



Rosina Bonsu Bursaries

For Early Career Choreographers and Dance Artists

(Fee: £6000 based on 50 days at £120 a day, March – August 2022)

The Work Room & Barrowland Ballet are seeking to support two choreographers or dance artists at an early stage of their career. This new initiative is part of Creative Scotland's Youth Arts Bursaries programme, funded by the Scottish Government to help talented young people recognising the challenges being faced through the COVID-19 pandemic.

The bursaries will provide emerging choreographers and dance artists, aged 18 – 24 years with paid time and the wrap-around support from both organisations, to instigate and develop their own creative projects. The bursaries have been named in honour of Rosina Bonsu who died in 2020, to mark her incredible influence on dance in Scotland. Rosina was an inspired dance artist, choreographer and educator who generously nurtured young artists throughout her career. You can read our tribute to her [here](#).

Each bursary will be for 6 months. The format will be flexible to accommodate other work or personal commitments, but could be delivered 2 days a week, or intensive blocks, or equivalent. Given the particular expertise of Barrowland Ballet, it is anticipated that the artists projects (or one of the projects) will have a focus on work with children & young people, and/ or embedding a socially-engaged approach to participatory dance making, and/or dance for camera.

We will work with the two bursary holders to put in place a work-plan responding to your interests and ambitions. Over the course of the six months, we anticipate this includes time spent:

- On your dance training and expanding your skills through going to class, participating in workshops, shadowing Barrowland Ballet projects and seeing dance performances;
- Researching and developing your own creative projects in a context appropriate to you;
- Participating in activities as part of The Work Room's Arts Practice programme;

You will be guided in developing your own projects by The Work Room & Barrowland Ballet staff teams giving access to a wide range of artistic, creative learning, producing, administrative and technical expertise.

Who You Are:

We are keen to hear from you if:

- You are a choreographer or dance artist aged between 18 – 24 years old and based in Scotland;
- You may have undertaken informal dance training or been in full-time training at college or university. We recognise that not everyone has access to formal education programmes because they are not available in all dance styles and not accessible for many people;
- You relish experimenting within whatever dance genres you work in. This may include Hip-hop or street dance styles; South Asian dance such as Bharatanatyam or Kathak; dance from the African and Caribbean diaspora; contemporary or Scottish traditional dances – or many other dance styles and genres;
- You have experience and interest in initiating and setting up your own creative projects;

To apply for one of the bursaries, we are looking for you to demonstrate:

- Your passion for dance and an openness to learning about different artistic forms and expressions;
- You have creative ideas and, with the right support, are able to take these forward;
- You have skills in communicating your ideas and working with others in a team;
- You are organised and able to manage different demands;

The Youth Arts Bursaries are designed for people towards the beginning of their career, between the 18 – 24 years old.

The Work Room and Barrowland Ballet recognise that there are inequalities across society and many barriers to working in the arts. We are committed to addressing these and want dance in Scotland to truly reflect the diversity of our communities. We recognise that you may have faced barriers to following a career in dance previously and we welcome applications from those who may have taken an unconventional route.

Additionally, to apply for a bursary, you must:

- be based in Scotland;
- not be in full time education (12 hours or more formal study a week).

How to Apply:

- Submit a 3-5 minute video telling us about your dance experience and approach to creating dance;
- A 3-5 minute video of your own project or choreography – this could be excerpts from different pieces;
- If relevant, a 3-5 minute video of you dancing
- Complete the application form including contact details for a referee – someone who will be able to tell us about your dance experience.

Please don't worry about the quality of recording or the camera skills. We are interested in what you have to say, rather than the technical capacity. If you have any questions about the role, require any assistance in submitting your application including making or sending the videos or would prefer an alternative format, please contact us directly on sara@theworkroom.org.uk

The Work Room & Barrowland recognises there has been systemic exclusion within the arts sector and are striving to put equity at the heart of our work. We are committed to increasing the diversity of people working in dance and performance, and especially welcome applications from those who identify as having characteristics currently under-represented. This includes black people and people of colour, disabled people, individuals identifying as LGBTQI, those with parental and other caring responsibilities and people from working-class backgrounds.

