



## STAB 2020



(Above: Actual Fact, *STAB 2018*. by Isobel MacKinnon and Meg Rollandi  
Image credit: Philip Merry)

STAB originated in 1995 from BATS Theatre's desire to initiate a commission that allowed theatre artists to experiment in a supportive environment.

At the beginning of STAB there was a particular focus on the new ways in which technology could be incorporated into live performance. For many years artists seized the opportunity to deliver productions that experimented with different uses of technology to innovate their practice.

Today it is accepted that technology will usually play a part in creating contemporary live performance. As performance has evolved over the past 20 years, STAB too has evolved to be less focussed on technology and more focussed on how your project will contribute to the evolution of practice, process, performance and audience engagement.

In 2020, BATS has a total pool of \$80,000 to commission:

- One major STAB production of between \$50,000 and \$65,000
- One STABlab of between \$10,000 - \$15,000

2020 is the seventh year that BATS will offer the opportunity of STABlab, a smaller commission of between \$10,000 - \$15,000 towards the development of an idea. STABlab is a workshop model designed to give a small resource to practitioners who wish to test out their thinking in a supportive environment.

STAB and STABlab can be accessed by all scripted or devised live art, including (but not limited to) dance, opera, music, theatre, film, magic and interactive media.

If you have any questions about any of the STAB 2020 information or the Expression of Interest forms, please contact nick ([nick@bats.co.nz](mailto:nick@bats.co.nz)) or call (04) 802 4176.

*Note: The STAB 2020 and STABlab 2020 Expression of Interest Forms are separate documents to be filled out and submitted after reading this document.*

## **STAB 2020**

The major STAB commission is an integral part of the annual BATS programme.

The aim of STAB is:

- To secure and provide a significant level of funding (the commission) to support the creation of innovative, pioneering performance work that may not otherwise find funding elsewhere.
- To commission new New Zealand performance work.
- To support this work from inception through a production process to presentation.
- To promote BATS as a hub for performance.
- To support a national community of pioneering artists who strive to push boundaries in their performance work.

Your STAB 2020 pitch is encouraged to respond to the following ideas:

- Bold leadership of new ideas that seek to revolutionise live arts practice, process and performance.
- Diverse projects that seek to respond to issues in interesting ways that haven't been seen before in more conventional performing arts settings.
- Projects that drive social and cultural interaction and engagement with new and different communities (by 'new and different' we mean communities who may not have experienced or been engaged with the performing arts as an accepted medium of communication).
- Projects that demonstrate thought leadership through quality of ideas and innovation of form and style.
- Extraordinary design concepts that support a core creative idea.

In the first instance BATS, as Executive Producer of STAB, wants to encourage productions that can be shown at BATS Theatre. Your STAB pitch may be for a project that needs to happen off-site from BATS. In this case you will be expected to demonstrate how you will manage the extra financial and health and safety risks inherent in using a found space.

All STAB proposals that are shortlisted must submit a comprehensive budget and timeline that clearly demonstrate how they will remunerate and sustain their creative team and successfully realise their vision.

As Executive Producer BATS offers the following support:

- Advice, mentoring and support during the STAB commissioning process including marketing, publicity, contracting, budgeting, technical, sponsorship and funding.
- Health and safety assessment and planning documentation.
- Subsidised and affordable rehearsal space on site at BATS.
- Sector knowledge, networks and links to other producers nationally and development advice for the future life of your production.
- Public liability insurance if performing at BATS Theatre and advice on insurance for off-site productions.
- Access to and recommendations for external mentors, particularly if your proposal is for an off-site production.

*The commissioning process for STAB 2020 will be as follows:*

**STAGE 1: Expressions of Interest – 4pm Monday 14 October 2019**

Expression of Interest form completed and returned to BATS in person, or to [nick@bats.co.nz](mailto:nick@bats.co.nz)

**STAGE 2: Shortlist Selection – October 2019**

BATS holds initial informal interviews with selected groups who have submitted expressions of interest. Up to five groups are selected to further develop their concept.

