



Gap Exchange 2025 - Information Pack

What will happen during the programme?

ITI will work with the international organisation partners to pair each of the four artists based in Ireland with an interesting international peer artist. As well as multiple online meetings, each artist will also be a host. This means that each artist will welcome their international partner to their homeplace, and will also visit that partner in their homeplace. For example, an artist based in Limerick may be paired with an artist in Ghent, Belgium. The Belgian artist will come to Limerick for a week-long visit, and the Irish artist will visit Ghent for a week. The focus of the visits will be on sharing practice and process, and offering an insight into, and a connection with, the local arts community. In the online gathering, participants in the previous edition of Gap Exchange will also join to share their experiences and build community.

What will happen on the visits?

Each visit will be shaped with the input of the hosting artists. The focus will be on taking things slowly, sharing practice, and getting to know the local arts community.

A visit may include things like:

- a practice sharing workshop by each visiting artist for local artists not involved in the programme
- a creative thinking time walk for the participants, also open to other local artists
- a social/informal gathering over a meal
- introductions by the host artists to things that are important to them including the local area, including arts facilities and other artists
- visits to see local work if possible
- meeting previous Gap Exchange artists
- a Gap Day for the visiting artist to take time to dream, think and create.

What will participants get?

They will get a fee of €3,400 to cover their time. We will cover travel, accommodation and per diems. They will get an insight into other artists' work practice and community. They will have a chance to both lead and participate in workshops.

Who can apply?

We are interested in supporting artists making work outside of capital cities, so priority will be given to artists based outside of Dublin. We will also consider applications from artists based in Dublin who can demonstrate a strong arts practice and community in a particular place outside of the capital.

We are interested in getting applications from artists who

- Have a lead creative role in the making of theatre/performance work – whether as director, writer, or other lead artist
- Have a compelling, original, contemporary practice that you want to share
- Have an established practice and track record of at least 2 full-length productions professionally produced or previously programmed by an established production company, festival, or independent producer
- Are resident on the island of Ireland
- Are connected to a local arts community outside of the capital in the place where you will host
- Have availability within the period of May – July 2025 on the dates specified below
- Hold a current passport that allows you travel to the Netherlands, Belgium, England or the USA.

If you are interested in the programme, but you are not sure if you are eligible to apply, please don't assume you're not. Get in touch with ITI by emailing Narod Shahinian, Operations and Programme Coordinator, on nshahinian@irishtheatreinstitute.ie.

How can I apply?

[You will need to fill in this form.](#)

The deadline for applications is Monday 27th January 2025 at 2pm.

The form includes the following questions:

- Information about you
- Name two productions that make you eligible, and upload a CV outlining your experience as a lead creative (2 pages, max)
- If you are based in Dublin, where do you propose hosting outside of the capital, and what your connection there is
- A short outline of your creative practice and why you'd like to be involved in this programme (400 words max)
- What places and people you would like to introduce a visiting artist to (400 words max)
- Information about availability, travel and access needs

- Optional demographic information

You will receive an email confirmation when the application has been submitted with a copy of what you submitted. Please note that some answers may not appear in full in the emailed copy if they have a long word count, but if you got the automated email, please be assured that we did receive them!

We are also happy to accept video applications (no longer than 8 minutes) answering all of the questions from the application form. Please use wetransfer.com and email us a link to your video application on info@irishtheatreinstitute.ie. If you require additional support in completing this application form, please email or call us on: info@irishtheatreinstitute.ie or 01 6704906.

Applications will then be read by a panel of ITI staff, the Gap Exchange Creative Facilitator, and the international partner organisations. We aim to let you know the outcome by the end of February 2025. Four artists based in Ireland will be selected, and we will then work with them and our international partners to pair them with four international peers.

Any other questions?

Contact Narod Shahinian on nshahinian@irishtheatreinstitute.ie

About the partner organisations and what they're looking for in their selected artist

SPRING Performing Arts Festival (Utrecht, Netherlands)

SPRING Performing Arts Festival is a ten-day international festival with innovative dance, theatre, performance and more in the city of Utrecht. You will find SPRING in the theatres, at special locations and in public spaces. At the festival you will see over 25 adventurous and urgent performances from both near and far that dare to ask questions about the state of the world. You can be surprised by new artistic forms and inspired by other ways of looking at the world around you. During SPRING, makers and a curious audience meet for exchange, discussion, inspiration and fun. <https://springutrecht.nl>

WHAT SPING ARE LOOKING FOR: *SPRING uses the subtitle "10 days of dance, theatre and more..." but in principle we are not only interested in theatre and dance - "more" interests us the most! We are ideally looking for makers working in crossover disciplines (visual arts, music, movement, new technologies), (might be) searching for site specific interventions, interested in local context of the city and community. The community of Utrecht generally speaks very good English – so language should not be a problem. SPRING mostly works with young and mid-career artists locally.*

