



SCIENCE IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Edinburgh International Science Festival, in partnership with Imagine and Starcatchers, is looking to commission a new science theatre production aimed at an early years audience, to be delivered at Edinburgh International Science Festival 2018.

Science in the Spotlight is a continuing ambitious project by Edinburgh International Science Festival, which aims to bring together the wonder of theatre and the explosive world of science communication. It provides an opportunity for these two creative industries to meet and make fresh, innovative and exciting theatre with science at its heart and encourages collaboration between theatre makers and the scientific world.

Following on from the success of our 2016 commissions – *Lost at Sea* by Catherine Wheels and Borderline Theatre Company's *Uncanny Valley* – we are looking to create a new show aimed at an early years audience. The production will be performed over a period of one week at our 2018 Festival, which runs from 31 March–15 April, with the potential for delivery at our 2019 Festival, subject to funding.

The lead artist should be based in Scotland and/or the commission be produced by a Scottish company.

Submission details

Proposals are welcomed from artists and companies from a theatre, performance or dance background. Artists from outwith these areas should contact us in the first instance to establish if they are eligible to apply.

The new piece created will be suitable for early years audiences, falling somewhere within the 0–5 year age range.

Proposals should be no more than 4 sides of A4 in length (plus budget as an appendix) and should include the following:

- **Your idea and why it interests you, as well as details of the scientific concept(s) you will explore.** We are open to ideas across all areas of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Maths)
- **The precise target audience age range** e.g. 0–2, 0–3, 2–4, 3–5 years
- **Details of the artists/company involved.** What experience do you have of producing and touring theatre? What is your experience of producing work for this age range?
- **A project timeline.** Edinburgh International Science Festival would like to include a minimum of four workshop days throughout the process, allowing us to collaborate and support artists by providing access to leading scientists in the chosen field, along with our expertise in science communication and theatre in education. These dates should be arranged by the successful applicant to fit in with their creative process
- **Information about any scratch performances or work in progress development completed to date**
- **Reviews of work you have previously delivered and/or a letter of recommendation** from a recognised industry professional to support your application
- **Any future plans for the show beyond the 2018 Science Festival**

- **Budget information up to a maximum of £30,000.** Budgets should include all related development and delivery costs (including artists' fees, specialist technical equipment and support, materials and delivery of at least a week of performances during Edinburgh International Science Festival 2018). It should be assumed that the Festival will supply a performance venue (with basic tech provision) and a science advisor.

Selection process

The successful proposal will be selected by a panel, facilitated by Edinburgh International Science Festival, Starcatchers and Imagineate, using the following criteria:

- The originality and ambition of the idea and the project's ability to demonstrate scientific ideas/concepts
- A final outcome that will inspire and increase the target audience's understanding of STEM-related subjects
- The ability of the project to deliver within the timescale and on budget
- Flexibility to work within Festival constraints; adaptable to different venues, ability to work within technical restraints with the possibility of limited set/prop storage and restricted get-in/out periods
- Projects that involve collaborative working are encouraged

How much funding is available?

Edinburgh International Science Festival will fund up to a maximum of £30,000 for the production.

Reporting

Successful applicants will be expected to submit a report at the end of the project, including a certified financial report.

Timeline

Submission deadline: **Monday 10 July 2017**

Panel meets: **Thursday 20 July 2017**

Successful project announced by: **Monday 24 July 2017**

To submit your proposal

If you have any queries or to submit your proposal, please contact Andrew Jeffrey, Events Developer by email at andrewjeffrey@scifest.co.uk or by phone on **0131 553 9270**.

Please use 'Science in the Spotlight Commission' as the subject of your email.

Proposals can also be submitted by post to: Andrew Jeffrey, Edinburgh International Science Festival, Harbourside House, 110 Commercial Street, Edinburgh, EH6 6NF.

Science in the Spotlight is supported by Creative Scotland through the Scottish Government's Edinburgh Festivals Expo Fund

