



## CALL TO ARTISTS

### CREATING NEW WORKS OF THEATRE, DANCE & PERFORMANCE!

- *Are you an artist - or group of artists - with a performance project that needs a boost?*
- *Have you got a project ready to be developed with performer(s)?*
- *Do you want some help with that?*

### ALTERNATING CURRENTS 2024

**Application deadline: June 24<sup>th</sup> 2024 @ 5PM**

Public Energy Performing Arts is seeking Peterborough/Nogojiwanong area performing artists to apply for our *Alternating Currents 2024* performance mentorship program.

Public Energy encourages submissions from all socio-cultural backgrounds, including BIPOC, people with disabilities, across generations, from the LGBTQ2+ community, and newcomers to Canada.

**Accessibility accommodation.** Persons with disabilities are encouraged to come forward at any stage of the application process to request accommodations, if needed. Members of our team will consult and can adapt processes wherever possible to provide individuals with disabilities with equal opportunity to participate. If you require accommodation, please contact Eva at [eva@publicenergy.ca](mailto:eva@publicenergy.ca) or call 705-745-1788.

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*Alternating Currents* (AC) is an intensive workshop process managed by Public Energy Performing Arts, open to artists working in theatre, dance, circus and multi-disciplinary performance. AC is intended to benefit artists (either individuals or a group of artists working as collaborators) who value research and development as a long-term process and who need to see the work 'on its feet'. The workshops will be led by professional mentor/dramaturges, experienced in creation techniques that include dance, devised theatre and collaborative creation. It will take place in the first two weeks of January, 2025.

*Alternating Currents* will provide each successful submission with:

- A series of one-on-one mentor workshop sessions.
- Technical and administrative support.
- Artists' fees for the lead artist and a limited number of performers.
- A presentation of the work-in-progress (artists can choose to opt out) to an invited audience.

2024 Mentors have not been confirmed. Once the mentors are confirmed, participating artists will be consulted to match them with a mentor. The Program Director for *Alternating Currents* is Kate Story, who will also act as one of the Mentors.

#### ***How participants are selected:***

Participants in *Alternating Currents* will be chosen by a selection committee. The selection process will take into account the performance history of the artists (quality of work, ability to see work to

completion, professional artistic activity), the artistic needs of the work, and whether it would benefit from the support offered by the AC program. We are particularly interested in projects which experiment with forms of creation and performance characterized by one or more of the following:

- Works beginning in places other than text (movement, images, objects, research, improvisation, etc.)
- Exploring poetic or stylized text
- Integration of multidisciplinary elements such as sound, movement, technology and text
- A spirit of artistic inquiry

Performance works that are already in development or have already been workshopped are eligible. Your work must be ready to be workshopped with performers. The work can be a solo performed by the artist/creator.

All AC workshops will take place at The Theatre On King, so must be workable in the setting of a small black box theatre.

The successful applicants will be included in a funding application to the Ontario Arts Council. ***Please note that the project will not be carried out if the OAC funding application is not approved. This notification comes in late November/early December.***

**What to send us:**

1. A ½ page (max) **cover letter** introducing yourself or your group and why your work is a good fit with the program.
2. A one-page (max) **project description** including: names of artistic collaborators, stage of development, any special equipment you may need, and what specifically you hope to gain through this type of mentorship. You may include additional support material such as media, text or prior research.
3. A one to two page (max) **bio or artistic CV** of the principal artist(s). The principal artist(s) - or at least one of them, if a group - must be a resident of the Peterborough/Nogojwanong area (Peterborough City, County and neighbouring First Nations).

**Support material is optional but recommended.** You may submit video or audio support material (5 min max), or text, or research material (5 pages max), or images (5 max). Please attach this material to your emailed application or provide a link we can use to access the material online.

**Deadline: 5 pm, June 24<sup>th</sup>, 2024**

Send proposals by email to: [submissions@publicenergy.ca](mailto:submissions@publicenergy.ca) or mail to: PO Box 2319, Peterborough, ON K9J 7Y8.

For questions please contact: Kate Story, AC Program Director at: [kstory@nexicom.net](mailto:kstory@nexicom.net).

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**History of Alternating Currents:** In 2008 and 2009 Public Energy Performing Arts produced its first Alternating Currents programs. Experimental theatrical works-in-progress by regional artists received 3-5 days each of intensive workshopping with award-winning director and theatre artist Ker Wells. The program was reinstated in 2017, with a more multidisciplinary mandate (dance, circus,

movement-based works as well as theatre works). Kate Story is the Program Director and also acts as a mentor for a portion of the projects. The process culminates in an informal presentation to an invited audience. For Public Energy, *Alternating Currents* is part of our ongoing commitment to supporting the creation of original works of performance, and the development of local artists. A history of past participants can be found on our website.

### **Kate Story (Program Director)**

Kate Story (she/they) is a genderqueer writer and theatre artist originally from Newfoundland, now living and working as an uninvited guest in Nogojiwanong/Peterborough, Ontario. Finalist for the Governor General's Literary Award, awarded honorary mention for the Sunburst, and winner of the Ontario Arts Foundation's K.M. Hunter Artist Award for theatre, she has published 5 novels and a collection of short fiction. Their performance works cross boundaries between theatre and dance. Kate's one-person show "Anxiety" recently opened the Festival of New Dance in St. John's, following a sold-out run in Peterborough. Their climate change short story "Animate" was recently adapted for an international radio drama and virtual reality theatre performance, presented across Europe and at Montreal's 2023 MUTEK festival. Kate has an intensive knowledge of contemporary devised performance methodologies, having honed her practice mentored by artists such as Ker Wells, and Calgary-based powerhouses One Yellow Rabbit. They have served as director/dramaturge for several significant regional artists, helping steer projects successfully from concept to production. Kate has worked with diverse theatre and dance artists, including Christopher House, 4<sup>th</sup> Line, DNA Theatre, Caravan Stage Company, R. Murray Schafer, Bill James, Chartier Danse, Fleshy Thud, The Theatre on King, The Nervous System, and many others. Kate is The Theatre on King's executive Director; artistic director of the Precarious Festival, exploring precarity through innovative arts-community partnerships; and director of Public Energy's Alternating Currents program. Kate is deeply committed to supporting the development of regional artists' performance practices.