

PENTABUS

The Nation's Rural Theatre Company

The Clive & Sylvia Richards' Charity Writer in Residence Bursary

'I WROTE. I wrote so much. Because Pentabus gave me that time and space to just scribble away, and I can never thank them enough for that. They made me realise what I want to write and why I want to write it.'

Tim Foley, 2016/17 Writer in Residence and Bruntwood Award Winner 2017

Pentabus are looking for an emerging theatre artist to become our third Clive and Sylvia Richards' Charity Writer in Residence.

As a recipient of the Channel Four Writer in Residence Bursary for three years in a row, an unprecedented achievement, we know just how essential a writer in residence is for Pentabus. We were awarded a grant from the Clive & Sylvia Richards' Charity in 2018 to support a Writer in Residence Bursary for two years, and have now received a further year of funding. The first recipient of the Bursary was Sophie Ellerby, the second is Tom Powell who will finish his year as Writer in Residence in December 2020.

The Bursary supports a professional playwright in the early stage of their career, giving the recipient the opportunity to spend up to a year at our base in Bromfield, which is just outside Ludlow in South Shropshire. During their time with Pentabus, the recipient will write at least one new full length play or piece of theatre.

About Pentabus:

'one of the most important theatre companies in the country, where it has led, other new writing theatres – such as the Royal Court – have followed' The Telegraph

In every village, field and street there lives a rural story.

Pentabus is the nation's rural theatre company. We are the only professional theatre company in the UK whose vision is singularly rural. We tour new plays about the contemporary rural world to new audiences in village halls, fields, festivals and theatres, telling stories with local relevance, plus national and international impact. We believe that every person living in an isolated rural community has a right to exceptional theatre. We are based on a farm in Shropshire, and to date all of our work has been made here. It then tours village halls and theatres locally and nationally. Over four and a half decades we've produced 172 new plays, reached over half a million audience members, won a prestigious South Bank Show award, a Fringe First and were the first to live stream from a village hall. We have hosted a writer in residence since 2014 and they have gone on to be commissioned by the Royal Exchange, Royal Court, Birmingham Rep, Royal Welsh College, Nottingham Playhouse, HighTide and the Bush.

We are a champion for rural young people aged 16 to 25 and Pentabus Young Company is our new initiative offering workshops, masterclasses, work experience and mentorships, as well as the opportunity to join our Young Writers' Group, which has been running for seven years. Previous participants of the Young Writers' Group have had their work presented at Ludlow Fringe, Latitude Festival and Hereford Courtyard. It is a springboard into further study and work within the arts industry.

About the Residency:

'It's life-changing. It's time. It's support and expertise. And it's money. The pandemic has presented its own challenges but Pentabus have been supportive and considerate. The CSRC Residence offers a different way of doing things and a different way of thinking – it's changing my work, and it's changed my life.'

Tom Powell, current Clive & Sylvia Richards' Charity Writer in Residence

The Clive & Sylvia Richards' Charity Writer in Residence Bursary is an opportunity for an emerging writer to become a part of the Pentabus family.

What the Writer in Residence Bursary will give to you:

- **The time and space to think and write.** You will have a studio at Pentabus HQ, a Victorian school on a farm 3 miles outside of Ludlow.
- **The opportunity to complete at least one full-length play or several works in progress.** This work must not have been commissioned by another company. Your writing time will be largely unrestricted and you can write about anything.
- **Professional dramaturgical feedback on your work .** Our Artistic Director will be available to discuss your ideas, and help you to work through any dramaturgical issues or queries that you might have.
- **The opportunity to have your script or idea workshopped** with Pentabus artists.
- **A launch pad into the wider theatre community.** You will be invited to attend Pentabus events, see shows as a representative of the company, and take part in industry activities with company members.
- **The opportunity to tutor our Pentabus Young Company and our Writers Group** (the next generation of aspiring writers and theatre makers aged 16 to 25). You will develop and lead workshops for our Young Writers both at Pentabus HQ and in other venues nationwide.
- **The opportunity to observe the work of the company.** You will attend rehearsals, dress rehearsals and other performances, gaining hands on experience of small scale touring.

What you will give to Pentabus:

- Reading and offering constructive criticism on scripts sent to us.
- Attending workshops and rehearsals of work in production
- Assisting our Artistic Director, with artistic planning and being an active part of planning the creative future of the company.
- Engaging with rural communities to better understand them and our mission
- Lending an objective artistic voice to our day to day operations
- Advocating for us in the wider writing/theatre community
- Being a mentor for our Young Company Writers, and taking part in planning Young Company activity.

Overview:

- You will be given a bursary of £10,000 to support you for 12 months.
- You will commit to living in Ludlow for at least 6 months of this time providing government Covid-19 guidance allow the Pentabus offices to be open.
- Any additional work you do for Pentabus outside of the Bursary requirements will be recompensed at ITC rates.
- You will be required to submit two reports to Pentabus for the Clive & Sylvia Richards' Charity, the generous supporters of the Writer In Residence Bursary.
- The Bursary is designed to cover living costs in order to allow the Writer In Residence to focus on their work.

Who is Eligible to Apply:

'This is an incredible opportunity if you are in need of time and space to develop your writing. The residency has afforded me the time to THINK BIG. This bursary is a chance for you to challenge yourself and feel supported in the process. Apply now!'
Sophie Ellerby, CSRC Writer In Residence 2018/19

We are looking for committed, enthusiastic and exceptionally talented writers and theatre makers in the early stages of their career. You **MUST** have a passion for theatre and a strong interest in the wider theatre industry.

You may have a relevant degree in Literature, Creative Writing, Theatre Studies, or commensurate experience in professional theatre. Ideally, applicants would either have an agent, or have completed an Emerging Writers' or Artists' programme (i.e Orange Tree Writers Collective, REP Foundry, Royal Exchange Young Company etc) or have had a production of their work professionally produced, either in a Fringe, Rural Touring or Studio theatre setting.

We will accept applications from those who have applied to the bursary before – just tell us why you are applying again, and send us a different example of your writing if you were longlisted in 2019.

Although we are based outside of a small rural town, you do not need to be able to drive in order to apply. We can help you to get in to the office / studio daily, or you can walk through the fields or take the local bus!

Applicants *must* be over 18 years of age.

How to Apply & Deadlines:

Fill in an application form on the Pentabus website. You can find this on the Writer in Residence Applications page of the website.

You **MUST** complete all sections of the application form and equal opportunities monitoring form, and ensure you also upload the following:

- A copy of a full length play that you've written. Ideally we'd like to read plays that have had a professional reading or production. **NB** This play will not be read unless you are longlisted. Please provide details of the production or reading with the play.
- A current writer's CV or Biog.

If you have any additional access requirements that we can support you with in order to make an application then please email Amber on amber@pentabus.co.uk.

- Applications must be received by **Monday 3 August at 10am**
- Longlisted candidates will be informed by **the week beginning 17 August**
- Candidates shortlisted for interview will be informed by **the end of week of 7 September**
- We will meet with eight potential candidates virtually or in person **week commencing 14 September** with a view to making a decision by **Monday 28 September**.

We envisage the successful applicant will take up the role of Clive & Sylvia Richards' Charity Writer in Residence in Spring 2021. We will discuss what form this takes in light of the current government Covid-19 guidance when offering the role and any subsequent changes thereafter.