



# Call Out for Artists & Shows

CAAA1 Pirates of the Carabina 'Pirate Taxi'



Led by **Take Art**, **Crying Out Loud** and **Diverse City**, **Circus Around And About 2** is looking for artists and companies to tour community venues in villages, towns and cities across south-west England from June to December 2024.

**Circus Around and About** brings circus performances to diverse new audiences. It's supported by Take Art, Crying Out Loud and Diverse City through a project grant from Arts Council England.

#### **Are you a circus artist or company who...**

- has a 60-minute indoor or outdoor circus performance already made?
- has work that will be ready to take to small rural and urban community venues, such as parks, pubs and schools, from June to December 2024?
- is excited by reaching new people in different places?

#### **If so, we can offer...**

- guaranteed fees of up to £1500 per performance day based on your all-inclusive day rate (including the performance, travel, subsistence (food etc) and VAT)
- a paid, residential artist lab in which we will explore and explain circus touring in community venues in rural and urban areas
- the opportunity to apply for an artist bursary of up to £3000 to adapt your show for touring
- Support with applying for an Access to Work Grant <https://www.gov.uk/access-to-work>
- information about venues' accessible facilities

Circus Around and About 2 gives you the opportunity to tour your existing work across rural parts of Cornwall, Devon, Dorset, Gloucestershire and Somerset and in urban community venues in Cinderford, Gloucester, Stroud and Weston Super Mare.

Four companies will be selected for touring. If you're among them, we'll aim to offer you at least 5 performances out of a total of about 30.

#### **An inclusive programme**

We want to create a menu of circus artists that's inclusive of people from all backgrounds, including those who are underrepresented in rural cultural life. In particular, we'd like to include people from the Global Majority and those with D/deaf and disabled identities. We are starting to work with a selection of venues to help them to be more inclusive and accessible.

#### **Who has toured before?**

In 2021, Circus Around and About toured Pirates of the Carabina, Companie Zid, Simple Cypher and Tilly Lee Kronick. You can watch a video about the project [here](#)

#### **Interested?**

If you're interested in this opportunity, please read on. We're looking forward to hearing from you!

## How does rural touring work?

The UK's national network of **touring schemes** brings together professional performance companies and artists to put on shows in villages and **community venues**.

- **Community venues** can include village halls, pubs, schools, church halls, and community centres.
- **Rural Touring schemes** are funded organisations that support professional shows in rural places in a specific area of the country.
- Each touring scheme works with volunteer **local promoters** (who live in their local community) to arrange the performances, host the visiting artists and attract a local audience.

### Expanded network to include urban community based organisations

Our south-west rural touring network in Cornwall, Devon, Dorset, Gloucestershire and Somerset now includes the following urban areas: Weston Super Mare, Gloucester, Cinderford and Stroud. It's exciting to be reaching new audiences in community venues in towns and cities!

### Why tour rural and urban community venues?

- Share your work with different audiences – the diversity of audiences in rural areas may differ from those in urban areas!
- Visit unique venues in beautiful locations.
- Feel rewarded and enriched by bringing your work to people who don't have as many opportunities to experience circus performances.

"I like the lack of tech. The lighting is whatever the daylight is. It is down to you as a performer to work with those variables. There is a nice dynamic with the audience. It is all quite freeing. It makes every show fresh. Every setting is completely different. Black box theatres, they are all the same. The only thing that changes is the audience. We performed in places with incredible views or a council playground. You don't get that variety in indoor performances."

Thorne, Performer, Simple Cypher, Circus Around and About 2021



## What are the criteria for selection?

We're looking for circus artists and companies with a show that:

- is ready (or will be ready, with small adaptations) to tour in rural and urban community venues – indoors and outdoors
- can be accompanied by one-off workshops or short residencies for young people and families to participate in. Activity could be aimed at a mix of people such as cross generational and integrated (disabled and non disabled people working together) groups.
- is available to tour in summer or autumn (or both) in 2024.

## What happens if my show is selected?

### 1. Attend a practical lab

If you're selected, we'll ask you to attend the Practical Introduction to Rural and Community Touring for Circus Lab dates to be confirmed. You'll be paid a fee for attending.

At the Lab, you'll meet people from across the rural and urban community touring system in the south-west. Together, we'll think about how we can make better circus shows for rural and urban community audiences and spaces (indoors and outdoors). You'll learn about how the rural and urban touring schemes work, understand the role that the local volunteer promoters play, and think about how to adapt your work to suit community spaces. We will talk about what you will need from venues and communities to do your best work.

### 2. Request funding to adapt your show

You may be able to apply for a bursary of up to £3000 to adapt your show to make it suitable for rural and urban community touring. We can talk to you about this at the Lab. In your application to be part of the CAAA2 menu, please tell us how much you think it will cost to adapt your show.

