



# CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

## The First Bite Festival

25<sup>th</sup> March, 07<sup>th</sup> April and 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2017

Produced by **China Plate**

Commissioned by **mac birmingham, Warwick Arts Centre** and **In Good Company**

Supported by

**Derby Theatre, Attenborough Arts Centre & Camden People's Theatre**

**The First Bite Festival is an eclectic mix of extracts and ideas from some of the Midland's most exciting theatre makers.**

We are looking for submissions from theatre makers from across the Midlands to take part in a festival of scratch performance.

First Bite will take place at 3 different venues, across 3 dates:

<b>25<sup>th</sup> March 2017</b>	<b>Attenborough Arts Centre</b>	<a href="http://www2.le.ac.uk/hosted/attenborougharts">(<a href="http://www2.le.ac.uk/hosted/attenborougharts">www2.le.ac.uk/hosted/attenborougharts</a>)</a>
<b>07<sup>th</sup> April 2017</b>	<b>Derby Theatre</b>	<a href="http://www.derbytheatre.co.uk">(<a href="http://www.derbytheatre.co.uk">www.derbytheatre.co.uk</a>)</a>
<b>22<sup>nd</sup> April 2017</b>	<b>mac birmingham</b>	<a href="http://www.macbirmingham.co.uk">(<a href="http://www.macbirmingham.co.uk">www.macbirmingham.co.uk</a>)</a>

First Bite is an exciting and unique opportunity for artists/companies in the Midlands to develop new ideas and perform work in front of an audience of theatregoers and national venues/industry professionals. The festival operates an open-access application process. For the first time, the festival will take place in the EAST and WEST Midlands.

All artists presenting work will be paid a fee and three of the programmed companies will go on to receive a commission of £3,000 to develop the work and to present it at its next stage, alongside a showcase of new performance work, during Bite Size at **Warwick Arts Centre** (<http://www.warwickartscentre.co.uk>) on 7th October 2017.

The commissioned companies will also have an opportunity to show their work in London in partnership with **Camden People's Theatre** ([www.cpttheatre.co.uk](http://www.cpttheatre.co.uk)).

### First Bite and Bite Size Festivals

The First Bite and Bite Size programmes are designed to support theatre makers from the Midlands making new, exciting and contemporary work.

**First Bite 2017** provides a platform for new work in progress from theatre makers based in the Midlands. 16 participating artists/companies will present a performed pitch on either 25<sup>th</sup> March, 07<sup>th</sup> April or 22<sup>nd</sup> April to an audience including the Bite Size partners: **China Plate, Warwick Arts Centre, mac birmingham, In Good Company, Derby Theatre, Attenborough Arts Centre** and **Camden People's Theatre**.

From these extracts of work in development, three companies will be commissioned to take their piece to the next stage for Bite Size in October 2017. The three selected companies will each receive a £3,000 commission plus two supported development weeks (at **Attenborough Arts Centre, Derby Theatre, mac birmingham**, and/or **Warwick Arts Centre**) and producing support from **China Plate**.

**Previous Bite Size commissions include:**

Stephanie Ridings – *The Road to Huntsville*

Undertook a period of R&D in Texas and premiered at Summerhall during the 2016 Edinburgh Fringe Festival.

Humanish – *Holy Presents*

Returning to Camden People's Theatre in December 2016 for their second Christmas run at the venue.

Caroline Horton – *You're Not Like The Other Girls Chrissy*

Touring since 2010 and seen by over 10,000 people. Winner of The Stage Best Solo Performer Award and nominated for an OFFIE and Olivier Award.

Untied Artists – *For Their Own Good* and *Al Bowly's Croon Manifesto*

Two UK tours and a run in Edinburgh as part of The British Council Showcase. Winner of a 2013 Fringe First Award.

Babakas – *Our Fathers*

A run at Summerhall during Edinburgh 2013 and touring nationally and internationally since 2012 inc. Beirut and Athens.

**Bite Size 2017** is a daylong showcase for theatre makers from across the Midlands. The festival takes place on 7<sup>th</sup> October 2017 at **Warwick Arts Centre** and will platform the three commissioned companies' work alongside the pick of work available in the region.

Slots in the Bite Size programme will be reserved for a selected number of regional companies to perform excerpts of work currently in development and a slot for up to three pieces from our partner **Camden People's Theatre**.

**Your First Bite Performance Pitch**

Companies are invited to submit proposals for a **10-20 minute performance** that pitches their show to the panel and audience. This performance can take any format and can be for a brand new piece of work or for a show currently in development. Participating companies will be selected on the strength of their pitch as an experience for the audience at the event as well as on the strength of the application.

