



CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

The First Bite Festival

02nd March, 22nd March and 05th April 2019

Presented by **China Plate** and **Warwick Arts Centre**
Commissioned by **Midlands 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:

02nd March 2019	Midlands Arts Centre	www.macbirmingham.co.uk
22nd March 2019	Derby Theatre	www.derbytheatre.co.uk
05th April 2019	Attenborough Arts Centre	www2.le.ac.uk/hosted/attenborougharts

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.

All artists presenting work will be paid a fee of £200 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** (www.warwickartscentre.co.uk) on **18th January 2020**.

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).

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 2019 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 02nd March, 22nd March or 05th April to an audience including the Bite Size partners: **China Plate, Warwick Arts Centre, Midlands Arts Centre, 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 January 2020. The three selected companies will each receive a £3,000 commission plus two supported development weeks (at **Attenborough Arts Centre, Derby Theatre, Midlands Arts Centre**, and/or **Warwick Arts Centre**) and producing support from **China Plate**.

Previous Bite Size commissions include:

Paul O'Donnell – *We've Got Each Other*

Winner of BE Festivals Audience prize 2018 and of FITT Festival Tarragona's Audience prize and Best Performer prize 2018. Toured in 2017 and 2018, to sell-out audiences at the 2018 Edinburgh Fringe Festival.

Maison Foo – *A Thing Mislaid* (formerly known as *The Interlude*)

Opened in September 2018 and now touring the Midlands. During the tour they are working with Derby Theatre and Derby Refugee Advice Centre to develop ways of making theatres more welcoming spaces to refugees and those currently seeking asylum.

Stephanie Ridings – *The Road to Huntsville*

Undertook a period of R&D in Texas and premiered at Summerhall during the 2016 Edinburgh Fringe Festival, where it won an Arts Award Voice Pick of the Fringe.

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.

Bite Size 2020 is a daylong showcase for theatre makers from across the Midlands. The festival takes place on 18th January 2020 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**.

The Venues

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

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

Tech specs for each space can found here:

Midlands Arts Centre <https://macbirmingham.co.uk/hire/type/performances-theatre-hire/>

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

Attenborough Arts Centre <http://www2.le.ac.uk/hosted/attenborougharts/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 alongside your technical requirements – 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

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, Midlands Arts Centre** 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

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.

Please see below for how to apply.



How to Apply

Before applying please read the above project information carefully, and remember...

1. Your company **MUST** be available to perform on **02nd March** and/or **22nd March** and/or **05th April**. If you are only available for one or two of the three dates **please specify this in your application**.
2. Companies applying to present work **MUST** be available to develop the piece in time for **Bite Size in January 2020** (see application information above for what this entails).
3. You must also be available for technical rehearsals around each event (dates and times TBC).

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 January 2020.

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...

[CLICK HERE TO APPLY FOR FIRST BITE](#)

Alternatively, you can send the following information to **info@chinaplatetheatre.com** using the subject header 'FIRST BITE APPLICATION / company name'.

- 1) **Company details**
incl: 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**
(max 200 words)
incl: any images or footage you may have of previous productions
- 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)
incl: 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** (if applicable)
You MUST be available on at least one of the First Bite dates (02nd March, 22nd March or 05th April)
- 10) **China Plate equal opportunities form**
[Download the form here](#)

All partners share a commitment to inclusive practice and particularly welcome applications from D/deaf and disabled producers/makers. Where possible, we will assist in meeting additional access/support costs. Should you or your colleagues/collaborators require an easy read application form, or if you would like to contact someone about alternate ways to apply, please email **info@chinaplatetheatre.com** or call **0121 242 1493**.

DEADLINE IS MONDAY 03RD DECEMBER 2018 @ 6pm

Please note successful companies will be notified by WEDNESDAY 19TH DECEMBER
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**