

Musicals Commissioning Brief

(for seed commissions in April 2021)



SECTION A: THE OPPORTUNITY

Context

For many years, Capital Theatres (CT) has presented the best plays, musicals, operas, and dance the UK and the world has to offer. Pitlochry Festival Theatre (PFT) has a long-standing history of producing exceptional large-scale musicals.

In the wake of COVID-19, both organisations seek to be at the centre of renewal and regeneration for theatre across Scotland. During this unprecedented time, we want to champion new works so our stages are a home for great Scottish musicals year on year. Our new partnership between CT and PFT will commission new musical writing and production to produce funny, surprising and meaningful musicals for our important audiences.

New Scottish Musicals

Music is such an important part of Scotland's heritage. As we emerge through lockdown and social distancing we believe Scottish audiences have an appetite for new musical theatre celebrating Scotland's culture, spirit and humour. This unprecedented period of our venues being closed provides a unique window of opportunity to progress new Scottish works at a time when enjoyment and entertainment has never been more necessary.

Scotland has a rich history of creating music that we wish to bring to life through performance. As the impact of the coronavirus pandemic deepens within our society, there is a real risk that new talent, and new creative content, will not come to the fore. Capital Theatres and Pitlochry Festival Theatre will collaborate to launch the *Musical Commissioning Hub* as an investment in new talent for musical theatre. With compatible studio spaces, working together both organisations will ensure that rich, dynamic and thrilling musicals keep flowing onto the stages in Edinburgh and Pitlochry for audiences to devour.

The Musical Commissioning Hub will celebrate the stories of our great nation. Work commissioned will draw upon our national pride and identity, our heritage and humour to celebrate Scotland, unifying us as we emerge through the impact of COVID-19. These stories will populate our Studio space, be presented at Edinburgh and Pitlochry, as well as touring Scotland.

What we're looking for

Think celebration! The stories of our great nation, Scotland.

The work commissioned will draw upon our national pride and identity, our heritage and humour to celebrate Scotland, unifying us as we emerge through the impact of Covid-19.

We want you to dream the dream. To expose and reveal moments of the past, the present and the future that audiences have yet to meet. We ask writers, composers and theatre-makers to transport audiences, delight them and arrest them with their new musicals.

We encourage submissions spanning all sectors of our rich and diverse community. For those artists who would self-define as disabled and/or deaf, if you require materials in large print or any additional support to apply, please do get in touch via email or call.

Your proposal

Short Proposal: We require short proposals as a first stage of the commissioning process. These don't need to be a summary of your full proposal. All we want is your title and story outline. This can be done as a short film to camera (no more than 3 mins), or an audio message (no more than 3 mins) or piece of writing (no more than 1 page of A4).

Full Proposal: if you're invited to interview we would ask you to share why you want to tell this story now and why you want to tell this story with CT and PFT. This can be done as a short film to camera (no more than 3 mins), or an audio message (no more than 3 mins) or piece of writing (no more than 1 page of A4). We would also ask that you share an example of existing work. This could be a full-length play or musical or an album of songs, or even a radio or film script. It needs to give the panel an understanding of you and your work.

Please send supporting written and audio material (as MP3 files) electronically by Dropbox to enquiries@capitaltheatres.com

Commission offered and works-in-progress: In planning for your **works-in-progress** performances in the Studio, try to include a realistic estimate of duration.

The Evaluation Panel

This panel of readers recruited by the Co-Chairs of the Commissioning Hub, Fiona Gibson, Chief Executive of Capital Theatres, and Elizabeth Newman, Artistic Director of Pitlochry Festival Theatre include:

- *Katie Brayben* – Olivier Award Winning actor and musical theatre performer
- *Barbara Dickson OBE* – award winning Scottish singer and actor
- *Howard Goodall CBE* – composer of musicals, choral music and music for television including *Blackadder*, *Red Dwarf*, *Vicar of Dibley*
- *David Greig* – award winning theatre maker, currently Artistic Director of the Royal Lyceum Theatre Edinburgh
- *Aisha Khan* – Artistic Director of Freedom Studios
- *Ricky Ross* – Scottish singer songwriter, lead singer of Deacon Blue
- *Robert Softley Gale* – Artistic Director and CEO of Birds of Paradise Theatre Company
- *Kenny Wax* – leading international and West End Producer with Olivier award winning musical, comedy and children's shows including *Six*, *the Play that Goes Wrong* and *Room on the Broom*
- *Matthew Xia* – Theatre Director, composer, DJ, broadcaster and journalist

SECTION B: THE COMMISSIONING PROCESS

TIMETABLE

The commissioning process consists of four stages, as set out in the timetable below.

