

# THE CHARLIE HARTILL FUND



FOR  
EARLY CAREER ENSEMBLE THEATRE



Bible John, THESE GIRLS, 2019



**“We couldn’t be doing it without the Charlie Hartill award and the support of the Pleasance. Their cash support, advice, and esteem means we can share Sweet Beef’s glitzy and wild style.”**

**Crying Shame, 2024**

## **WHAT IS THE CHARLIE HARTILL FUND?**

Each year the Charlie Hartill Fund supports early career theatre makers to take a show to the Edinburgh Festival Fringe. Bringing a show to the Fringe is becoming increasingly expensive and risky; in spite of that, it remains one of the best and most exciting ways to connect with industry and audiences alike. We want to help support artists to navigate these risks and opportunities by creating a platform for bold and daring new work.

Previous recipients of the fund have gone on to sell out their Fringe runs, receive stunning 4 and 5 star reviews, win awards and tour both nationally and internationally to critical acclaim.

The Charlie Hartill Fund was established in 2004 in memory of Charlie Hartill, who died in January of that year. Charlie was a wit, writer, performer, ex-President of The Cambridge Footlights, 8 years a director of the Festival Fringe and the Pleasance’s man of the computer.

He is very much missed not just for his practical skills and quite extraordinary contributions to the Pleasance, but as the most engaging of human beings.

For 40 years the Pleasance, as one of the most celebrated and successful theatre organisations at the Edinburgh Festival and in London, has provided a vital stepping-stone for thousands of artists and companies, offering a variety of initiatives for theatre makers both on and off stage. We recognise how important those first opportunities into the creative industries. The Charlie Hartill Fund is one of many ways that we support artistic ambition as part of Pleasance Futures.

To find out more please visit, or follow:

[pleasance.co.uk/charlie-fund](https://pleasance.co.uk/charlie-fund)

@PleasanceFuture

# WHAT DO I GET?

The Pleasance provides in-kind support and a cash flow investment of up to £10,000 which generally covers:

- Accommodation
- Travel Expenses
- Rehearsal space
- PR support
- Marketing Support
- Fringe registration fees
- Brochure costs (Fringe and Joint Venue Brochures)
- The delivery of accessible performances
- Lighting, Sound and AV costs
- Insurance

In addition you will also receive:

- A guaranteed slot at Pleasance in Edinburgh
- A transfer run at Pleasance Islington
- Producing and Marketing mentoring
- Mentoring advice from Methuen Drama (Bloomsbury Publishing)

We have a wealth of experience in bringing successful productions to Edinburgh and a valuable network of creative practitioners at hand, all of which is provided as a resource to the successful company through the Fund.


# WHAT ARE WE LOOKING FOR?

New productions from artists making daring, inventive and ambitious work that is formally bold. We consider any genre or style so whether it's a completely original production or a fresh twist on an old classic, whether you're a playwright or a devising company, the fund is there for you.

This is a fantastic opportunity to be creative, innovative, imaginative and entrepreneurial. The Charlie Fund aims to encourage companies to take risks and concentrate on what is most important: the work.

# AM I ELIGIBLE?

- Directors and producers must not have created more than two professional productions, including Fringe (or any production with a professional cast).
- The play must have a performing company of 4 or more cast members.



**“It was the best decision we made and was the catalyst for the rolling series of events that have followed.”**

**2019 Olivier Award Winner  
Unpolished Theatre, 2017**

# HOW DO I APPLY?

## Round 1:

Submit an online application form via the Pleasance website by 10am, Wednesday 8th January 2025.

The application form can be located at [pleasance.co.uk/charlifund](https://pleasance.co.uk/charlifund)

Applications include full production/creative team details, education dates, biographies and previous reviews where relevant.

## Round 2:

Around 12 applicants will be invited to participate in the tryout evenings on Tuesday 25th and Wednesday 26th February 2025 at Pleasance Islington by performing a 10 minute extract of their show in front of the judging panel. The extract must have four or more performers on stage. On the day there will also be an informal meeting to meet some of the Pleasance team and ask any questions you might have.

During the day that the companies attend tech rehearsals, the shortlisted companies will also attend a formal interview, and will be asked to provide a draft budget, as well as talk around a fundraising plan, marketing campaign ideas, and production schedule.

The recipient of the Fund will then be announced, and will need to move quickly to meet the final Fringe brochure deadline in early April. This will include a photoshoot with our Marketing team and working on lead image and poster designs.

All companies are encouraged to also apply via the usual channels to perform at the Pleasance as the outcome of the Charlie Fund will not affect this other application. Please contact us with any queries.

**Best of luck!**

**“The Charlie Hartill Fund is revolutionary for a theatre company, providing an opportunity for growth and expansion that would otherwise be incredibly hard to access.”**

Pitch, 2023



## Terms and Conditions

The Company must raise substantial funds, in addition to the £10,000 support from the Fund, to cover the full budget of the show. This is NOT a cash prize. Additional revenue may come through other funding organisations subject to agreement with the Pleasance.

Whilst not mandatory, the Company are encouraged to present three work-in-progress performances pre-Edinburgh, either closed readings or work in progress sharings. Space will be provided in London subject to availability.

## Contact Details:

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## Charity Number

1050944 (England & Wales) & SCO43237 (Scotland)