

Blast Theory Residency Programme 2019

“For us, the residency was the first real opportunity we had as artists to dig deep into the why’s, how’s and what if’s of our practice. Having a place to hibernate, without the emotional vacillations brought on by over-exposure to other people, gave us the focus to really develop. 14 months on, we are still reaping the benefits. Sometimes, space and creative support are all you need – and, without us even really knowing that we needed it, Blast Theory provided that. Their expertise, enthusiasm and open-minded approach to how we needed to operate gave us the impetus to move forwards into a genuinely new space.”

- May Abdalla and Amy Rose, Anagram

Overview

This unique Residency Programme is initiated and run by the artists in Blast Theory, Ju, Matt and Nick. It provides a studio space, accommodation, and uninterrupted time, for residents to research and develop new work in a supportive environment.

With 26 years experience as an artist-led company, we have a wealth of skills that we are able to use to support practitioners from all backgrounds and stages in their career; supporting skills development, providing opportunities and nurturing talent.

There are three residency slots of two months available, giving artists the time and space for meaningful development of ideas and processes. The available residency slots are:

1. 18th February – 12th April 2019
2. 3rd June – 26th July 2019
3. 7th October – 29th November 2019

Our Support

Blast Theory encourages debate and exchange with residents throughout the residency. We can offer the following to residents and we take our lead from the needs of each resident:

- Scheduled mentoring sessions with a Blast Theory artist if required;
- Professional advice;
- Insights into the company’s history, practice, research & development activities, working methods, business structure and artistic structure – through inclusion in creative and business meetings as and when appropriate;
- A presentation of the residents’ work in progress or practice to Blast Theory;
- Access to equipment and resources;
- Networking opportunities.

All support can be tailored on individual needs and in the past this has included running game tests, works in progress and talks.

Residents are required to write a short summary of their residency which will be published on Blast Theory’s website. We also welcome residents to blog or do an Instagram takeover during their stay, this is completely optional but we welcome your voice.

We strive to provide a warm, welcoming, creative and collaborative environment. Regardless of how busy it is we all have lunch together in the studio between 1pm-2pm to which the residents are warmly invited. We also have a studio dog, Greta, who can be described as over friendly.

BLAST THEORY

Unit 5, 20 Wellington Road, Portslade, Brighton BN41 1DN tel & fax: 00 44(0)1273 413 455 info@blasttheory.co.uk www.blasttheory.co.uk

"This residency was a life-changing experience for me, enabling an extended period to dedicate myself to my work as an artist. In that time, I made a lot of progress, built connections to the leading artists in my field, and returned to Australia with a solid concept for a public artwork of scale. In so doing, I feel like after 17 years of working as an 'emerging' artist, I have transitioned into my 'mid-career'".

- Robert Walton

Criteria for Applying

The Residency Programme welcomes applications from individuals working in the following fields, but we are open to other artistic and research forms, this is just an idea.

- Pervasive and location based gaming and interactive media
- The use of mobile and portable devices in cultural and artistic practice
- Games design and theory
- Narrative design and all forms of digital storytelling
- Video streaming as artistic practice
- Interdisciplinary and live art practices
- Experimental and immersive theatre
- Film (inc. documentary, fiction and interactive)
- Liveness, interactivity, collaboration, co-creation and what audience participation means
- Museum projects and experiences

Applicants should be able to demonstrate how the residency period will assist in the development of their practice. We aim to support people at all stages of their career, including emerging artists and those with an established background in their respective fields.

We actively seek residents that reflect the diversity of the communities we serve and so encourage applications from those with less visibility in the sector.

About the Residency Studio

The Residency is based at our studio at 20 Wellington Road, Portslade, BN41 1DN

20 Wellington Road is a renovated Victorian icehouse in Portslade, overlooking Shoreham Harbour in Brighton, United Kingdom. The residency studio space is 3.1m x 4.6m with a large south facing window opening onto the wharf. A small bedroom is also provided which is suitable for one person or a couple, with a window opening onto an internal corridor. Residents have use of the communal project room to try out larger work, the communal shower room, the communal kitchen, outdoor terraces and a bicycle.

Both the studio and the bedroom are situated inside Blast Theory's working studio, we also have two studios used by local artists and designers. It is a busy building and the communal spaces are used by all.

The building is easily accessible by bus and train from London. Gatwick airport is 30 minutes by train and London is 60 minutes.

Cost of Residency

The Residency Programme is managed by Blast Theory who undertake the upkeep and maintenance of the building. We ask that residents pay a nominal fee of £100 per week to cover these running costs.

Unfortunately we are unable to support travel or living expenses for your time with us.

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Bursary Scheme

We are able to subsidise a maximum of one residency per year through our bursary scheme based on financial need. If you wish to apply for a bursary please outline your circumstances and demonstrate your need for the bursary in your application. Priority will be given to full time artists on low incomes who would otherwise not be able to afford the opportunity.

Residencies Available

There are three residency slots of two months available:

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2. 3rd June – 26th July 2019
3. 7th October – 29th November 2019

Timescale

Deadline for Residency Applications: 23rd January 2019, 12pm (strict deadline)

Residencies Confirmed: 30th January 2019

Application Details

Please complete the Online Application Form here: https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/residency_programme_application_2019

As part of this application, please ensure you complete a 1) Equal Opportunities and Monitoring Form and 2) Reference and Disclosure Form

Blast Theory are committed to a policy of equal opportunities. We actively seek residents that reflect the diversity of the communities we serve and so encourage applications from those with less visibility in the sector.

We welcome applications from people who identify themselves as having a disability. While we recognise that there may be some restrictions that apply to specific disabilities, Blast Theory will adopt as flexible an approach as possible and seek to make reasonable adaptations to accommodate your needs. Please use the **Reference and Disclosure Form** to be as specific as possible with your needs so we can make your interview / time with us as comfortable as possible.

Applicants are welcome to apply in a format that serves them best, such as audio tape or video.

If you prefer to apply via a video or audio application, or have any questions about the application process, **please contact dan@blasttheory.co.uk for more details.**