DATES FOR SPRING:

Tuesday 10th June – Tuesday 17th June – visit to SPRING, Utrecht

Friday 4th July - Friday 11th July – hosting in Ireland (with up to 3 days flexibility either side)



Arts Centre Viernulvier (Ghent, Belgium)

VIERNULVIER is an arts centre, and a central platform in a network of artists and organisations in Ghent. Maintaining a contemporary vision with respect to the future, we seek to facilitate greater cross-pollination between the arts and the local and global communities. We serve both as a welcoming meeting place and as a lab for development, production, presentation, participation and reflection. We continue to build on our proud history of innovation and social engagement.

www.viernulvier.gent/en

WHAT VIERNULVIER ARE LOOKING FOR: *We are interested in working with artists who make work in the public realm, who collaborate with communities of place and interest, and who work across disciplines. The selected artist will have the opportunity to attend and participate in our Openbare Werken festival as part of our Stadsatelier programme.*

DATES FOR VIERNULVIER:

Thursday 15th – Thursday 22nd May – visit to Viernulvier, Ghent

Thursday 19th June - Thursday 26th June – hosting in Ireland (with up to 3 days flexibility either side)



Bluecoat (Liverpool, England)

Bluecoat is Liverpool's contemporary arts centre, a welcoming working home for artists, and a vibrant place where audiences can experience art in new and dynamic ways. Located in the heart of the city, within a historic Grade 1 listed, 300-year old building, in addition to our galleries, we have inspiring programmes in participation, live art and print-making and work collaboratively across the city region of Liverpool. During Summer 2025 Bluecoat will host works as part of Bedrock: Liverpool Biennial 2025, the UK's largest free festival of contemporary visual art. We collaborate with artists/creative practitioners who are interested in the mixed-use, multi-purpose and multi-disciplinary nature of Bluecoat and those excited by the cultural richness/vibrancy of our city centre as well as socially diverse civic context. We welcome artists/creative practitioners whose inquiry and making intersects with other disciplines and art forms and who offer diverse perspectives.

www.thebluecoat.org.uk

WHAT BLUECOAT IS LOOKING FOR: *We are interested in practitioners who are exploring new, fresh and innovative ways of creating and presenting work. We are also looking forward to hearing from those seeking to challenge themselves by extending their practice into new areas and disciplines; and those who have existing practices that move between disciplines such as performance, literature and contemporary visual art, and who seek connection, solidarity and community through the building of strong and mutually supportive networks.*

DATES FOR BLUECOAT:

Monday 21st July - Monday 28th July – visit to Bluecoat, Liverpool

Tuesday 24th June - Tuesday 1st July – hosting in Ireland (with up to 3 days flexibility either side)



Irish Classical Theatre Company (Buffalo, New York State, USA)

Irish Classical Theatre Company is located on Main Street in the heart of Buffalo, New York's Theatre District. Now in its 34th season, our mission is to present the greatest works of dramatic literature: Irish plays, both traditional and contemporary, International classics, and modern plays of exceptional merit. We've recently added a focus on plays that engage with an expansive and inclusive picture of contemporary Ireland and its diaspora, and works of contemporary writers engaging with classical texts.

<https://irishclassical.com/>

WHAT IRISH CLASSICAL THEATRE IS LOOKING FOR: *We are particularly interested in working with writers and theatre-makers of diverse backgrounds and perspectives, and artists engaging with classical works. We engage artists at all stages of their careers.*

DATES FOR IRISH CLASSICAL THEATRE:

Saturday 31st May - Sunday 8th June— visit to Buffalo, New York

Sunday 29th June - Monday 7th July – hosting in Ireland (with up to 3 days flexibility either side)



Department of Foreign Affairs

The role of DFA and their relevant Embassies and Consulates throughout the exchange programme will be support and advocacy. Their Heads of Mission and their teams in the UK, USA, Belgium and the Netherlands will be able to advise on local context and help broker connections with local cultural partners, adding to relationships which ITI has already in place. Their support will assist the artists with the development of their own creative practice while promoting Ireland's international cultural engagement and engaging with artists and audiences in each of the partnering countries.

<https://dfa.ie>

Irish partner organisations

Irish partner organisations will depend on the location of the four artists selected, and will be confirmed once the selections are made. Currently these partners include: The Lime Tree, Backstage Arts Centre, Mermaid Arts Centre, Theatre Royal, Briery Gap, and Cork Theatre Collective.

More information

For more about Irish Theatre Institute see www.irishtheatreinstitute.ie

For more about Lian Bell see www.lianbell.com

For more about Gap Day see www.gapday.ie

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