

Creative Fund 2021-2022

Artist Application Form

Name of applicant:	Jessica Innes
E mail Address:	[REDACTED]
Title of project:	Academy of the Wooden Figure, Puppet Mastery Course, by Bernd Ogrodnik
Category of Project (if a combination please tick all that apply):	Practical R&D <input type="checkbox"/> Skills and/or Training <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Research <input type="checkbox"/>

Please tell us clearly and concisely about your project idea. You should include information about your process, a rough timeline and the objectives that you would like to achieve. If the project involves a training course or opportunity, make sure to include details of the provider and dates.

(Max 300 words)

I am an early-career performer, puppeteer, and multi-disciplinary artist. Most recently performing within the professional ensemble of actors for the Traverse Theatre's Young Writers Company, and creating *Mr Holdcroft*, commissioned by Puppet Animation Scotland, for the installation *Restless Worlds* as part of Manipulate 2021.

After recently completing the Foundation Course in Puppet Mastery by Bernd Ogrodnik, I would like to apply to his Academy of the Wooden Figure course. This is a year-long course delving deeper into the art of creating wooden puppets. It is delivered virtually and students build the puppets from their own homes/workshops/studios. The course begins September 2021 and will conclude in September 2022.

Students will learn how to carve advanced and highly functional marionettes, table-top, rod, and hand puppets. Bernd's innovative control mechanisms - such as the one featured in the movie "Strings" will also be taught, as well as his famous "one-hand" controls.

There is also a theoretical element to the course, learning about the history of various puppet styles, the principles of various systems and techniques, and marionette performance techniques.

Above all, there is no other course that is as accessible as this one. Here is a link to the information on the course; <https://worldsofpuppets.com/online-courses/academy-of-the-wooden-figure/>

Attached to this application, in the Google Drive link, is a letter of support from Bernd Ogrodnik.

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Please indicate how you would like your artistic practice to develop through delivery of the project and what you would like to gain through the additional mentorship and support provided?

(Max 200 words)

My artistic practice has evolved over lockdown as I develop skills not only in puppeteering but puppet making.

At this current point in my career, having Puppet Animation Scotland's support will be a huge step forward in establishing myself within the Scottish Visual Theatre Industry. After Puppet Animation Scotland supported me with a commission in their *Restless Worlds* kinetic installation, my professional relationships strengthened; with upcoming puppeteer performances with Vision Mechanics and Tortoise in a Nutshell, and working behind the scenes as a costume designer and transcriber for All or Nothing Aerial Dance.

It is undeniable that Puppet Animation Scotland's support for an emerging artist is second to none. As momentum builds for me gaining a voice as a performer and visual theatre maker, I want to use this specific time in my career to hone a particular skill that I believe is still rare in the Scottish Industry.

Having mentorship from Puppet Animation Scotland would be most beneficial to my career at this precise moment because as our industry adapts to the changing parameters around live performance we are all having to evolve with it. Having the mentorship to mould my practice now would be invaluable.

PLEASE COMPLETE ONLY IF YOUR APPLICATION IS FOR A CREATIVE (PRACTICAL) R&D PROJECT

Please tell us about your aspirations for the future life of this work and its further development, for example any production, screening or touring plans, additional phases of development or planned collaborators. You likely won't know all the answers to this yet! Please just share any thoughts you may have at this stage.

(Max. 200 words)

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PLEASE COMPLETE ONLY IF YOUR APPLICATION IS FOR A TRAINING OR RESEARCH PROJECT

Please tell us about how you will integrate the learning from this project into your future work and how you will share what you learn/discover with others in order that it might have a wider positive impact for the sector.

(Max 200 words)

Within the Scottish Puppetry sector, there are so few makers who can carve wooden puppets. It is an incredible skill that is slowly being buried under makers using plastics and foam to create their puppets. We are now far more aware of the effects the materials we use have on the planet. Using more sustainable products such as wood instead of plastic would have a much more positive effect on our planet.

Bernd Ogrodnik is leading the way through his course. This training will have a huge positive impact on the industry as we encourage and promote options in making productions that use eco-friendly materials.

As I establish myself as an artist creating innovative work, it is my aspiration to create work that not only entertains audiences, but the materials used in shows are eco-friendly. This could be the beginning of leading more artists in choosing eco-friendly ways of creating puppets.

I will share my learnings by using the puppets carved to create work, either digitally or live. I will apply to the Manipulate Festival 2023 with an enchanting performance using carved puppets, a combination of marionettes and table-top.

Please provide a simple, clear and realistic budget for your proposal using Excel which shows:

- The amount you are applying for.
- Any other sources of income, including in-kind assistance, that you plan to apply for, or have already applied for (please note this is not a pre-requisite of funding)
- All items of expenditure

Please round up all figures to the nearest £

Please provide links to your creative work. This is to give us an indication of the quality of your work and an overall sense of your aesthetic, so please select content which you feel is most relevant.

Everyone likes to share footage of their work in different ways, so we'll leave this totally up to you. However, please note that if you link to a large dropbox, website or portfolio without directing us to specific areas it is unlikely we'll consider everything but will use our own judgement to browse. We strongly recommend being selective in the volume of material you share.

Please provide two links. These can be: press reviews, personal/company website or portfolio, link to a dropbox with sketches, production photos, mockups, films of previous work etc. Please clearly label each item below with project titles or an explanation of how they relate to your application.

Puppet Animation Scotland			
Creative Fund 2021 Budget			
Academy of the Wooden Puppet Course		Jessica Innes	
Source	Cash/In-Kind	Conditional/Pending	Amount
Puppet Animation Scotland Fund	Cash	Pending	2694
Jessica Innes	Cash	Guaranteed	160
Summerhall	In-Kind	Guaranteed	100
TOTAL PROJECT BUDGET			2954
Income			
Item	Amount	Cost per item	Item Cost Total
Workshop space	1	100	100
Hand/Carving Tools owned by Jessica Innes	1	160	160
TOTAL INCOME			130
Expense			
Item	Amount	Cost per item (£)	Item Cost Total (£)
Course Funds	1	2527	2527
Limewood 100mmx200mm	5	4	20
Limewood 150mmx400mm	5	9	45
Limewood 230mmx400mm	5	13	65
Bosch Corded Jigsaw	1	37	37
TOTAL EXPENDITURE			2694
TOTAL ASKING AMOUNT			2694