Stage	Timings (all midday)	Activities
Launch	16 th November 2020	Publication of commissioning guidelines and Round 1 call opens for submissions
1. Short Proposal and shortlisting	15 th December 2020	Deadline for Short Proposal submission to enquiries@capitaltheatres.com
	Week commencing 18 th January 2021	Expert Panel shortlists proposals and artists notified of outcomes. Full proposals requested from those proceeding to next stage
2. Full Proposal	25 th January 2021 – 5 th March 2021	Opportunity to discuss programme brief with engagement@pitlochryfestivaltheatre.com prior to submitting full proposal (via Zoom/Teams/Phone)
	12 th March 2021	Deadline for full proposal submission to enquiries@capitaltheatres.com
3. Conditional Commission offered	Week commencing 22 nd March 2021	Interviews and commissioning decision(s) made, subject to contract
4. Development of Production	April 2021	Scratch, rehearsal and development of production in the Studio

We will assess your proposal(s) according to this timetable. Late submissions can not be accepted.

We encourage submissions spanning all sectors of our rich and diverse community. For those artists who would self-define as disabled and/or deaf, if you require materials in large print or any additional support to apply, please do get in touch via email or call.

If you have any questions about this commissioning brief that you need answering before you submit your short proposals, please ensure you send them to enquiries@capitaltheatres.com by 8th December 2020.

PROCESS

STAGE 1: SHORT PROPOSAL

Step 1 Complete a short proposal and submit by email to enquiries@capitaltheatres.com
Ensure you use your word count wisely - describe your ideas and vision for the programme rather than quoting the brief back in your answer.

Step 2 The short proposals will be evaluated by the panel

Step 3 You will be notified of the outcome. If you are proceeding to next stage, you will be asked to make a full proposal. We are sorry that no feedback will be provided for unsuccessful artists at this stage. However, you will receive information about how to engage with PFT's Artist Development Programmes and WritersRoom

STAGE 2: FULL PROPOSAL

Step 1 Artists proceeding to the full proposal stage will be invited to provide a full proposal responding to this commissioning brief, which includes all the elements outlined in Section C paragraph 1 ("Full Proposal").

Step 2 Artists will be offered the opportunity to discuss the programme brief with <email> prior to submitting a full proposal.

Step 3 We will evaluate all full proposals against the brief, as given above, and commission those we feel most successfully fulfil the brief

Step 4 Artists who are successful will be notified by email. Feedback for unsuccessful proposals will be given here.

Note: At any stage of the process, we may need to come back to you to seek clarification. Your answers will be factored into the evaluation process as appropriate.

STAGE 3: COMMISSION AWARDED

STAGE 4: DEVELOPMENT OF PRODUCTION IN THE STUDIO

SECTION C: FULL PROPOSALS

WHAT WE NEED FROM YOU

You should submit a written proposal via email adopting the following structure:

Part 1 – Your detailed full proposal, showing your response to CT and PFT’s requirements outlined in Section A of this commissioning brief.

Part 2 – a section containing the following information:

The name and contact details of you or your nominated representative (a single point of contact who will be responsible for all communication related to the commissioning brief).

Evidence that you have the skills to deliver, or the ability to acquire the skills to deliver, the production of the programme in line with this commissioning brief.

You may want to work in partnership with someone else to deliver the brief. If so, you should include:

- responses on behalf of each partner
- details of the responsibilities of each partner
- an explanation of how working in partnership would be successfully achieved

We encourage submissions spanning all sectors of our rich and diverse community. For those artists who would self-define as disabled and/or deaf, if you require materials in large print or any additional support to apply, please do get in touch via email or call.

As with the short proposal, if you have any questions that you need answering before you submit your full proposal please ensure you send them to enquiries@capitaltheatres.com by 5th March 2021.

WHAT TO EXPECT FROM US

NOMINATED REPRESENTATIVE

Your representative for this commissioning brief is Fi Syme for any timescale and process queries through enquiries@capitaltheatres.com and Claire Webster for artistic commission discussion: engagement@pitlochryfestivaltheatre.com

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CONFIDENTIALITY

CT and PFT will keep confidential all commercially sensitive information included in responses to this commissioning brief and will only use this information for the purposes of evaluating the full proposal, provided that you have identified the confidential nature of any such information in your response documents.

COMMISSION FEE

Taking part in this process is at your own cost until such times as a commission is offered. The seed commission fee for the Development phase will be £4,000.