

## THE TS ELIOT US/UK EXCHANGE 2011

### FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Below are answers to some of the most common questions we receive. If the question you have isn't answered below, please email the relevant contact -

For UK resident enquiries: [ovnv@oldvictheatre.com](mailto:ovnv@oldvictheatre.com)

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### EXCHANGE TIMELINE

#### WHEN DO I NEED TO BE AVAILABLE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE PROJECT?

##### UK artists:

Auditions/interviews: w/c 7<sup>th</sup> March

Prep/info evening: Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> March

Readings of plays to ready scripts for Exchange showcase: evening of Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> April

**EXCHANGE WEEK: Fly to New York on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> May and return on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> May (landing on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> May).**

##### US artists:

Auditions/interviews: w/c 21<sup>st</sup> March

Prep evening: Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> April

Reading evening of plays to ready scripts for Exchange showcase: Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> May

**EXCHANGE WEEK: Fly to London on Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> May and return on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> June.**

#### I AM CURRENTLY THIRTY YEARS OLD. CAN I STILL APPLY?

Yes, provided you do not turn 31 by the time applications close in mid-Feb.

#### I AM CURRENTLY TWENTY YEARS. CAN I STILL APPLY?

Yes, provided you turn 21 by the time applications close in mid-Feb.

#### IF I'VE APPLIED BEFORE, CAN I APPLY AGAIN?

If you applied last time and weren't successful, please do apply again – it shows us that you have great tenacity and career commitment. If you applied and were successful, unfortunately we aren't able to consider you again.

### COST

#### HOW MUCH DOES IT COST AND WHAT DOES THE FEE COVER?

The fee is £400 / \$650 which includes your airfare, accommodation, meetings, workshops and industry showcase.

Additionally, you will need to take enough money to cover food, public transport and any theatre shows you wish to see whilst you are abroad.

### **CAN THE FEE BE WAIVED?**

Unfortunately not, but please let us know on the application form if the fee would prohibit you from participating in the Exchange – there are a limited number of Artist Funds available courtesy of The TS Eliot Estate.

### **IF I HAVE TO DROP OUT OF THE EXCHANGE WILL I LOSE MY PAYMENT?**

If you let us know more than 45 days before departure, and we are able to replace your spot with someone else, then you won't lose all of your payment. However, changes made after 45 days before departure will mean that the fee is lost.

### **CAN I PAY IN INSTALLMENTS?**

We encourage you to pay in one transaction. However if you are unable to do this then we are happy to discuss this with you. The full payment will need to reach us in good time before departure.

## **FLIGHTS AND ACCOMMODATION**

### **IF I BOOK MY OWN FLIGHT BACK, CAN I STAY EXTRA TIME?**

We feel that a major part of the Exchange ethos is about travelling together and bonding as a group. Additionally, our airfares depend on group travel.

### **WHERE WILL I BE STAYING ON THE EXCHANGE?**

You will be paired up with a theatre buddy during the Exchange. You will stay in their home and have the chance to gain first hand experience of what their city has to hold. Where the best places are to see theatre, good places to eat, things to do and see. And if you play your cards right, a free place to stay in the future! They will meet you when you arrive and on the first day and show you the city.

To take part in the Exchange you need to be able to accommodate a foreign artist when the Exchange swaps over – in a spare room, either on a bed, sofa bed or sofa. If you are a US resident, you will need to accommodate a London visitor from 2<sup>nd</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> May; if you are a UK resident, you will need to accommodate a US visitor from 29<sup>th</sup> May – 6<sup>th</sup> June.

### **IF I AM UNABLE TO HOUSE SOMEONE CAN I STILL PARTICIPATE?**

We believe that the theatre buddy system is a major part of the experience of the Exchange. However, exceptions have been made for students currently living in university housing and in other extenuating circumstances. Please make sure your application accurately reflects your current living situation.

### **DO I HAVE TO STAY WITH MY EXCHANGE PARTNER THROUGHOUT THE WEEK?**

Throughout the Exchange we encourage you to stay with your Exchange partner as bonding with other artists a key part of the project experience. However if you have friends or family you wish to stay with, then this should be highlighted on your form and (if you are successful) to your Exchange buddy asap.

### **DO I NEED A VISA?**

If you have a full US or UK/EU passport, you will not need a visa as you won't be working for payment or studying on an accredited course.

## **AUDITIONS/INTERVIEWS**

### **I SUBMITTED MY APPLICATION, WHEN IS MY AUDITION/INTERVIEW?**

Because of time constraints we are only able to audition and interview a select group of applicants. We will be in contact in mid February with audition and interview times and details after we have reviewed all of the applications. As a guide, UK auditions will take place w/c 7<sup>th</sup> March and US auditions w/c 21<sup>st</sup> March.

### **I AM UNABLE TO MAKE THE AUDITION/INTERVIEW TIMES. CAN I STILL APPLY?**

Yes. For the first time, we will be accepting video auditions and Skype interviews. Please note on your application that you are unable to make the audition/interview week, and if you are selected for an audition/interview we will contact you about scheduling an alternative review process. Please note, we are unable to provide filming materials, but your industriousness is greatly appreciated!

**AS AN ACTOR, WHAT WILL MY AUDITION CONSIST OF?**

If selected for audition, all actors must prepare two monologues no longer than 2 minutes in length. Either two contemporary, or one contemporary one classical. Please select material that showcases your talent in the best possible light.

**AS A WRITER, DIRECTOR OR PRODUCER, WHAT WILL MY INTERVIEW CONSIST OF?**

A short meeting with Old Vic staff discussing your work and your potential goals for your time abroad. This is an opportunity for us to get to know you beyond just the application – for us to explore your knowledge and familiarity with your sister city and to determine your suitability to the high pressure Exchange environment.

**THE WEEK ITSELF****WHAT WILL THE WEEK CONSIST OF?**

A heady mixture of meetings, discussions and workshops. The week culminates in a showcase of original work created by Exchange participants.

**WHO WILL I BE MEETING WITH ON THE EXCHANGE WEEK?**

You will be meeting with the top industry professionals in your sister city. The 2011 Exchange week schedules will be changing up until the week before you travel, so we're unable to provide a specific list of meetings, workshop leaders, and master classes at this moment. Once you've been accepted onto the Exchange, we encourage you to contact us with suggestions for who you'd like to meet and we will accommodate them as best we can.

**WILL I HAVE TIME TO SEE THEATRE SHOWS?**

During the Exchange week, there are free nights available for you to experience whatever you choose either in NYC or London. Please let us know what you might be interested in doing and we'll see if we have any ticket offers available to us.

**CAN I SET UP MY OWN MEETINGS WHILE I'M ABROAD?**

Absolutely. We thoroughly encourage you to make the most of this opportunity and meet with professionals during your (limited) free time, and we will support you in securing these meetings as best we can. As several Exchange participants may want to meet the same industry representative, please let us know who you are thinking of contacting prior to reaching out to them so that we can facilitate a group visit if appropriate. Last year, participants met with additional theatres, producers, agents, managers, casting people and literary managers and directors in their time off.

**IF I'M SELECTED, ARE THERE ANY CIRCUMSTANCES UNDER WHICH I WOULD NOT BE A PART OF THE EXCHANGE?**

We expect all Exchangers to act in a professional and responsible manner at all events leading up to and during the Exchange as well as providing all materials necessary for the Exchange in a timely fashion. As you can expect, this is a huge undertaking and we want to assemble to best and brightest participants to represent The Old Vic. Unprofessional behaviour (including tardiness) will not be tolerated.