 **in the context of Pillsbury House + Theatre** 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? If you are applying to create a performance installation, tell us why this approach to performance is interesting to you right now and how you would approach the creation of an installation within the context of PH+T (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

We are not asking for work samples this year. We are committed to considering each applicant equally and know that many emerging artists do not have access or ability to create work samples that accurately reflect their work. We will ensure that Naked Stages fellows leave this program with professional, quality material for future work samples.

Timeline

Program Director, Molly Van Avery, is able to review drafts of your proposal and offer feedback if you contact her before March 5. All applications must be received via email or at Pillsbury House Theatre by 5:00 pm on March 13, 2015. No exceptions. This is **NOT** a *postmark deadline*. Applications may be dropped off at the Pillsbury House front desk during regular business hours or emailed to AveryM@pillsburyhousetheater.org anytime before 5 pm on March 13. You will receive a confirmation email within 24 hours of submitting your application.

E-Mail applications to AveryM@pillsburyhousetheater.org or deliver complete application to:

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

Past Naked Stages Recipients

2014: Eric F Avery (installation), PaviElle French, and B Billy Xiong

2013: Zainab Musa, Moheb Soliman, Emily Zimmer

2012: Jeffry Lusiak, Zoe Sommers Haas, David Steinman, Ahanti Young

2011: Max Wirsing, Ephraim Eusebio, Paulino Brener, Moe Lionel

2010: Esther Ouray, Janaki Ranpura, Andrea Jenkins, Cochise Anderson

2009: Julia Elizabeth Babb, Julian McFaul, Kelly A Meister, Mire Regulus

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.pillsburyhousetheater.org

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COVER PAGE

Naked Stages 2015 – COVER PAGE

Jerome Performance Art Commissioning Program

Name

Address

City, State, ZIP Code

Telephone Numbers

Email

Project Title

Are you applying to create a **performance for the stage** or to create a **performance installation**?