### 3. Appear on the menu

Your show will feature on a 'menu' of shows, which we'll share with our touring partners in December 2023. The menu will consist of four UK-based selected companies. Local volunteer promoters will work with our touring partners to choose which show they want to present.

### 4. Receive bookings

The Circus Around and About 2 Project Manager will take bookings from our touring partners on behalf of local volunteer promoters. We'll tell you about your bookings in February 2024, and our Project Manager will work with you to arrange a contract.

The all inclusive daily performance rate is covered by:

- the touring partner
- ticket sales through the local volunteer promoter
- the Arts Council grant, and
- the presenting partner or local promoter.

The guaranteed performance fee is negotiated individually up to £1500 based on your all-inclusive day rate. This fee will cover the performance fee, travel expenses, subsistence and VAT. In most places you visit on tour, the hosts will provide accommodation if you need it.



If you're offering workshops or residencies, we can agree a separate fee for them. Please see the frequently asked questions for more information.

## 5. Touring period and environmental responsibility

Touring will take place between June and December 2024. We'll ask you about your commitment to environmental responsibility and how you will keep to the sustainable touring standards set out in the Theatre Green Book <https://theatregreenbook.com/sustainableproductions-toolkit/>





## How to apply and key dates

### How to apply

To apply, please fill in the application form, [which you can find here](#), by noon on 27 October 2023.

If you need any support with your application, or if another format (for example, audio or video) would be more accessible for you, please contact [ralph@takeart.org](mailto:ralph@takeart.org) and we'll arrange this.

### The selection process

A panel of representatives from Take Art, Crying Out Loud, Diverse City and the presenting partners will choose which circus artists and companies to include on the menu.

### Key dates

- 3 October: Applications open
- 27 October (noon): Deadline for applications
- 6 November: You find out if you've been selected
- Early December: Practical Introduction to Rural and Urban Community Touring for Circus Lab
- 6 December: Deadline for sending us information and images to include on the menu
- 18 December: Menu sent to touring partners
- 8 February 2024: Tour booking deadline for presenters and dates to be confirmed with menu artists shortly after



## Frequently asked questions (FAQs)

### What sort of circus shows will you consider?

1. **Circus shows that are surprising and different.** We welcome shows that include high-quality contemporary content, technical aspects and staging.
2. **Circus shows that suit the size of the audience.** Our indoor audiences range from 60 to 100 people, and our outdoor audiences average around 130.
3. **Circus shows that suit a range of ages.** Your ideas and content need to connect with people who might not often experience contemporary circus. We're interested in shows that bring the community together and offer them a 'good night out'.
4. **Circus shows that engage audiences in different ways.** This might be through participation, workshops or residencies.

### How long should my show be?

Your show should be at least 60 minutes long. Any additional activity, such as meet the artist or a Q&A session after the show is welcomed.

If your show is exactly 60 minutes long (or just under), please tell us what additional activity you will provide to fill an evening programme.

### Will you consider a double bill if it makes a full evening of activity?

Yes. Do consider the cost and practicalities of two shorter shows. The 'get-in time' and fees would be the same as for one full-length show.

### What does 'suitable for rural and urban community touring' mean?

Audiences and venues in rural and urban areas are diverse so don't make assumptions about what audiences will expect. Here are some things to consider:

- **What equipment you will need.** Most venues are not fully equipped theatres. Lighting and sound equipment is often limited, so we suggest that you plan for touring with your own technical kit. Most venues won't have sprung floors or dance floors, and not all of them can provide technical support.
- **The size of the venue.** Community venues can be small, so you will be physically close to the audience. The stages will be different sizes and have different layouts. Most performance spaces are 5m x 5m, with some bigger and others smaller. You can ask for a bigger area, but this will reduce the number of bookings you could get. It's important to be flexible and find creative solutions to staging so your show can be adapted to different spaces.
- **How to make sure everyone can see.** Most community spaces don't have raked seating, so the audience won't be able to see floor work. Think about what people in the audience will be able to see from where they are sitting.
- **Providing an interval.** Promoters usually expect an interval during the evening.
- **The limit for fees is £1500.** We'll agree the fee with you based on your all-inclusive day rate, and the fee will need to cover the performance, travel expenses, subsistence and VAT. To keep costs down, most companies have no more than four people on the road.
- **Transport and accommodation.** Rural and urban community touring venues will usually offer company members food and local accommodation (rooms in people's houses). If this is not suitable for your needs in terms of restful space you can organise and pay for your own accommodation. Most venues will not be accessible by public transport.

### **What does 'suitable for rural and urban community touring, with some adaptations' mean?**

This means a show that could suit rural and urban community touring if some small changes were made. For example, your show might have five circus performers, but you think you could remake it for three. Or you might have a complex set, but you think you could reduce it.

