

## Only Losers Left Alive

### An interdisciplinary working group connecting young artists across the East Midlands

Organised by Timber & Battery, a group of ten artists and art collectives from across the East Midlands region would meet and work together over a period of four months to develop professional artistic practice and regional collaborative links.

#### Project Outline

Recognizing the incredible activity of young artists across the East Midlands, in particular their capacity to self-organise art spaces and peer-support networks (Tetrad Collective, Hutt Collective, etc.), *Only Losers Left Alive* seeks to address the invisibility that lies between disciplines: both denying the possibility for mutual exchange, support and development; and creating barriers for artists whose work moves across disciplinary boundaries. Inviting energetic artists working across (and between) dance, theatre, visual arts, music, poetry and literature, we seek to make connections between the next generation responsible for independent artistic culture across the region.

The project would entail:

- Four weekends working together, spread across four months.
- Each weekend would be hosted by a different institution - a theatre, a gallery, a civic space and a university - with each disciplinary context proposing its own possibilities, processes and demands.
- These weekends would be organised around different collective tasks (making and exhibition, co-devising and performance lecture, writing and publishing). Providing a series of diverse opportunities and challenges to the participants, each would lead to the production of artwork, writing and events to be shared with both arts professionals and public.
- The project's conclusion would coincide with UKYA's Nottingham 2018 festival - thus ensuring the working group can contribute its findings to an international audience, and make use of this platform to seek future partnership and support as a strong group with an established identity and making process.

Rather than providing a series of workshops led by expert practitioners, these weekends would focus on activities undertaken collectively that require the skills demanded of young artists working across professional contexts - a mixture of independent collaborative process; the need to articulate artistic concerns and interests; the use of new media; the presentation of artworks across diverse contexts (exhibition, performance, site-specific spaces); hosting public events and talks.

Beyond the two major aims to create a long-lasting collaborative network of artists working across the East Midlands, and the presentation of collaborative work, the project seeks to empower each individual through:

- Creating original artworks and presentations responsive to the specific needs of diverse contexts.

- Sharing this artwork and live events to arts professionals and public.
- Developing skills to work independently and within collaborative processes.
- Gaining experience in articulating their creative practice, through writing, speech, new media and presentation.
- Identifying a peer group working across the region, opening opportunities for future collaboration.
- Introducing these participants to a number of arts institutions across the region with whom they might develop future individual partnerships.

## Team

The project would be undertaken by Timber & Battery in collaboration with UK Young Artists. Project partners would be sought from around the East Midlands region to host this working group. We would particularly seek partners who are dedicated to working with emerging artists in order to ensure greatest potential for future relationships between participant and institution.

The collaborative practice of Rohanne Udall (b. 1990) and Paul Hughes (b. 1991), [Timber & Battery](#)'s work takes place across choreographic, performance and visual arts contexts. Trained in fine art and philosophy, our practice is a meeting point between disciplines; and regularly presents its work across the nation's festivals, conferences, exhibitions and stages.

We regularly host interdisciplinary and collaborative platforms. Some relevant projects include:

- A commission to present a new audio installation at *DISKURS '17*, an interdisciplinary festival of artists, research and science in Giessen, Germany in October 2017, hosted by the Institute for Applied Theatre Studies.
- *Summer Lodge*, a residency undertaken with Nottingham Trent University in July 2017, which resulted in *Radio Play*, a pop-up radio station hosting discussions around artistic themes and sonic artworks; and a series of discussions and workshops with artists and students around the interdisciplinary meeting of choreography and visual arts.
- *Open Platform*, a series of workshops running from January 2017 for dancers and performers to invite critical discussion of somatic dance practice (previously at Chisenhale Dance Space, London and Coventry University).
- *Infinite Tango*, premiered December 2016, a choreography commissioned by Third Row Dance Company for ten BA students at the University of Roehampton.

## Budget

The two main areas of project fees would be artist fees to undertake the project, and support for participants' travel.

The preliminary budget for the delivery of this project is estimated to be **£9,938.50**. Please see the attached spreadsheet for how we have broken down these costs.

Primarily supported by UKYA, we would seek project support from participating venues, and through a G4A bid with Arts Council England.