



!!! CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS !!!

FIRST BITE 2021

Presented by **China Plate** and **Warwick Arts Centre**
Commissioned by **Attenborough Arts Centre, In Good Company** and
Midlands Arts Centre

We are looking for submissions from theatre makers based in the Midlands to develop new work and showcase your ideas to audiences and industry at the First Bite online micro-festival in September 2021.

This opportunity will provide **10** artists/companies from the region with the following:

- £700 towards the development of a new idea/project
- A chance to share and pitch the work as part of the First Bite online micro-festival
- Support from China Plate and the First Bite partners to develop the work
- Two of the programmed artists will be selected to receive a commission of £3000 to further develop the work and present it at its next stage, alongside a showcase of new performance work, during Bite Size festival at Warwick Arts Centre in April 2022.

[Click here for more information about our First Bite and Bite Size festivals](#)

The First Bite programme....

First Bite 2021 supports the kickstarting of new ideas or shows currently in development.

The work can take any format (ie, theatre, dance, spoken word, etc).

Programmed artists must be free to independently develop their work over the summer and will deliver a short digital pitch by late August 2021.

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.

Digital pitches...

A digital pitch/sharing of the work will be included in the First Bite online festival in September. Pitches will be around 3-5 minutes long, plus a 2-3 minute introduction.

Digital pitches must have a performance element to them and could be script readings, performed extracts, extended trailers, creative PowerPoint presentations, etc. Artists will have the opportunity to include recorded introductions to the work to provide context, background and future plans.

Artists should think about how best to creatively translate the work into a digital format for online audiences - China Plate and the First Bite partners will be available to discuss this with programmed artists.

Funding and support...

Programmed artists will be awarded **£700** to develop their work and record their digital pitch.

Additional development support will be available to artists, if required, from the First Bite partners (In Good Company, Attenborough Arts Centre, Midlands Arts Centre and Warwick Arts Centre), including rehearsal space, technical support/expertise, equipment for the recorded pitches, etc. This is subject to availability, demand, artist needs, etc.

The commissions...

Two of the First Bite artists will be commissioned by the First Bite industry panel to further develop their work and present it at Bite Size Festival in Spring 2022.

The commissions will be awarded on the strength of the digital pitch as an audience experience, the First Bite application and any supporting materials submitted to the panel.

The two artists/companies will receive a commission of £3000, to include two fully supported development weeks taking place across Attenborough Arts Centre, Derby Theatre, Warwick Arts Centre and/or Midlands Arts Centre. China Plate will act as producing, development and creative mentors for the commissioned artists/companies during this period

Bite Size Festival...

Bite Size will take place on Saturday 30th April 2022 at Warwick Arts Centre and is a daylong showcase for theatre makers from across the Midlands.

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 2022.



How to apply

Before applying, please read the above project information carefully and remember that companies and artists applying must...

1. Be based in the Midlands
2. Be available to develop the work during Summer 2021 and to deliver a digital pitch of the work in late August 2021
3. Be available to develop the piece in time for Bite Size Festival in April 2022 (in the event that your work is selected for commission)

You can submit your application for First Bite using one of the options below:

[Click here for the online application form](#)

OR

[Download the application form here](#), or write the application into an email, and send it directly to info@chinaplatetheatre.com.

If submitting via email, write **FIRST BITE APPLICATION / company or artist name** in the subject line. Remember to include your [equal opportunities form](#) along with your application.

You can provide video / voice files or filmed BSL for certain sections, if preferable. Please make a note of this in the relevant sections, files can be uploaded via the online application form. If you are applying by email, files should be sent via a file sharing site (eg. WeTransfer, Google Drive, Dropbox, etc).

If you would prefer to provide a video / voice file or filmed BSL for the entire application, please contact info@chinaplatetheatre.com before applying so that we can ensure that all of your files are received, and we can file the accompanying paperwork.

Please [contact us](#) should you or your colleagues/collaborators require an easy read application form, or if you would like to discuss alternative ways to apply.

Deadline for applications is 10am Monday 7th June 2021.

NO LATE SUBMISSIONS WILL BE CONSIDERED

Successful applicants will be notified on email by Monday 21st June 2021

[CLICK HERE TO APPLY](#)

For direct links to documents visit www.chinaplatetheatre.com/opportunities/

