

### **Performing Artists Call-out: GUIDANCE**

The Collaborative Learning Initiative: Concept Touring is delivered by caravan (Farnham, Surrey) in collaboration with ILT Festival (Aarhus, Denmark). It is supported by Arts Council England, Arts Council Norway, Julie's Bicycle and the Danish Arts Foundation, and seeks to support artists from England and Denmark to explore innovative ways to present work internationally, with a focus on reducing their carbon footprint by minimising travel. You can learn more about the collaborators below.

#### **the initiative**

As the climate crisis reshapes the way we live, work and create, this initiative offers an opportunity to challenge conventional touring models and experiment with finding bold alternatives.

Funding of £650 GBP each will be offered to 10 individual artists, collectives, independent companies and producers in the performing arts from England and Denmark. The funding is intended to support those artists with the time to collaborate, develop and experiment with new approaches that align with their artistic practice.

Key aims:

- Promote a sustainable professional contemporary arts sector with international reach in both countries
- Foster international connections, challenge conventional touring models, and enhance understanding of alternative methods and inspire new innovative ideas
- Explore new approaches for creating international dialogue and presenting work creatively without travelling.

### the opportunity

This is a unique opportunity for artists to reimagine how they engage with international audiences and help shape a more sustainable, forward-thinking future for the performing arts. We are seeking individuals with a passion for pushing boundaries and a willingness to explore new ideas – whether you're already engaged in environmentally conscious practices or looking for ways to integrate conceptual touring ideas into your work.

### the structure

Over four months, the selected artists will engage in five 2-hour online workshops and seminars with inspiring speakers and leading thinkers from various industries, sparking conversation and subsequently reflecting on and evolving their practice in a supportive, collaborative space.

Artists will take part in a culminating hybrid seminar in May 2025, hosted by the ILT Festival in Aarhus, Denmark, to share their insights, discoveries and potential new frameworks for the future of international touring, leading to a report to be shared with the wider sector. This will be online for UK artists; in person for Danish artists.

We hope new collaborations will form between English and Danish artists.

### Key dates: February to May 2025

26 February to 26 March 2025: Five 2-hour online sessions (Wednesday mornings, 10 hours total)

March to May: additional exploratory sessions (4 hours)

22 May: Final hybrid seminar at ILT Festival

31 May 2025: Evaluation, report and self-reflection to be completed (Workshops and seminar schedule are currently subject to programming).

### who we are

#### caravan

an international theatre initiative that supports the UK's independent theatre community in expanding and creating on an international stage, fostering collaboration, reciprocity and exchange around the world.

Rooted in Farnham Maltings, a cultural hub in south-west Surrey, caravan shares its mission to unite artists and communities through cultural exchange. Our year-round programme includes events like the International Producers' Breakfast in partnership with Edinburgh International Festival and specialised working groups, such as the house International Working Group. We also lead networks like the Cultural Attaché Network, which links cultural diplomats with opportunities across the UK arts sector.

We organise delegation visits to foster connections between UK artists and international regions, while offering training and resources to empower international ambitions. Our New Conversations programme has enabled over 100 artists and organisations to collaborate across countries like Canada, Egypt, and the USA since 2018.

In partnership with Brighton Festival, we host the caravan assembly, a biennial event that connects UK theatre makers with international programmers. Over 200 artists have participated in this three-day event through performances, pitches, discussions, and networking, with mentoring and training provided in advance to maximise opportunities.

[caravan-theatre.com](http://caravan-theatre.com) | [@caravan\\_theatre](https://twitter.com/caravan_theatre) | [farnhammaltings.com](http://farnhammaltings.com)

#### ILT Festival

Aarhus' international performing arts festival, bringing magical, thought-provoking, and unforgettable experiences from around the world to Aarhus every other year.

In 2025, the festival will be held for the ninth time, where children, adults,

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local, national, established and new audiences are once again welcomed to a spectacular festival program, featuring everything from classical drama to dance, physical theater, installations, puppetry, music and theater concerts. In addition, the festival offers workshops, masterclasses, artistic discussions, and other engaging events for both the industry and the local audience in Aarhus.

Our mission is to present some of the most distinguished and groundbreaking performing arts through a diverse festival programme that:

- Challenges conventions
- Ensures accessibility to high-quality art for everyone
- Fosters artistic development
- Links Aarhus with the broader global community.

The festival is organised by Teatret Svalegangen, Teatret Gruppe 38 and Aarhus Teater – in close collaboration with all the city's other venues.

