

### **The Clive & Sylvia Richards Writer In Residence Bursary**

*'I WROTE. I wrote so much. Because Pentabus gave me that time and space to just scribble away, and I can never thank them enough for that. They made me realise what I want to write and why I want to write it.'*

Tim Foley, 2016/17 Writer in Residence and Bruntwood Award Winner 2017

Pentabus are looking for an emerging theatre artist to become our second Clive and Sylvia Richards Charity Writer In Residence.

As a recipient of the Channel Four Writer in Residence Bursary for three years in a row, an unprecedented achievement, we know just how essential a writer in residence is for Pentabus. We were awarded a grant from the Clive & Sylvia Richards Charity in 2018 to support a Writer In Residence Bursary for two years. The first recipient of the Bursary was Sophie Ellerby, who will finish her year as Writer In Residence in September 2019.

The Bursary supports a professional playwright or theatre maker in the early stage of their career, providing the opportunity for the recipient to spend up to a year at our base in Bromfield, which is just outside Ludlow in South Shropshire. During their time with Pentabus, the recipient will write at least one new full length play or piece of theatre.

#### **About Pentabus:**

*'Pentabus is probably one of the most important theatre companies in the country, where it has led, other new writing theatres – such as the Royal Court – have followed'*

Matt Trueman, The Telegraph 2018

In every village, field and street there lives a rural story.

Pentabus is the nation's rural theatre company. We are the only professional theatre company in the UK whose vision is singularly rural. We tour new plays about the contemporary rural world to new audiences in village halls, fields, festivals and theatres, telling stories with local relevance, plus national and international impact. We believe that every person living in an isolated rural community has a right to exceptional theatre. We are based on a farm in Shropshire, and to date all of our work has been made here. It then tours village halls and theatres locally and nationally. Over four and a half decades we've produced 171 new plays, reached over 550,000 audience members, won a prestigious South Bank Show award for our show about racism, a Fringe First for our play about climate change and were the first to live stream from a village hall. We have hosted a writer in residence since 2014 and they have gone on to be commissioned by the Royal Court, Birmingham Rep, Royal Welsh College and the Bush.

We are a champion for rural young people aged 16 to 25 and Pentabus Young Company is our new initiative offering workshops, masterclasses, work experience and mentorships, as well as the opportunity to join our Young Writers' Group, which has been running for five years. Previous participants of the Young Writers' Group have had their work presented at Ludlow Fringe, Latitude Festival and Hereford Courtyard. It is a springboard into further

study and the arts industry, with over 50% of our Young Writers going on to be published and professional writers.

**About the Residency:**

The Clive & Sylvia Richards Writer In Residence Bursary is an opportunity for an emerging writer to become a part of the Pentabus family.

What the Writer In Residence Bursary will give to you:

- **The time and space to think and write.** You will have a studio at Pentabus HQ, a Victorian schoolhouse on a farm 3 miles outside of Ludlow.
- **The opportunity to complete at least one full length play or several works in progress.** This work will not have been commissioned by another company. Your writing time will be largely unrestricted and you can write about anything.
- **Constructive criticism and professional dramaturgical feedback on your work.** Our Artistic Director, will be available to discuss your ideas, and help you to work through any dramaturgical issues or queries that you might have.
- **The opportunity to have your script or idea workshopped with Pentabus artists.**
- **A launch pad into the wider theatre community.** You will be invited to attend Pentabus events, see shows as a representative of the company, and take part in industry activities with company members.
- **The opportunity to tutor our Pentabus Young Company and our Writers Group** (the next generation of aspiring writers and theatre makers aged 16 to 25). You will develop and lead workshops for our Young Writers both at Pentabus HQ and in other venues nationwide.
- **The opportunity to observe the work of the company.** You will attend rehearsals, final run-throughs, dress rehearsals and other performances, gaining hands on experience of small scale touring.

What you will give to Pentabus:

- Reading and offering constructive criticism on scripts sent to us.
- Attending workshops and rehearsals of work in production
- Assisting our Artistic Director, with artistic planning and being an active part of planning the creative future of the company.
- Engaging with rural communities to better understand them and our mission
- Lending an objective artistic voice to our day to day operations
- Advocating for us in the wider writing/theatre community
- Being a mentor for our Young Company Writers and taking part in planning Young Company activity.

**Overview:**

You will be given a bursary of £10,000 to support you for 12 months. You will commit to living in Ludlow for at least 6 months of this time. Any additional work you do for Pentabus outside of the Bursary requirements will be recompensed at ITC rates.

You will be required to submit two reports to Pentabus for the Clive & Sylvia Richards Charity, who are the generous supporters of the Writer In Residence Bursary.

The bursary is designed to cover living costs in order to allow the Writer In Residence to focus on their work.

**Who is Eligible to Apply:**

We are looking for committed, enthusiastic and exceptionally talented writers and theatre makers in the early stages of their career. You **MUST** have a passion for theatre and a strong interest in the wider theatre industry.

You may have a relevant degree in Literature, Creative Writing, Theatre Studies, or commensurate experience in professional theatre. Ideally, applicants would either have an agent, or have completed an Emerging Writers' or Artists' programme (ie Orange Tree Writers Collective, REP Foundry, Royal Exchange Young Company etc) or to have had a production of their work professionally produced, either in a Fringe, Rural Touring or Studio theatre setting.

Of course, we are committed to nurturing and developing the best rural talent, and you may have none of the above experience. People who are from a genuine rural background, or who do not have the above qualifications or experience, but have an important story to tell can also apply. Just tell us why you are applying and your application will be considered.

If you are an emerging theatre maker, rather than solely a playwright or writer, then we will accept your application. You just need to tell us why you are applying and why this bursary is right for you.

We will accept applications from those who have applied to the bursary before – just tell us why you are applying again, and send us a different example of your writing if you were longlisted in 2018.

Although we are based outside of a small rural town, you do not need to be able to drive in order to apply. We can help you to get in to the office / studio daily, or you can walk through the fields or take the local bus!

Applicants *must* be over 18 years of age.

**How to Apply:**

Fill in an application form, and send it to [scripts@pentabus.co.uk](mailto:scripts@pentabus.co.uk) with the title CSRC WRITER IN RESIDENCE BURSARY in the email.

You **MUST** include with your application:

- Your completed application form.
- A completed Equal Opportunities Monitoring Form.
- A copy of a full length play that you've written. Ideally we'd like to read plays that have had a professional reading or production. **NB** This play will **not** be read unless you are longlisted. Please provide details of the production or reading with the play.
- A current writer's CV or Biog.

Applications must be in by **Wednesday 1 May at 10am**

Longlisted candidates will be informed by the mid May.

Candidates shortlisted for interview will be informed by **Friday 7 June**.

We will meet with eight potential candidates on **Wed 12** and **Thu 13 June** with a view to making a decision by **14 June 2019**.

We envisage the successful candidate attending our Young Writers' show between **9-11 July**, and taking up the position as the Clive and Sylvia Richards Writer In Residence in **September 2019**.