The nature of the opportunity is to raise your company's profile and to increase touring opportunities outside of the region; with this in mind work should be suitable for national touring.

**The Venues**

The First Bite Festival will be performed at three separate venues.

First Bite will take place at **Attenborough Arts Centre** (as part of Check In Festival), **Derby Theatre** and **mac birmingham**. The work will be programmed in the Studio spaces at Attenborough Arts Centre and Derby Theatre, and in the Theatre, Foyle Studio and The Hex at mac birmingham.

Tech specs for each space can found here:

Attenborough Arts Centre <http://www2.le.ac.uk/hosted/attenborougharts/hire>

Derby Theatre <https://www.derbytheatre.co.uk/about-venue-hire/studio>

mac birmingham <http://macbirmingham.co.uk/hire/type/performances-theatre-hire/>

Once the full programme is finalised **China Plate** will allocate a space to each selected company, however, if you have a strong preference for any date or space during either of the events please state this in your application – although we cannot guarantee that everyone will get their first choice. Please also let us know if you propose to use one of the public spaces at the venues for your performance – for example siting your work in a foyer space or bar.

Lighting, sound and projection resources will be strictly limited in all spaces (with short get-in times) and applicants should not rely upon complex technical support. There will be a limited amount of rehearsal time available in the weeks preceding the events (subject to availability).

## **Financial Support**

All companies invited to perform a pitch at First Bite will receive a fee of £200 to cover their expenses.

The three selected companies will each receive a commission of £3,000 to include two fully supported development weeks taking place across **Attenborough Arts Centre, Derby Theatre, mac birmingham** and/or **Warwick Arts Centre**. **China Plate** will act as producing, development and creative mentors for the commissioned companies during this period.

For more information please visit [www.chinaplatetheatre.com](http://www.chinaplatetheatre.com)

## **How to Apply**

Before applying please read the above project information carefully.

Your company **MUST** be available to perform on **25<sup>th</sup> March** and/or **7<sup>th</sup> April 2017** and/or **22<sup>nd</sup> April 2017**. If you are only available for one or two of the three dates **please specify this in your application**.

Companies applying to present work must be available to develop the piece in time for Bite Size in October 2017, including two development weeks at **Attenborough Arts Centre, Derby Theatre, mac birmingham** and/or **Warwick Arts Centre**, and be interested in working in a creative partnership with **China Plate** should they be commissioned.

They must also be available for technical rehearsals around each event (dates and times TBC).

All partners share a commitment to inclusive practice, and particularly welcome applications from D/deaf and disabled producers/makers, and where possible, will assist in meeting additional access/support costs.

### **AT THIS STAGE WE ARE INVITING COMPANIES TO APPLY TO THE FIRST BITE PART OF THE PROJECT ONLY**

Companies that take part in First Bite, but are not selected for commission, may still submit work for consideration for Bite Size in October 2017.

**If you are excited by the prospect of pitching a performance at First Bite and wish to apply, please complete the online application form here...**

<http://bit.ly/2e7iBv6>

Alternatively, you can send the following information to [info@chinaplatetheatre.com](mailto:info@chinaplatetheatre.com) using the subject header 'FIRST BITE APPLICATION / company name'.

- 1) Company details (inc: company name, contact name (and their role), postal address, website, email and phone)
- 2) The title of your piece and the number of artists involved
- 3) A brief company history - inc any images or footage you may have of previous productions (max 200 words)
- 4) A description of what you would like to show at First Bite (max 250 words)
- 5) The work's current stage of development (max 200 words)  
[Including any plans or capacity for future touring of the final piece]
- 6) Concise technical requirements
- 7) Marketing copy (max 100 words)

- 8) Any press quotes (max 100 words)
- 9) Specification of availability for the First Bite dates (25<sup>th</sup> March, 07<sup>th</sup> April and 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2017) if applicable. NB, You MUST be available on at least one of these dates.

**DEADLINE IS MONDAY 23<sup>RD</sup> JANUARY 2017 @ 6pm**

**Please note successful companies will now be notified by Friday 10<sup>th</sup> February instead of 31<sup>ST</sup> JANUARY 2017 as previously advertised.**

**NO LATE SUBMISSIONS WILL BE CONSIDERED**

**Please note that full scripts are not accepted as part of the application**

For more information email [info@chinaplatetheatre.com](mailto:info@chinaplatetheatre.com)



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