Bursaries for the cost of making adaptations will be available, so please let us know what changes you would need to make and how much it would cost in your application.

### **What makes a show 'tour ready'?**

A show that is tour ready is:

- a new show that is already made, or
- an older show that has been touring in autumn 2023 or before.

If you're creating a show that is almost finished, please include as much information as you can, along with film footage of the whole show and a list of performance dates coming up.

We can't consider pieces that are still in research and development or the early stages.

### **What if I'm still creating a show, but it would be ready for touring June-December 2024?**

We give priority to shows that are fully made, but please do apply if your show is almost finished.

Please include as much information about the show as you can, along with film footage of the whole show. We'll need to have a clear sense of how your show will work and what it involves.

We won't be able to consider pieces that are in the early stages.

### **What about our contribution to environmental responsibility?**

We want to know what decisions and actions you are taking to consider the environment, and we expect you to be aware of the sustainable touring standards in the [Theatre Green Book](#). Please assess which of the three categories your show fits into according to categories incorporated into the Green Book: baseline, intermediate or advanced - please refer to the Theatre Green Book when answering this question.

### **Will you consider applications for an installation, or a performance with a non-traditional format (for example, with an outdoor or promenade performance)?**

Yes, but please tell us how it also meets the other criteria.

### **Can I apply if I have no experience of rural or urban community touring?**

Yes, you can. As long as you're interested in the challenges and opportunities of touring rurally and in urban community venues, we welcome your application.

### **Can I apply if I already have lots of experience of rural and urban community touring?**

Yes. You are warmly invited to apply.

### **Do I have to be available to attend the Practical Introduction to Rural and Urban Community Touring for Circus Lab?**

Yes, please make sure you are available. You'll need to attend this Lab unless you can show us that you have a lot of experience of touring rurally or in urban community venues.

### **Do all artists in my show need to attend the Lab?**

If you're applying as a company, you should send one lead artist.

### **Will I be paid to attend the Lab?**

Yes, if you're selected we'll pay you an additional fee to attend the Lab. Your travel, accommodation and meals will be covered.



### How many artists will be chosen?

Ideally four UK-based artists or companies will be chosen for touring.

### Can I offer workshops and residencies?

Yes, especially if they're for young people and families. We also want to reach more D/deaf and disabled people through this project, so please tell us if you have experience of delivering workshops to a range of participants.

### What counts as a workshop or a residency, and what fees will you pay?

Workshops and residencies are for audience development, and they are held in the weeks leading up to a performance, not on the day of the performance. In your application, please tell us how many participants you can work with at a workshop or residency.

We'll pay a fee of around £300 for a workshop and around £1600 for a residency. A residency with children and young people and family groups can last 2-4 days.

### Who is responsible for making my budget balance?

You, your company and your producer are responsible for your budget. We can help you by providing guidance, looking at your budget and sharing budget templates with you.

### Can I apply for Arts Council funding to make my budget balance?

Circus Around and About 2 is funded by Arts Council England, so you can't apply to Arts Council for funding towards the touring costs of any shows we are promoting. However, to make a tour viable you could add some extra dates and apply for Arts Council funding for those, which won't be part of Circus Around and About.

### The organisations partnering to deliver Circus Around and About 2 are:

**Take Art:** Take Art is a pioneering arts charity based on a farm in rural Somerset. Uniquely, it houses both a County Dance Agency and a Rural Touring Service (alongside other services). It is committed to supporting the development and promotion of high-quality arts practice and works with artists and companies locally, nationally and internationally. It also aims to enable Somerset residents to experience and participate in high-quality arts activities. [www.takeart.org/](http://www.takeart.org/)

**Crying Out Loud:** Crying Out Loud are creative producers who bring memorable experiences from extraordinary visual theatre makers to audiences of all ages and abilities. They curate and connect artists, programmers and their communities nationally and internationally to support world-class artistic experiences to come to life in different forms and locations. A key strand of their new programme is to support and present visual, site-specific and cross-artform projects in the Solent and wider south-west region (where they are based). Crying Out Loud create development opportunities for local artists and communities, connecting them with the best companies and makers globally, and tour world-class international work to audiences across south-west England. [www.cryingoutloud.org/](http://www.cryingoutloud.org/)

**Diverse City** is a Dorset-based performing arts charity founded in 2005. Our vision is diversity onstage, offstage and in the audience, because difference is human. We co-produce national touring shows that de-segregate D/deaf, disabled and non-disabled people. Our flagship collaboration is Extraordinary Bodies, led in partnership with Cirque Bijou. [www.diversecity.org.uk/](http://www.diversecity.org.uk/)

If you have any questions, please email [ralph@takeart.org](mailto:ralph@takeart.org) or phone 01460 249450.



Extraordinary  
Bodies



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