

The Clive & Sylvia Richards 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 Theatre Company are looking for an emerging writer to become our 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're delighted to announce that we have been awarded a grant from the Clive & Sylvia Richards Charity to support a Writer In Residence Bursary for the next two years. The Bursary will support a professional playwright in the early stage of their career, providing the opportunity for the recipient to spend up to a year at our base in Bromfield, South Shropshire.

About Pentabus:

'Pentabus is probably 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'

Matt Trueman, The Telegraph 2018

We are the nation's rural theatre company. We tour new plays to new audiences in village halls, fields, festivals and theatres - telling stories with local relevance and national impact.

Over four decades Pentabus has produced over 160 new plays, supported more than 120 playwrights and reached a million audience members. We've toured to hundreds of places, won awards and created lasting relationships with artists, venues and audiences across the country. Over the last five years the company has developed a bold new vision to become the nation's rural theatre company, creating new plays about the modern rural world for audiences all over the UK. This increase in the company's activities and reach has meant we have made powerful new work in theatres, fields and village halls. Our ambitious far-reaching theatre is about, informed by and made for, rural audiences. Alongside this has been an initiative to nurture young writers from rural backgrounds, being a voice on the national stage for rural issues and pioneering work in digital fields to increase access and opportunity. The company now tours several productions a year, is a leading force in green theatre practice and plays an important role in the national theatre ecology, discovering and supporting new and emerging playwrights; a champion for the modern rural world.

Based on a farm in rural Shropshire, the company retains a Midlands presence but its reach is now truly national and occasionally international. Our work tours as far afield as Cornwall, Orkney, Coleraine and Kent and has been seen off-Broadway, across Europe, in India, Australia and New Zealand.

About the Residency:

The Clive & Sylvia Richards Writer In Residence Bursary is an opportunity for an emerging theatre artist 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 schoolhouse on a farm 3 miles outside of Ludlow.
- The opportunity to complete at least one full length play or several works in progress. Your writing time will be largely unrestricted and you can write about anything that you'd like.
- Constructive criticism and professional dramaturgical feedback on your work. Sophie, our Artistic Director, will be available to discuss your ideas, help you to work out 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 Writers Programme (the next generation of aspiring writers aged 16 to 25). You will develop and lead workshops for our Young Writers both at Pentabus HQ and in other venues nationwide (additional fees may be given for this work).
- The opportunity to attend rehearsals, final run-throughs, dress rehearsals and other performances

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, Sophie, with artistic planning and being an active part of planning the creative future of the company.
- Observing the workings of the company, gaining hands-on experience of small scale touring
- 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 Writers

The Bursary

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. 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, who are 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. Applicants must be over 18 years of age.

Who is Eligible to Apply:

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 (ie Orange Tree Writers Collective, REP Foundry, Royal Exchange Young Company etc) or to have had a production of their work professionally produced, either in a Fringe, Rural Touring or Studio theatre setting.

Of course, we are committed to nurturing and developing the best rural talent, and you may have none of the above experience. People who have genuinely come from a rural background, who do not have the above qualifications or experience, but have an important story to tell can also apply. Just tell us why you are applying.

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!

How to Apply:

Fill in an application form, and send it to scripts@pentabus.co.uk with the title CRSC WRITER IN RESIDENCE BURSARY in the email.

You **MUST** include with your application:

- Your completed application form.
- A completed Equal Opportunities Monitoring Form.
- 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 shortlisted. Please provide details of the production or reading with the play.
- A current writer's CV or Biog.

Applications must be in by **Friday 9 March at 5pm**. Shortlisted writers will be informed by the end of April. We will meet with potential candidates in early May with a view to making a decision by 24 May 2018.