



Diane Torr Bursary 2018

Diane was an influential performance artist from Scotland who died in 2017. She was a founding member of The Work Room and to honour her, we are working together with the Take Me Somewhere festival to launch an artist bursary in her name. The opportunity is open to dance and performance artists based in Scotland.

Diane was a radical artist & feisty woman who set her own path and inspired many others to do the same. We want to continue this spirit through this bursary to support a movement artist interested investigating gender as part of their performance practice. The recipient will receive a £2000 bursary plus the opportunity to be embedded within the 2018 Take Me Somewhere festival and on going Take Me Somewhere Artist Constellation. The award can be used towards research, making new work, travel, training or mentoring.

How to Apply:

Please submit an application including:

- Your CV (max 2 pages)
- A statement about your practice and proposal for the bursary (max 2 pages)
- An outline budget showing how you would use the bursary
- A maximum of 2 video clips of your previous work.

Your statement and proposal should include a response to the following:

- An introduction to you and your practice
- What you want to do with the bursary and how you will go about it
- Why this is important to you and why now is the right time for you to work on it
- What you hope to achieve or discover through this opportunity
- How working on this idea or project at this time will contribute to your wider practice and future plans.

Written applications should be submitted using no more than 2 pages of A4. Alternatively, you can apply by video, answering all the questions. The video should be no longer than 5mins long and uploaded to Vimeo or another platform. If you would like this information in a different format or require support in preparing an application, please contact us directly.

Please note, those in full-time education are not eligible to apply for this bursary.

Selection Process:

All applications will be considered by a panel involving LJ Findlay-Walsh (Artistic Director of Take Me Somewhere and Gillian Garrity Executive Producer) and artist members of TWR. The panel will be chaired by Anita Clark, Director of TWR.

Completed applications should be returned by email to sara@theworkroom.org.uk by **Monday 12 March 2018** and applicants will be notified of the decisions by mid-April 2018.

Background:

Diane Torr was a contemporary performance artist working in dance, drag king performance, installation, film and video. Much of her performance work challenged assumptions about gender. She became celebrated for her popular “Man for a Day” drag king workshops, in which she taught women to dress and move like men; not necessarily so they could “become” men, but so they could explore gender in life.

Raised in Aberdeen, Diane studied at Dartington College of Arts before moving to New York where she was based throughout the 1980s and 1990s. She had extensive research, knowledge and practice of several areas of body knowledge: the Japanese martial art Aikido, somatic dance forms such as Contact Improvisation, Release Technique and Movement improvisational techniques; body mechanics including kinesiology and postural alignment; and bodywork such as shiatsu massage therapy and touch-for-health.

Diane relocated to Glasgow in 2002 but also continued to work in New York and Berlin, producing art while lecturing at universities and mentoring young artists. She was one of a group of dance artists who established The Work Room in Glasgow in 2008. Diane’s book about her work, co-authored by Stephen Bottoms, *Sex, Drag and Male Roles; Investigating Gender as Performance*, was published by University of Michigan Press in October 2010.

The Work Room (TWR) is a membership organisation, committed to creating a sustainable environment for independent artists working in dance in Scotland. Our mission is to empower artists to lead in their practice, enabling them to make high quality, intelligent, pioneering contemporary dance for diverse contexts at home and internationally.

Take Me Somewhere is Glasgow's new festival of contemporary performance, building on the legacy of The Arches following its closure in 2015. The festival combines the best home-grown talent with some of the world's most cutting-edge contemporary performers as part of an exciting programme of events. Take Me Somewhere aims to provide a crucial support structure to Scotland's most innovative and exciting community of artists and makers. Take Me Somewhere festival will run from 16 May – 2 June 2018.

Take Me Somewhere Artist Constellation is a consortium of Scotland's most radical and inspiring artistic voices. Artists and the Take Me Somewhere team meet four times a year from May 2018 to May 2019 to discuss their individual practices and perspectives on the Scottish cultural landscape including its relationship to work from across the globe. The constellation model combines artist development initiatives responding to artist's needs (including the Diane Torr Bursary) as well as mentoring and advocacy from the Take Me Somewhere team. The initiative is supported by the National Theatre of Scotland and Outspoken Arts.

