

2021 Naked Stages Artist Fellowship Guidelines

Jerome Performance Art Commissioning Program Produced by Pillsbury House Theatre (PHT)

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS

March 29, 2021 • 5 PM

Feel free to contact Pramila for general information about Naked Stages and feedback for proposals by appointment. You may contact her via email at pramilav@pillsburyhousetheatre.org.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Purpose of Naked Stages

Pillsbury House Theatre (PHT), with support from the Jerome Foundation, seeks to provide a fellowship opportunity for early career performance artists in Minnesota. This program is designed to give artists a supportive environment for building their performance and production skills while creating a stage or site-specific performance art piece with PHT as the venue.

Description of Naked Stages

The goal of this program is to assist individual artists in acquiring knowledge and experience in performance creation, critical response skills, marketing, and technical production. This program emphasizes the development of artistic process rather than technical production. Artists are not permitted to supplement their technical budget with additional grant funds. Artists are expected to be in residence in the Twin Cities throughout the mentorship program period. This is a time intensive program and artists should consider their ability to commit to the program prior to applying.

Two artists will be selected as 2021 Naked Stages Fellows. The selected artists meet as a cohort to participate in workshops and together provide a critical and supportive environment for creating work. All parts of the fellowship will be coordinated and facilitated by the Program Director. Artists will receive support for marketing, technical production, and photo and video documentation from PHT. Stage artists will share a one-weekend run at PHT Dec. 16-18, 2021, and PHT site-specific artists will set their own schedule depending on their concept.

Artists are selected based on the merit of their proposal which can be performance art for the stage or site-specific.

Performing Arts in the Time of COVID

Our hope is for as much in-person experience as possible - from cohort meetings to workshops to performances, but our main concern is for the health and safety of the artists, so we will be moving to a virtual platform for workshops and meetings as appropriate.

Performance Art for the Stage

The artists creating for the stage will perform a **solo** performance piece (developed through the program) 35-45 minutes in length. Artists develop their creative process by experimenting with form and content and discover how that works with an audience.

Site-Specific Performance

Artists who are interested in creating a **solo** performance for a PHT site-specific context are able to do so within the various spaces available at the PHT site. The work created might be social, participatory, or durational. Artists must work closely with PHT staff throughout the fellowship to communicate their vision and needs. The artists must be committed to understanding the various users of PHT and create a piece that keeps those users in mind (ex. the work must be appropriate for all ages in the lobby as children use it regularly).

Live performance in the time of COVID

Our hope is to have live performance either in the theatre or in site specific locations, however, a decision will be made in early fall to transition to a virtual experience if there are state restrictions in place or if PHT feels it is necessary to protect the safety of the artists, staff and audience.

Summary of Commissioning and Mentoring Support

- An honorarium of \$4000 to the artist(s).
- A Program Director to coordinate the creative and production process with artist(s), technical staff, and director.
- 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 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, a post-production meeting with artistic, production and technical staff.
- Workshops in performance practice with accomplished artists.
- Promotional support, such as marketing photos, a promotional piece, and media relations.
- A budget of \$1000 for artistic development and production-related expenses. A lighting designer, production manager, and stage manager will be provided for the stage performances. Artists also have access to the available lighting, sound, and audio/visual equipment inventory of PHT.
- Access to the PHT programs and space when available throughout the later part of the process.
- Photo and video documentation of the performances.

APPLYING FOR THE FELLOWSHIP

Qualifications

Applicants must be Minnesota residents and considered early career artists. For the purposes of this program, early career artists are those who have produced/presented their own performance work at least 2-3 times in a non-student context, and who have not been recognized as established artists. Full-time students, organizations, staff or board members of PHT, 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:

- 1-2 Artist Meetings per month
- 3 day intensive with Naked Stages mentor
- Additional Production and Marketing Meetings as scheduled by the Program Director and artists
- 3 works in progress showings
- Performances and participation in the multiple programs taking place at PHT
- Additional activities as designed by the Program Director

Timeline for selection Process

The Program Director will facilitate a panel of 3 experienced artists and presenters who in turn will review proposals and select 2 artists to receive Fellowships to present their work at PHT in December of 2021. Selections will be announced by early May, 2021. Program begins at the end of May, 2021.

Selection Criteria

Applicants must be individual early career artists who:

- Have presented their work in a non-student context 2-3 times.
- 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 a community based arts organization (PHT)

Checklist:

Please use the [Submittable interface](#) to submit the following documents and video files.

- ____ Cover page (first part of online form)
- ____ Up to 2 pg. Resume OR Bio
- ____ 3 pg. pdf or video file of Proposal Narrative
- ____ Work Samples
- ____ Work Sample Description Sheet

Please name your file with your last name_NS2020.pdf (for example, Vasudevan_NS2020.pdf).

NOTE: If the suggested application format is challenging due to a disability, please contact the Program Director to coordinate an alternate format for submission.

Cover Page

Please submit the following required information on the [Submittable application](#).

- Name
- Address
- Telephone Numbers
- Email
- Project Title
- Are you applying to create a performance for the stage or to create a site-specific performance?

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. The artist must have presented 2-3 projects in a non-student context.

Proposal Narrative:

Please answer the following in a narrative of no more than 3 pages.

1. Why are you applying to this program at this time? Explain your artistic experience thus far in creating performance and/or site-specific (if you are applying to be considered for the site-specific track) and discuss how the Naked Stages program focus on creative process in the context of PHT 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 artistic forms are you exploring? If you are applying to create a site-specific work, tell us why this approach to performance is interesting to you right now and how you would approach the creation of a site-specific piece within the context of PHT. (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? What will you do to make space in your life for this fellowship? (Limit one page.)

Work Samples

It is important that you submit the best quality representation of your performance work:

- Select a minimum of 2 and maximum of 4 works (preferably of work created within the last 3 years).
- Submit media online. Please submit videos to the portal or attach photos. Videos are preferred.
- Work samples must be ready to be viewed by the panel upon submission. Please present the ten minutes you feel best represents your current creative output which may consist of a mix of different works. If you include edited sections, we encourage you to allow each to unfold enough to give a sense of how your work develops. The panel will watch a minimum of three minutes, so please lead with the work you most want the panel to view.

Work Sample Description Sheet

It is important to include an information sheet that clearly indicates the following to aid the panelists in their viewing of the work samples:

- Title
- Duration of the excerpt
- Duration of the work
- Performance dates
- Venue
- Your role in creating the work
- Brief 1-2 sentence description of the excerpt..

Timeline

The current Program Director, Pramila Vasudevan, is able to review drafts of your proposal and offer feedback by appointment. Feel free to contact her at pramilav@pillsburyhousetheatre.org. All applications must be received via Submittable by 5:00 pm on March 29, 2021. No exceptions. You will receive a confirmation email within 48 hours of submitting your application.

If you have any questions, please contact Pramila Vasudevan at pramilav@pillsburyhousetheatre.org.

Past Naked Stages Recipients

2020: Alia Jeraj, C. Michael Menge, Atlese Robinson (fellowship ongoing)

2019: Amoke Kubat, Andrea Reynolds, Hawona Sullivan Janzen

2018: A.P. Looze, Anat Shinar, Chitra Vairavan (site specific)

2017: Antonio Duke, Ritika Ganguly, Jessica Lopez-Lyman (site specific)

2016: Nadia Honary (installation), Magnolia Yang Sao-Yia, Shanté Zenith

2015: Marisa Carr, Junauda Petrus (installation), Eliza Rasheed

2014: Eric F Avery (installation), PaviElle French, 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

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www.pillsburyhousetheatre.org