

PENTABUS

The Nation's Rural Theatre Company

PRESS RELEASE

Thursday 2 July 2020

Pentabus Announce the Third Year of the Clive & Sylvia Richards' Charity Writer In Residence Bursary and Applications Open

Pentabus today announced the third year of support from the Clive & Sylvia Richards' Charity for their Writer in Residence Bursary and opened applications for the 2021 bursary.

The £10,000 bursary supports a professional playwright in the early stage of their career, providing the opportunity for the recipient to spend up to a year residing locally and working at Pentabus in South Shropshire. During their time with Pentabus, the recipient will be given the opportunity to write at least one new full length play or piece of theatre, whilst learning more about how a professional theatre company works.

Pentabus was a recipient of the Channel Four Writer in Residence Bursary for three years in a row, an unprecedented achievement. In 2018, they were awarded a grant from the Clive & Sylvia Richards' Charity to continue to support a Writer In Residence Bursary for two years, which has now been extended for a third year. The first recipient of the CSRC Writer in Residence Bursary was **Sophie Ellerby**, who finished her year as CSRC Writer in Residence in September 2019 and the second recipient was **Tom Powell**, who is currently halfway through his residency.

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

'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.'

Clive & Sylvia Richards' Charity said:

'This will be the third consecutive year which we have sponsored the Writer in Residence. In spite of COVID19 last year's winner Tom Powell has shown his undoubted talent and will be a force to be reckoned with in the future. We look forward to seeing this year's winner in due course.'

Applications open on **Thursday 2 July 2020** and close on **Monday 3 August 2020 at 10am**. For more information regarding the bursary and application process please visit pentabus.co.uk

For all press enquiries please contact Catrin John via catrin@pentabus.co.uk

Notes to Editors

About Pentabus:

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 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 the arts industry.

About Pentabus Writers in Residence:

Previous Pentabus Writers in Residence were Sophie Ellerby (2018/19), Tim Foley (2016), Joe White (2015) and Simon Longman (2014). Sophie had her play *LIT* produced by HighTide and Nottingham Playhouse in 2019; Tim was a Bruntwood Prize For Playwriting winner in 2017 and his play *Electric Rosary* was scheduled for production in 2020 at the Royal Exchange, Manchester; Simon won the George Devine award for his play *Gundog* at the Royal Court, London, and in 2018 his play *Rails* was produced by Theatre By The Lake in Keswick and Joe had his play *Mayfly* produced by the Orange Tree Theatre in Richmond.

The Writer in Residence Bursary is supported by:



Pentabus would like to thank all our supporters including:



Pentabus is also supported by the Esmee Fairbairn Foundation, the Garfield Weston Foundation, the Haystack Trust, The Millichope Foundation, Shrewsbury Masons and the Wynn Foundation.