

Explanation of the 'Talent in International Context' programme of the Performing Arts Fund

Introduction

The 'Talent in International Context' programme was created in response to the vision memorandum drawn up by Minister Bussemaker, *Cultuur beweegt* ('Culture moves'). In this memorandum, the minister asked cultural funds to develop a programme devoted to the development of talent in an international context. Each cultural fund then designed a programme suited to the sector in which the fund operates. The Performing Arts Fund decided on a programme that matches talented makers with prominent international parties.

In her 2018 memorandum, *Cultuur in een open samenleving* ('Culture in an open society'), Minister van Engelshoven granted resources to enable a prolongation of this programme. As a result, the programme will run for a second period from 2019 to 2020. The set-up of the programme will remain largely the same, but with a new intendant and new scouts. The experiences acquired in the previous period will help to flesh out the programme in the new period.

The 'Talent in International Context' programme aims to help talented makers achieve an important step forward in their development and career. The programme offers them the opportunity to work alongside an international host for a certain period. There are no prior restrictions to the form that this collaboration takes. However, it should result in a concrete product: what the maker develops should be convertible into a product that can be presented to an audience. This will often take the form of a concert or performance, but other types of end products are conceivable, if this is more in line with the maker's development.

International parties

The programme links up makers with international parties who can help the maker develop further, in a way that would not be (as) feasible in the Netherlands. International performing companies, event venues or festivals are examples of potential parties. The international partner must have a strong position on the international stage, in a discipline or genre shared by the maker.

The makers

The programme concentrates on makers who have demonstrated their talent in the Dutch field of performing arts, but who have had little international experience or exposure so far. Eligibility for the programme is explicitly not restricted in terms of age or amount of experience. What matters is the maker's development phase, taking into account not just what the maker has accomplished so far but also his or her potential development.

As it is not uncommon in the world of performing arts for makers to create a performance or concert together with others (e.g. music bands, dance companies, and so on), the programme is also open to groups. Around ten to twelve makers (groups) can participate in the programme.

The procedure

The board of the Performing Arts Fund appoints an intendant to flesh out the programme. The intendant is selected based on his/her excellent international network in the performing arts. The intendant is supported by a team of scouts who are highly familiar with the Dutch performing arts sector. The intendant has two responsibilities, which coincide in establishing a match between the maker and an international party. First, the intendant selects interesting makers who are eligible to participate in the programme, in his/her own view. He/she is supported in this by the scouts' familiarity with the field. Second, the intendant is responsible for building contacts with international parties who could serve as collaboration partners for the makers. The intendant's core task is to determine the best possible match between the maker and an international party. He/she then proposes the maker to the Board, which then makes a grant available to realise the programme.

Finally

The intendant has an office at the Performing Arts Fund and is supported in his/her work by the Fund's office staff. Any questions for the intendant can be submitted via the Fund office. It is also possible bring suitable candidates or international parties to the intendant's attention. The Performing Arts Fund will regularly report on the results of the programme via the website or by other suitable means.