The Work Room & Barrowland Ballet use the social model of disability recognising that some people experience disabling barriers. We will interview all disabled applicants who meet the criteria and are committed to supporting any access requirements at interview and if appointed.

All applicants must also complete an online [Equalities Monitoring Form](#). This is anonymous and will not be viewed alongside your application. It is for analysis purposes only.

Please email the completed application form along with links to your videos to: applications@theworkroom.org.uk

Deadline for applications: **Wednesday 16 February 2022**

All applicants will hear from us by **Monday 28 February**, with those shortlisted invited to interview **week of 7 March 2022**. We plan on holding interviews in person in Glasgow and we will cover travel or other expenses involved in attending and participating in an interview.

Terms and conditions of the bursaries

We will be supporting two bursaries. Each bursary is worth £6000 and is based on 50 days over a 6 month period March – August 2022. There can be flexibility within this.

You will be contracted by The Work Room on a self-employed basis. If you are not currently registered as self-employed, we can give advice and support on how to approach this.

Each bursary will also include:

- A project budget of £1500 towards the costs of delivering your own creative project;
- A professional development budget of £500 to access additional training and development opportunities.

Both The Work Room and Barrowland Ballet are based in Glasgow and while applications are welcome from across Scotland, you will be required to be in Glasgow for some of the time to make the most of the bursary experience.

About The Work Room:

The Work Room is a membership organisation, committed to creating a sustainable environment for independent artists working in dance and choreography 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.

The Work Room was established by a group of independent dance artists in 2008. As a membership organisation, the priorities of our members continue to inform the organisation's artistic programme and policies. We aim to foster a community of artists, encouraging our members to be active in the independent dance sector in Scotland. Our strength is in over 180 individuals working in dance; a powerful network of connections, experience and skills. These are artists at different stages of their careers, creating dance for many different contexts including stage, screen, public spaces, galleries and with communities.

The active involvement of artists within our activities and working groups enables a strong culture of grassroots leadership within our organisation. We relish our responsibility to ensure that an expansive range of artists and artistic practices are visible and supported. We strongly believe that dance resonates and is relevant for more audiences when it is engaging with and reflecting the diversity of our communities.

The Work Room has two permanent members of staff: Anita Clark (Director) and Sara Johnstone (Studio & Membership Manager). We also currently are employing Jenn Taggart as a Dance Artist as part of the Weston Jerwood Creative Bursaries programme. You can read more about us [here](#).

www.theworkroom.org.uk

About Barrowland Ballet:

Founded in 2007, Barrowland Ballet is one of Scotland's leading contemporary dance companies built around the artistic work of choreographer Natasha Gilmore. The company produces high quality, accessible dance theatre and film. The work's themes are delivered with wit and humour, and the insightful observations of human behaviour are rooted in her personal stories.

Barrowland Ballet's work has gained critical international acclaim performing in festivals and venues across the world. In 2017, Natasha Gilmore was the UK nomination for the ASSITEJ Award for Excellence for her work for young audiences including *Little Red* (7+), *Whiteout* (12+) *Tiger Tale* (7+) and *Poggle* (6 months – 4 years). The company is widely recognised for its groundbreaking performance work with and for young people with complex needs, including *Playful Tiger* and *Strings*.

Alongside the company's professional work they produce high quality participatory performance projects; the two are inter-dependent with one inspiring the other. The company run *Wolf Pack* a free, intergenerational company in Glasgow with participants aged 7-80 years old. The company also have a repertoire of intergenerational, short dance films including *Loose Leaf Tea*, *Whiteout* and *Wolf*.

You can find out more about the company at www.barrowlandballet.co.uk