



THE FIRST BITE AND BITE SIZE 2011/12 FESTIVALS OF NEW WORK

Produced by China Plate

Commissioned by mac and Warwick Arts Centre.

CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS FOR FIRST BITE 2011

The First Bite Festival is a day of eclectic extracts and ideas from some of the regions most exciting theatre makers.

We are looking for fresh new work from collaborative theatre makers from the West Midlands to take part in a festival of scratch performance, First Bite on the 24th September 2011 at mac, Birmingham. The festival provides a unique opportunity for artists and companies to develop and perform new ideas in a supportive and nurturing environment, to an engaged audience of West Midlands theatregoers and regional industry professionals.

Two of the programmed companies will go on to receive a commission of £3,000 each including 2 fully supported development weeks at mac and Warwick Arts Centre to develop the work and to present it at its next stage, alongside a showcase of new performance work, during Bite Size at Warwick Arts Centre in March 2012.

Following Bite Size, the commissioned projects will be showcased in the South West in partnership with Bristol Ferment / Bristol Old Vic.

First Bite and Bite Size Festivals

The First Bite and Bite Size programmes are designed to support theatre companies from the West Midlands making work through a collaborative process.

First Bite 2011 is a daylong festival providing a platform for new work in progress from theatre makers based in the West Midlands, hosted by mac, Birmingham. A maximum of twelve participating companies will present a performed pitch on 24 September 2011 to an audience and to the Bite Size partners: China Plate, Warwick Arts Centre, mac and Bristol Ferment / Bristol Old Vic. Bite Size is an opportunity for artists to present new work and ideas in a professional theatre environment, which provides networking opportunities, expert advice and audience feedback that can all contribute to the next stage of development.

From these extracts of work in development, two will be commissioned to take their piece to the next stage for Bite Size in 2012. The two selected companies will each receive a £3000 commission including two supported development weeks either side of Christmas 2011 at mac and Warwick Arts Centre. This mentored development process will offer the companies both artistic and producing support that will ensure the best chance of the work developing to the highest quality.



The 2009/10 First Bite pitches commissioned were 'Al Bowly's Croon Manifesto' by United Artists and 'You're Not Like The Other Girls Chrissy' by Caroline Horton. 'You're Not Like The Other Girls Chrissy' went on to win the The Stage Best Solo Performer Award at the 2010 Edinburgh Fringe Festival, and toured to the 2011 Adelaide Fringe Festival. 'Al Bowly's Croon Manifesto' has completed two national tours to date and will be performed at the 2011 Edinburgh Fringe Festival.

Each company chosen to present work at First Bite will be paid £150 to cover their expenses.

Bite Size 2012 is a daylong festival of new work by the freshest, most exciting, home-grown talent from around the West Midlands, that takes place on 10 March 2012 at Warwick Arts Centre. Bite Size 2012 will showcase the two commissioned companies' work alongside the pick of work available in the West Midlands.

Slots in the programme will also be reserved for a selected number of regional companies to perform excerpts of existing work or work currently in development.

The rest of the festival programme will include another fully finished piece of work, giving priority to artists working in the West Midlands or having been through a West Midlands based development programme, and a slot for up to two pieces from our partner venue Bristol Ferment / Bristol Old Vic.

Your First Bite Pitch

Companies are invited to submit proposals for a **10-minute** performance that pitches their show to the panel and audience. This performance can take any format. Participating companies will be selected on the strength of their pitch as an experience for the audience at the event as well as the on the strength of the application.

The idea can be for a brand new piece of work or for a piece of work currently in development.

The nature of the Bite Size opportunity is to raise your company's profile with an audience of national programmers, and to increase touring opportunities outside of the region, with this in mind work should be suitable for national touring.

The Venues

First Bite will take place at mac, Birmingham. The festival is produced by China Plate and commissioned by mac and Warwick Arts Centre. Lighting, sound and projection resources are strictly limited and applicants should not rely upon complex technical support. There will be a limited amount of



rehearsal time available at mac in the week preceding the festival (subject to availability).

The Bite Size Festival will take place at Warwick Arts Centre on 10 March 2012 with a view to the showcased work being available for touring later that year.

Financial Support

All companies invited to perform a pitch at First Bite will receive a fee of £150 to cover their expenses.

The two selected companies will each receive a commission of £3,000 to include two fully supported development weeks either side of Christmas 2011 at mac and Warwick Arts Centre. China Plate will act as producing, development and creative mentors for the commissioned companies during this period.

Fees to other companies performing at Bite Size will be negotiated in spring 2011.

China Plate

China Plate is a partnership between Ed Collier and Paul Warwick for delivering innovative artistic development opportunities, acting as a conduit for collaboration and encouraging leaps into unknown creative territory. Through projects like The Darkroom, The Optimists and the First Bite and Bite Size Festivals they have designed a range of bespoke opportunities for theatre artists at every stage of their careers, working with some of the UK's most exciting theatre practitioners. Also working for China Plate is Rosie Kelly, who will be producing the First Bite and Bite Size Festivals.

China Plate are the Associate Producers at Warwick Arts Centre. Working closely with Director Alan Rivett and his team, China Plate programme and deliver vibrant and engaging, contemporary theatre for the Studio and are exploring new ways for the centre to engage with theatre artists in developing new work.

For more information please visit www.chinaplatetheatre.com.



How to Apply

Before applying please read the above project information carefully.

Companies applying to present work must be available to develop the piece in time for Bite Size 2012, including two development weeks at mac and Warwick Arts Centre, and be interested in working in a creative partnership with China Plate should they be commissioned.

They must also be available for technical rehearsals at mac on Thursday 22nd or Friday 23rd September 2011 (TBC).

AT THIS STAGE WE ARE INVITING COMPANIES TO APPLY TO THE FIRST BITE PART OF THE PROJECT ONLY.

Companies that take part in First Bite, but are not selected for commission, may still submit work for consideration for Bite Size in March 2012.

If you are excited by the prospect of pitching a performance at First Bite and wish to apply, please send the following information by email to Rosie Kelly at rosie@chinaplatetheatre.com

- 1) Company details (inc: company name, contact name, postal address, website, email and phone)
- 2) The title of your piece and the number of artists involved
- 3) A brief company history (inc any images or footage you may have of previous productions) (max 200 words)
- 4) A description of what you would like to show at First Bite (max 250 words)
- 5) The works current stage of development (max 200 words),
[Including any plans or capacity for future touring of the final piece?]
- 6) Concise technical requirements.
- 7) Marketing copy (max 100 words)
- 8) Any press quotes (max 100 words)

DEADLINE IS FRIDAY 22ND JULY 2011 @ 5pm
Successful companies will be notified by Friday 29th July 2011
NO LATE SUBMISSIONS WILL BE CONSIDERED

For more information email rosie@chinaplatetheatre.com

Funded by Arts Council West Midlands
Commissioned by Warwick Arts Centre and mac

