

# NEW HORIZONS STAGE PRODUCER BRIEF

APRIL 2022

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## CONTEXT

Newhampton Arts Centre (NAC) is a busy community arts centre in the Whitmore Reans area of Wolverhampton, situated near to the Molineux just off the ring road. NAC has a year-round programme of live events (music, theatre) and almost 30 weekly courses and classes. It is also home to a community of resident creative and community organisations and artists, including a community radio station, two recording studios, visual artists and a magician.

NAC, in common with all cultural venues, has been closed since March 2020 and is in the process of planning its re-opening as the Government's 'roadmap' for re-opening public life following the COVID-19 lockdown proceeds. As part of its post-COVID strategy NAC invested in The New Horizons Stage, a substantial covered outdoor performance area in its courtyard (see separate brochure) which had a very successful debut season in summer 2021. It is now looking for a producer to help it plan and deliver an exciting programme of live events and activities over the summer of 2022.

The New Horizons Stage seats 140 (or 82 socially distanced) and has a raised stage, lighting and PA equipped. The programme for the New Horizons Stage is already taking shape with the following events already confirmed:

- ▶ Folk at the New Horizons one-day Festival – Sat 25 June
- ▶ Community regional bands event – Sat 2 July
- ▶ CAMRA Beer Festival – 7-9 July
- ▶ Jazz Festival – Sat 23 July
- ▶ Antics Family Theatre – Sunday 14 August
- ▶ Themed Film Night featuring True Romance – Friday 16 September

There are also events with local youth theatres and Holiday Activities and Food programme for families with young children scheduled for August.



## BRIEF

To develop further opportunities for programming on the New Horizons Stage at Newhampton Arts Centre from June-September in order to diversify the programme and to make sure that the Centre makes the maximum use of this unique opportunity to reach new artists and audiences.

## KEY TASKS

Become familiar with the staff team and the New Horizons Stage plans at NAC, including the programming already planned for the Stage.

Discuss opportunities for use of the New Horizons Stage with artists, companies and promoters who have not had appeared in the NAC programme recently.

Our priorities are:

- ▶ Artists and companies from diverse backgrounds
- ▶ Artists and companies from Wolverhampton, the Black Country and the West Midlands
- ▶ Artists working in genres and styles that can widen our programme from its historic strengths in rock and pop, folk and contemporary jazz (music);
- ▶ Theatre with families with young children; and work for adults
- ▶ Explore how the New Horizons Stage can be of most use to artists and companies not just to present work, but also to rehearse and develop new work
- ▶ Work with the Community Arts Development officer to create wider participative and educational opportunities that can bring artists and audiences together
- ▶ Work with the Marketing Officer to explore how the marketing resources of the organisation can most effectively be used
- ▶ Work with the Programming Team to add additional programming to the three 'Headline Events' in the New Horizon stage (Family Festival, Folk Festival, Jazz Afternoon).

The New Horizons Producer is contracted by the CEO. They will also liaise with the programming team at NAC: Site Manager, Marketing Officer and Administrator.

## MENTORING

There is a strong on-the job training aspect to this role. We are not expecting someone to arrive with a complete set of skills for end to end producing. The role will be supported by experienced staff within the NAC team who have decades working in programming (music and theatre), technical and event management, marketing and finance.

In addition to NAC we anticipate that the Producer will work with a range of regular co-producers such as Black Country Touring, Jazz at Wolverhampton, Creative Black Country etc. to maximise the impact of this opportunity.

## PRACTICAL DETAILS

The New Horizons Producer will be contracted by NAC on a self-employed basis and be paid a fee of £4000 for the above services, representing approximately 40 days work over the period May - September 2021.

To support this work the Producer will have an events budget of £4000.00 – though this can be extended once details of the work are firmed up and likely income for live events confirmed.

## TIMESCALE

We plan to appoint the New Horizons Producer as soon as possible in **April 2022**. The New Horizons Stage itself launches at the end of May with a series of family creative events.

The New Horizons Stage will be up until mid-September and we imagine that the contract will be completed by the **end of September 2021**.

## WHO SHOULD APPLY?

NAC is keen to add to the diversity of its programming team and recognises that fresh approaches require new voices from a range of backgrounds under-represented in our programming team.

You will be in the earlier stages of your cultural career and be passionate about enabling talent to thrive and reach new audiences.

You will be clear about how this opportunity can contribute to your career development.

You will be based in the West Midlands and be able to develop existing and new networks of local and regional artists.

You will bring ideas, networks and new ways of thinking to NAC, in particular how we can use the unique New Horizons Stage to increase the breadth of artists and audiences that NAC serves.



## HOW TO APPLY:

Please respond to this brief in no more than 8 pages of A4. You should include:

- ▶ A statement that covers what you hope to gain from this opportunity and how it fits into your longer-term career plans.
- ▶ Skills, experience or education that are relevant to delivering this brief.
- ▶ A proposal for a one-day event in The New Horizons Stage in an artform of your choosing that would complement and extend the programming already in place. This should include an overall description of the event, the artists involved, practical details such as running times and an approach to marketing the event.
- ▶ Names and contact details of two referees who know your work and would be happy to discuss it. Please include emails and phone for these.

**Please send your response to [admin@newhamptonarts.co.uk](mailto:admin@newhamptonarts.co.uk) no later than 12:00 noon on Tues 19 April.** Interviews will in person at NAC on Monday 25 April - if you apply please ensure that you have time on this day to attend. We aim to make a decision as soon as possible after this date.

## WANT A CHAT?

Please email Trevelyan Wright, NAC CEO, for an informal chat about this role at [trevelyan@newhamptonarts.co.uk](mailto:trevelyan@newhamptonarts.co.uk)



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