**STAGE 3: Pitch – November 2019**

These five groups present their concept and a detailed proposal containing budgets, personnel and marketing plans as well as creative content in a full pitch to a panel consisting of BATS Management, a BATS Board member and an industry representative.

A small portion of major STAB commission money will be provided to each selected company to develop their pitch. The amount, up to \$500, can be used to support hard costs incurred (receipts must be provided) and remuneration for practitioners involved. In addition, pitching companies will receive free rehearsal time, to be allocated at BATS' discretion and subject to availability, in the lead up to the scheduled pitch date.

### **STAGE 3: Commissioning – November 2019**

One group is commissioned to produce their STAB project with BATS acting as Executive Producers. Shows will be required to meet milestones attached to funding instalments including design and health and safety plans.

### **STAGE 4: Presentation – October/ November 2021**

STAB show presented/staged.

### **STAGE 5: Reporting – November / December 2021**

Project report and budget to be submitted to BATS and Creative New Zealand.

## **STABlab 2020**

STABlab is a workshop model through which BATS will invite one company to undertake intensive development of an idea, culminating in at least one showing to invited industry guests and members of the public.

The aim of STABlab is to give a small resource to practitioners who wish to test out their thinking in a supportive environment. It is intended that STAB LAB will assist in achieving one or more of the following outcomes:

- Developing and/or testing an idea to the point at which the company can decide whether or not it is feasible to continue to work towards a full production in its current form.
- Identifying and/or finding solutions to challenges both anticipated and not anticipated in the conception of an idea.
- Generating material that can be pitched to funders, festivals or theatres for a full production.

The showing at the end of the workshop can be used to show the outcomes of the workshop, get feedback, and generate interest from potential funders, festivals or theatres.

Your STABlab 2020 pitch is encouraged to respond to the following ideas:

- Bold leadership of new ideas that seek to revolutionise performing arts practice, process and performance.
- Diverse projects that seek to respond to issues in interesting ways that haven't been seen before in a more conventional performing arts setting.
- Projects that drive social and cultural interaction and engagement with new and different communities (by 'new and different' we mean communities who may not have experienced or been engaged with the performing arts as an accepted medium of communication).
- Projects that demonstrate thought leadership through quality of ideas and innovation of form and style.
- Extraordinary design concepts that support a core creative idea.

Pitches for STABlab must not have been shown previously. The successful STABlab will be eligible to pitch for the major STAB commission in 2021.

For the successful STABlab 2020 pitch, BATS will provide:

- \$10,000 - \$15,000 for the purpose of a workshop (the length of the workshop will depend on the scale of the project and intended outcomes of the workshop).
- A venue for the workshop and showing(s) to take place.
- Lighting and sound equipment.
- Advice and mentorship leading up to, during, and after the workshop with regards to budgeting, planning, contracting, technical, and health and safety elements.
- Sector knowledge, networks and links to other producers nationally and development advice for the future life of your idea.
- Access to and recommendations for external mentors.

*The commissioning process for the 2020 STAB LAB will be as follows:*

**STAGE 1: Expressions of Interest – Monday 14 October 2019**

Expression of Interest form completed and returned to BATS.

**STAGE 2: Shortlist Selection – October 2018**

**STAGE 3: Shortlist Interviews – November 2018**

BATS holds interviews with selected groups in October.

Groups who make it to Stage 3 will be expected to provide a detailed proposal containing a timeline, budget and personnel as well as creative content and intended outcomes to a panel consisting of BATS Management, a BATS Board member and an industry representative.

**STAGE 4: STAB LAB selection – November 2019**

One group is selected to undertake the 2020 STAB LAB with BATS acting as Executive Producers.

**STAGE 5: STAB LAB workshop and showing – October 2020**

The company will be expected to prepare and discuss detailed plans (including a schedule, design concept, provocations or draft script) with BATS in the lead up to the workshop.

**STAGE 6: Reporting and next steps – October 2020**

Project report and budget to be submitted to BATS and Creative New Zealand. A meeting will be held with BATS to discuss next steps for the idea.