

# THE CHARLIE HARTILL FUND



FOR  
UK-BASED BLACK, ASIAN AND GLOBAL  
MAJORITY ARTISTS TO BRING EXISTING WORK  
TO THE EDINBURGH FESTIVAL FRINGE



Santi & Naz, 2023

**“The team supported and guided us throughout - through both the highlights and challenges that face Artists of Colour. This experience has given us invaluable learnings and is an important milestone towards putting me on the map as an exciting artist that makes excellent innovative theatre.”**

**Unforgettable Girl, 2023**



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

The Charlie Hartill Fund provides financing, mentorship and programming opportunities to support UK-based Black, Asian and Global Majority\* artists in bringing their work to the Edinburgh Festival Fringe. We have made up to £10,000 available, to support one exciting Global Majority company that would otherwise not be able to come to the Fringe.

This strand to the Charlie Hartill Fund is the result of consultation with a wide cross-section of independent artists, companies and organisations with experience of presenting work at the Fringe, and is a response to specific barriers facing Black, Asian and Global Majority artists when presenting work in Festival contexts. We hope that this funding will act as a catalyst and jumping off point for wider activity in the lead up and during the Fringe, bringing together artists and stakeholders to discuss how to make the Fringe a Safe Space for Black, Asian and Global Majority - acknowledging the

intersectionality that will be present.

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 opportunities into the creative industries are. 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/charriefund](https://Pleasance.co.uk/charriefund)

[@PleasanceFuture](https://twitter.com/PleasanceFuture)

\*We adopt Global Majority as a commonly used term that is consistent with other theatre partners we work with. However, we acknowledge the limitations and lack of nuance of this term, and encourage this to be an opportunity for further discussion. Our definition of 'Global Majority Artists' is inclusive to anyone who experiences racism, or is marginalized or faces barriers within the industry for their race or ethnicity.

# WHAT DO I GET?

We are offering one production up to £10,000 in financing from Pleasance towards the cost of presenting work at the Fringe. Alongside this direct financial support, Pleasance and our partners will also offer:

- A guaranteed slot in our Edinburgh programme at Pleasance
- A programming option in Pleasance Islington's Best of Edinburgh Season
- Additional PR support from Pleasance Futures
- Mentorship from the Pleasance and partners
- Mentoring session from Methuen Drama (Bloomsbury Publishing)
- Rehearsal, development, sharing and work space
- Support to develop and deliver accessible performances (including the provision of captioned performances)
- Pleasance and partners will endeavour to do more to make our venues feel safe and inclusive for Global Majority (this includes providing pastoral care and support if needed)
- Pleasance works on a principle of encouraging sustainable producing. The financing operates on an investment basis, but with the Pleasance recouping in the final position only (after all fees, expenses and costs of staging the production in Edinburgh are paid).

# WHAT ARE WE LOOKING FOR?

We are encouraging existing ambitious Theatre or Children's work, including but not limited to: solo or ensemble based work, work playing with form, work that would otherwise not be able to be presented at the Fringe. We also want to encourage artists to tell

the stories they want to tell – exciting, political, surreal, comedic or hopeful. No preference will be given to work that tells a specific type of story, we want people to feel free to bring any work to the table – no limitation!

# AM I ELIGIBLE?

- Must be based in the United Kingdom.
- At least 50% of the lead creators (which could include the Writer, Director, Producer, Set Designer or makers/devising ensemble) must identify as Black, Asian or Global Majority Artists.
- At least 50% of the cast must identify as Global Majority Artists.
- Propose an existing Theatre or Children's production to present at Edinburgh Festival Fringe 2025. The show must be tour ready, with a minimum of two public performances staged by the 31st March 2025. We hope to encourage the best work created and presented over the last year to come to Edinburgh Fringe. We are not looking for new, unstaged work.
- Be able to attend the Selection Day at Pleasance Islington on the 23rd January (in person or online).

## Terms and Conditions

In addition to the £10,000 investment of the Fund, the Company must raise additional funds 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 recipient is encouraged to present work-in-progress performances pre- Edinburgh, either closed readings or work in progress sharings. Space will be provided in London subject to availability.



Duck, 2024

# HOW DO I APPLY?

## Round 1:

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

The application form and questions are located at [pleasance.co.uk/charliefund](https://pleasance.co.uk/charliefund)

## Round 2:

Shortlisted applicants will be invited to attend the Selection Day at Pleasance London at the end of January, either in person or online. The Selection Day will consist of a relaxed discussion with representatives from Pleasance Theatre, Supporting Partners, and Independent Global Majority Artists with specific experience of the Fringe.

We will ask you to talk about the concept of the show, and how the financing will make a real difference. It is anticipated the discussions will last for approx. 30-45 minutes. Full details to be provided to shortlisted candidates.

## Round 3:

After deliberations by the panel, there may be follow up questions for the shortlisted applicants asked over email or phone. Once

an offer is made and accepted, the recipient of the Fund will then be announced by Pleasance and our PR, and with our support, will need to move quickly to meet the final Fringe brochure deadline in early April.

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

## Contact Details:

[theatre@pleasance.co.uk](mailto:theatre@pleasance.co.uk)

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**“The Fund is pivotal at the Fringe, providing crucial support to emerging and underrepresented artists. Beyond financial aid, it serves as a catalyst for creative freedom, offering mentorship from the Pleasance team and networking with industry professionals.”**

**For the Love of Spam, 2024**

