

Magnetic North^o

Call out for performers with musical skills

Magnetic North is looking for performers for a new project with the working title *The Story of the Blues*.

What?

Blue, in the sense of a feeling or mood rather than a colour, comes from an old English word for melancholy, dating back to at least the 16th century. It is also, of course, synonymous with a type of music which celebrates melancholy.

The Story of the Blues draws on a diversity of sources, including popular and classical music, short stories by Katherine Mansfield, Kate Chopin and Anton Chekhov, Hitchcock's *Rear Window*, Bach's cantatas, and George Perec's *Life: A User's Manual*, to explore the state of unhappiness – the blues. Songs about loneliness and longing - from Purcell's "When I am Laid in Earth" to Al Green's "Tired of Being Alone" - are so ubiquitous and popular that they must answer some need we have to acknowledge and understand unhappiness.

It will feature a series of short glimpses into the lives of solitary characters, threaded together around a selection of sad songs.

The Story of the Blues is being developed as both an online and a theatre performance. Its online iteration will be as a series of short episodes, which will be threaded together to create a full-length theatre performance.

Creative team:

Directors – Nicholas Bone and Marisa Zanotti

Music director – Daniel Padden

Who?

We're looking for performers who:

- have experience of working with text-based material,
- are used to working physically,
- have excellent musical skills – instrumental and vocal - and experience of playing with other musicians
- are comfortable working in an ensemble, working with physical and musical instructions, and devising work through exercises and tasks.

When?

- Two weeks of development 15-26 November 2021 (online with some optional in-person work in Edinburgh).
- Four weeks of further development and rehearsal leading to live and online sharings 7 March-1 April 2022 (online and in person in Edinburgh).

You will need to be available for both periods – there can be some flexibility about availability during the November period.

Work will be on ITC/Equity terms at a rate of £520 per week (£3120 in total), commuting, relocation and travel costs paid in accordance with [ITC rates](#).

There is an additional budget for access or support needs.

How?

Tell us about your skills and experience (up to 500 words or 2 minutes of video or sound) and why you're interested in the project (up to 300 words or 1 minute of video). If you have one, please send a CV or an online link.

Email the material or links to mail@magneticnorth.org.uk with the subject 'Story of the Blues application', or post it to Magnetic North, Summerhall, Edinburgh EH9 1PL

It needs to reach us by 1.00pm on Tuesday 5th October.

Auditions (in person or online) will be during the week of 11th October.

Questions?

If you want to ask us anything about this, please email mail@magneticnorth.org.uk