**The Shakespeare Birthplace Trust & Royal Shakespeare Company**

**Joint commission opportunity for Winter 2018**

**Introduction to brief**

For Winter 2018, The Shakespeare Birthplace Trust and the Royal Shakespeare Company wish to jointly commission an artist to create an immersive art work for family audiences that uses our two sites and the surrounding streets in Stratford-upon-Avon.

**Background**

This opportunity follows on from previous successful Winter commissions from the two organisations independently – the Royal Shakespeare Company’s willow lantern installation and processions (2016) and Twelfth Night Wassail (2017/18) and at Shakespeare’s New Place, Garden of Curious A-Musements by the Bureau of Silly Ideas (2016) and Mid-Winter Magic by Motionhouse (2017). This year, alongside a separate commissioning opportunity at New Place, we would like to work together to commission and programme a magical, outdoor experience for local people.

We welcome proposals that respond to both this brief and the separate brief for Shakespeare’s New Place.

We are open to different and innovative approaches.

**The piece:**

* Should be a high quality artistic experience for the whole family which is surprising, engaging and interactive
* Should focus on women in Shakespeare’s plays
* Could draw on themes relating to the time of year
* Could be a digital work and/ or include live performance
* Could be timed events, or a durational, self-led experience
* Should not be straight performances of Shakespeare’s plays – but use them as a source of inspiration
* Should appeal to all but our specific target audience is local residents and families.
* Should encourage people to explore Stratford-upon-Avon and view it in in a new light
* Should contribute to transforming perceptions of the Shakespeare Birthplace Trust and the Royal Shakespeare Company locally and present Shakespeare/ history and his legacy as relevant, contemporary and accessible.

**Budget**

The project budget is £10k (including travel, expenses and VAT).

**Timing**

The project needs to be delivered in December 2018. Exact dates and duration to be determined, subject to the nature of the work and the budget/ installation requirements. However, it should last either over several days or consecutive weekends.

**Timeline**

Early May Call for expressions of interest

5th June Deadline for expressions of interest

11th- 13th June Shortlisted candidates invited to interview and make a presentation of preliminary ideas and impulses

w/c 18 June Successful candidate informed

16th July Creative concept finalised

13st August Budget and production process / timeline agreed

20th August Marketing/PR promotion by-lines and publicity image agreed

Early/Mid Dec Show opens to the public

**Application Process**

Please submit an application via email to commissioning@shakespeare.org.uk and include:

* CV / biog
* A statement outlining what interests you about this opportunity in no more than 250 words
* A statement summarising preliminary response to the above and creative interests and approach in no more than 500 words.
* Links to website and relevant previous work/s (total attachments no larger than 25MB or by a web link)

Deadline for completed applications midnight 5 June 2018

Interviews w/c 11 June in Stratford-upon-Avon.

Applicants will be reimbursed for reasonable interview related travel expenses such as standard rail fares and mileage of 45p per mile. If you do not hear from us by 25th June please assume you have been unsuccessful on this occasion.

**About the Royal Shakespeare Company**

The **Royal Shakespeare Company**creates theatre at its best, made in Stratford-upon-Avon and shared around the world.  We produce an inspirational artistic programme each year, setting Shakespeare in context, alongside the work of his contemporaries and today’s writers.

Everyone at the RSC - from actors to armourers, musicians to technicians - plays a part in creating the world you see on stage.  All our productions begin life at our Stratford workshops and theatres and we bring them to the widest possible audience through our touring, residencies, live broadcasts and online activity. So, wherever you experience the RSC, you experience work made in Shakespeare’s home town.

We have trained generations of the very best theatre makers and we continue to nurture the talent of the future. We encourage everyone to enjoy a lifelong relationship with Shakespeare and live theatre.  We reach 530,000 children and young people annually through our education work, transforming their experiences in the classroom, in performance and online.  Registered charity no. 212481 [www.rsc.org.uk](http://www.rsc.org.uk/).

**About the Shakespeare Birthplace Trust**

The Shakespeare Birthplace Trust is the independent charity that cares for the world’s greatest Shakespeare heritage in his home town of Stratford-upon-Avon. It is the global centre for learning about and experiencing the works, life and times of the world’s best-known writer. Through the five historic Shakespeare family homes (Shakespeare’s Birthplace, Shakespeare’s New Place, Anne Hathaway’s Cottage, Hall’s Croft and Mary Arden’s Farm), internationally designated museum collections, award-winning learning programmes and digital channels, it provides imaginative, immersive and interactive opportunities for people of all ages and backgrounds to get up-close-and-personal with Shakespeare.

The Shakespeare Birthplace Trust is a self-sustaining charity which generates 98% of its income through the support of visitors, donors, volunteers and Friends. In April 2018 it was granted National Portfolio funding from Arts Council England for the first time, enabling new creative and outreach programmes with a particular focus on communities which are currently less engaged in arts, culture and heritage. For more information, visit www.shakespeare.org.uk. Follow us on social media-@ShakespeareBT; Facebook.com/ShakespeareBT and Instagram.com/ShakespeareBTrust