



Choreographic Development Initiative 2007/2008

Closing date: 5pm Friday 24 August 2007

Peer Panel meeting: Monday 3 September 2007

Introduction

The purpose of the detailed information sheet is to provide baseline information about the Choreographic Development Initiative, containing information on aims and objectives, target beneficiaries, eligibility criteria, guidelines for applying and assessment process.

If you have any further questions or queries, please do not hesitate to contact Elisabetta Bisaro at 01 884 8101 or by email: elisabetta.bisaro@danceireland.ie.

Context

The Arts Council has awarded Dance Ireland an additional €100,000 to provide a programme of Choreographic Research and Services opportunities for 2007/08. This once-off award complements our revenue award and will be used to pilot new programmes for choreographic support. We are grateful to the Arts Council for this valuable resource. While this is a once-off award, nevertheless we wish to build on the opportunity and use the resource to pilot new initiatives, and as action research, with a view to making a case for further on-going support for choreographic practice.

We will roll out our pilot programme on a phased basis, commencing with Choreographic Development Initiative (phase one), with phase two – Multidisciplinary Exchanges and International Artist Exchange Programme scheduled for later in the year and early 2008. It is intended that phase two is informed by developments arising out of the Choreographic Development Initiative and from on-going consultation with Dance Ireland members.

Choreographic Development Initiative Overview

Choreographers from across Ireland are encouraged to apply for financial support to facilitate research and develop choreographic practice. We wish to respond to initiatives that are daring and imaginative and to fund choreographers who wish to try new departures. These bursaries are 'to buy time' for practice research and development, over a six to nine month period, commencing from September onwards.

Our primary aim is to make a difference to choreographic practice. This initiative will give choreographers the breathing space to explore new avenues of interest, and address self-identified areas of development, which cannot be addressed within their normal working process. We want to support choreographers to go outside of their comfort zone, to do something new.

There is a fund of €50,000 available for this initiative. We estimate that, depending on submissions, 3-5 bursary awards, ranging from between €5,000 and €15,000 will be made. These awards are offered to professional choreographers, working in any genre, to explore process, research ideas, and develop choreographic practice.

Who can apply?

Proposals are encouraged from experienced choreographers with a minimum of 3 years experience.

Priority will be given to choreographers wishing to work outside their usual context, placing research and experimentation at the centre of their practice.

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Target Beneficiaries

We ask choreographers to identify their own needs and aspirations. This could take the shape of studio time with company or new dancers, or engaging a mentor, or working with artists from other disciplines, or undertaking outside research in other institutions, or other activities a choreographer has identified they need to undertake to further their practice.

While we have outlined a working timeframe (Sept 07 to May 08), individual proposal schedules may vary within this timeframe, as we wish to remain sensitive to possible prior commitments and constraints particular to each artist.

Eligibility criteria

In order to be eligible to apply:

- You must be a current professional member (performer or choreographer category) of Dance Ireland;
- You should be a professional choreographer, minimum 3 years experience;
- Demonstrate you are willing and ready to examine your creative process;
- Clearly identify the area in your work you need to address, and the means by which you intend to do so.

Conditions

- You must be available to meet with the assessment peer panel on Monday 3 September at DanceHouse. We cannot accommodate alternative arrangements;
- A valid PPS number is required;
- For awards in excess of €6,350, a Tax Clearance Certificate (TCC) is required. TCCs can be requested online at www.revenue.ie;
- Payment schedule: payment will be made in two/three installments depending on the value of the award. A payment schedule will be agreed with each choreographer; each installment will be paid on receipt of a written request and a short report;
- While we do not expect a fully developed or produced work; we do expect you to have made a journey of discovery about yourself as a choreographer, and to document it. We encourage all successful recipients, to present their findings or developments in a studio presentation at DanceHouse or through recording;
- Dance Ireland will endeavour to assist you during this process; however you are responsible for all aspects of your proposal, including space requirements, contracting dancers, engaging collaborators and sourcing materials;
- Successful recipients must be willing to share their work and research by means of the comprehensive documentation of their process, through reflection on their activity with the Dance Ireland peer panel and by participation, along with fellow recipients, in regularly scheduled feedback sessions;
- Evaluation: in order to inform future Arts Council and Dance Ireland dance policy; it is our intention to evaluate this award process. Successful recipients must be willing to contribute to an evaluation of their process, and more generally of the initiative;
- It is expected that any future works which come out of this initiative will acknowledge the support of Dance Ireland.

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How much will be awarded?

Awards will range from a minimum of €5,000 to a maximum of €15,000 per proposal; depending on demand it is estimated that 3-5 awards will be offered.

The above figures should be used only as a guide; in exceptional cases, a larger amount may be awarded. The peer panel aims to support proposals that best fulfill criteria, however we reserve the right not to award or divide awards. Accordingly, please apply for the amount you believe it will cost in order to undertake your proposal.

Studio Space

Please note successful recipients of the Choreographic Development Initiative must arrange their own studio time.

For those wishing to use DanceHouse, we advise you to contact the General Manager Siân Cunningham sian.cunningham@danceireland.ie or 01 884 8102 to discuss your requirements. Normal rental rates apply.

Supporting documentation

Good supporting documentation is an essential part of your proposal, because not all the panel might be familiar with your work. We suggest you be selective, and focus on material most relevant to your proposal. We can accept audio-visual material on VHS video, DVD and CD Rom formats only. Please do not include any reviews or press material.

Assessment process and criteria

Proposals will be considered by a five member peer panel, which will include Laurie Uprichard (Artistic Director of IDFI), Morag Deyes (Artistic Director of Dance Base Edinburgh), Liz Roche, Dance Ireland Chairperson.

All artists applying will be invited to a short informal meeting with the peer panel. The assessment process is based on your written submission and interview, which will take place at DanceHouse on Monday 3 September (exact times TBC). This is an opportunity for you to present your proposal to the panel and to engage in a short dialogue about your proposal.

The assessment criteria will be based on consideration of the following:

- that you have clearly identified the area in your work you need to address, and the means by which you intend to do so;
- how best your proposal matches the aims and objectives of this initiative;
- track record;
- feasibility of your proposal, within the context of available resources.

Submission process

The closing date for receipt of proposals is 5pm Friday 24 August.

To apply, we invite you to submit a proposal, highlighting:

- the area(s) you wish to focus on (outline of your project);
- note of collaborators (if any/or relevant);
- where you see yourself at present;
- how this initiative will contribute to the development of your practice;
- budget breakdown, with clear costings, and a final amount request.

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