[www.iltfestival.dk](http://www.iltfestival.dk) | [@ilt\\_festival](https://twitter.com/ilt_festival)

### **The International Touring Environmental Responsibility Fund**

is supported by Arts Council England, Danish Arts Foundation, Arts Council Norway and Julie's Bicycle. The programme has completed three editions aimed at fostering relationships between artists and companies in Denmark, Norway, and England. It focuses on developing environmentally responsible approaches to international touring and collaboration.

While travel is vital for artistic creativity and cultural exchange, it has environmental costs. With the increasing urgency of the climate crisis, the performing arts sector must address its touring footprint and find sustainable ways to share art, contributing to a global low-carbon future.

This programme is designed to help performing arts professionals in England, Norway, and Denmark confront these challenges directly.

### apply now

Applications are open to performing artists, collectives, and independent companies based in England and Denmark.

#### Applicants must be:

- Open to exploring new concepts and ideas: you may develop an existing idea or be willing to develop new ideas during the engagement
- Based in England or Denmark. If applying on behalf of a company or collective, the lead applicant must be based in England or Denmark
- Making work in the performing arts
- Prepared to explore models and generate concepts that have the potential for public presentation, whether live, digital or hybrid. There is no requirement to produce a finished work by the end of the process
- Available to participate in all programmed sessions from 26 February 2025, the culminating seminar (in-person or remotely) on 22 May 2025 and the evaluation phase concluding 31 May 2025.

#### Eligibility

To be eligible, applications must be submitted by 12pm GMT / 1pm CET on Monday 9 December. Late submissions will not be considered.

Applicants must fall into one of the following categories:

- Registered charities, Community Interest Companies (CICs), or not-for-profit limited companies based in England or Denmark and working in the performing arts
- Independent performing arts companies or collectives based in England or Denmark
- Individual artists working in the performing arts and based in England or Denmark.

We are dedicated to collaborating with artists whose lived experiences reflect the rich diversity of England and Denmark. We strongly encourage applications from individuals and groups representing the Global Majority, Working Class, d/Disabled and LGBTQ+ people, and others whose identities are currently underrepresented in the arts.

### application process

Application guidance is available in English and Danish. The application form is in English, and applications must be completed in English.

If you would like to apply in writing, use the text form, complete the applicant details and written information. [TEXT FORM](#)

If you would like to apply by video, BSL, DST or voice note, use the video application form to attach your media file. Video/BSL/voice note submissions must not exceed eight minutes and must address all the required information in the form. [VIDEO FORM](#)

### Contacts

We strive to make the process as inclusive as possible. If you have specific needs, please contact [Meghan Cosgrove](#) (caravan) or [Malene Cathrine Pedersen](#) (ILT Festival) for assistance.

The main applicant will be responsible for signing the agreement, receiving the funding, submitting the end-of-project report, and sharing any relevant photo or video documentation. They will serve as the primary contact for the collaborative learning team.

### Applicant Information Session - Online

Applicants are invited to learn more about the initiative and the application process on Monday 18 November at 10.30 am GMT / 11.30am CET.

[Click here to book](#)

### Application Deadline and Notification

Deadline: 12pm GMT / 1pm CET on Monday 9 December.

Successful applicants will be notified by 19 December 2024.

### Funding Release

Funds will be released by 01 March 2025.

### funding terms

The Collaborative Learning Initiative funding is designed to compensate artists and independent companies for their time participating in online sessions and exploring new ideas arising from the discussions. It is an opportunity for professional development and a chance for artists from England and Denmark to enter into new collaborations.

Please note, the funding cannot be used for:

- General operating expenses or salaried staff payments
- Costs already covered by other funding sources, such as government grants, Arts Council funding, or foundation support.
- Applicants may also request additional funding for access-related costs incurred during this exploration period, which will be provided on top of the main funding.

### application selection criteria

Applications will be evaluated by a small selection panel, and decisions will be based on the following criteria:

#### Application Relevance and Artistic Merit (50%)

- Demonstrated artistic merit of the applicants (assessed through the information provided in the application)
- Clarity of objectives, how clearly the objectives of the artist/company are articulated and aligned with the initiative's goals

#### Potential Impact (50%):

- Individual artistic development and contribution to the development of the sector, based on projected benefits and outcomes.

Thank you for your interest in this initiative. We look forward to receiving your application.

The Collaborative Learning Initiative: Concept Touring is supported by: