



Contact International Forum FAQ

What is Contact?

Contact produces work by young people, presenting the best in cutting edge theatre from the UK and abroad. It has been described by the Guardian as *"the only theatre the under 30's scream to be let in"* and has received many awards for its groundbreaking and innovative performance work with young people.

How did Contact International Forum develop?

Contacting the World has taken place biennially since 2002. In CTW 2004, informal gatherings of practitioners started attending CTW, sharing discussions on best practice round the performances and workshops they experienced. Contact recognised the value of this group and decided to support and develop this new strand of exchange further. In 2006 Contact International Forum was launched with help from Arts Council England.

Since 2006, Contact has welcomed theatre makers from all over the world as part of the Forum, including Stockholm, Lebanon, U.K, Malaysia, Bangladesh, Ireland, Turkey, India, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, New Zealand, Palestine and Tunisia.

Who will be attending CIF 2010?

CIF will involve up to 30 practitioners with a particular interest and experience in engaging with young people and international theatre work. Usually about half of the participants are based in the UK and half are international guests.

Last year the forum included theatre practitioners, directors, facilitators and young leaders; participant roles varied from Executive Director of the Ancient Theatre in Nigeria, to an Arts Consultant from Riksteatern, Sweden, to representatives from Istanbul 2010 European Capital of Culture.

How are CIF participants selected?

CIF participants are selected by a panel of people at Contact including Contact's Artistic Director, International Development Associate, key CTW staff and young consultants/creatives.

The final selection will reflect creative, organisational, geographic and cultural diversity.

When will I know whether I have been selected?

The closing date for applications is 12.00 on Monday 5th April 2010. We aim to contact all participants with a decision by Monday 19th April.

What is expected of me during CIF?

The international forum is a place for curiosity, creative exchange, sharing ideas and inspiration. Each member of the group brings a different perspective and we encourage you to listen, question, share and learn throughout.

What kind of themes does CIF explore?

Previously the forum has explored themes such as innovation, best practice, empowerment and international collaboration. There is space on the application form for you to suggest a theme you're interested in. There is flexibility within the programme to choose and develop additional themes collectively when you meet in Manchester.

Can I make a presentation or deliver a workshop about my own work?

Yes, we welcome ideas for individual presentations and workshops during the forum although with limitations on time and space, we accommodate requests on a first come first served basis.

What companies are taking part in Contacting the World 2010?

For CTW 2010, we are delighted to be working with *10p Mix Up* (Manchester), *20 Stories High* (Liverpool), *Outhouse Collective* (London), *Poetry Circle Nowhere* (Amsterdam), *Radiator Factory* (Copenhagen), *Junges Theater Basel* (Switzerland), *84theater* (Iran), *CuciOtak* (Indonesia), *Jamaica Youth Theatre* (Jamaica), *First Wave Theater* (USA), *Sophiatown Ambassadors* (South Africa) and *Working Title 2.0* (India).

What is the event timetable for Contacting the World and CIF?

A detailed event timetable will be available soon. Participants register on 18th July. From 19th – 25th July the Forum participants attend a morning group discussion, a choice of workshops before and after lunch, and watch a double bill performance each evening.

What is the Youth Leadership Summit?

The Youth Leadership Summit is a new event in the CTW programme, taking place on the last day of the festival, 26th July. We will be developing a one day event that brings young people and policymakers together to explore how creativity and empowerment create engaged and active citizens in a global community.

Can you help me find funding to pay for my travel to Manchester?

We can signpost you towards various opportunities for support but it is ultimately each CIF delegate's responsibility to cover their travel costs to Manchester.

I can't afford the CIF fee, can you reduce it?

We recognise that resources for individuals are often difficult to find for attendance at forums and festivals. You can apply for the bursary but you will need to be able demonstrate why you cannot cover the costs of the forum.

We will consider all requests for bursaries during the selection process and will grant a limited number of 50% reduced cost placements (funding dependent).

Do I need to obtain a visa to attend CIF?

If travelling from overseas you will need to check if you need a visa to attend CIF in Manchester. Check with your local British Embassy or search on a relevant website like <http://www.ukvisas.gov.uk>. You must allow sufficient time and funds to obtain a visa to travel to the UK.

Where does the forum take place?

Contact International Forum and the CTW festival will take place at Contact in Manchester, UK. Some workshop or discussion sessions may also take place in university buildings close to Contact.

Where will I be staying?

If accommodation is included in your fee, you will be staying in a local halls or residence or student accommodation. You will have an en suite room in a shared flat with other CIF participants. If you would prefer to stay in a hotel, the CTW team can signpost you to recommended hotels close by.

What meals are included?

A continental style breakfast will be provided at the halls of residence. A light lunch and evening meal will be provided at Contact. Dietary requirements will be requested nearer the time.

What do I need to bring?

Vision, creativity and a willingness to learn and share! Any other practical requirements will be detailed nearer the time.

Where can I find out more information?

Check out the websites:

www.contact-theatre.org or www.contactingtheworld.org.

Alternatively contact Ruth Adkins, International Development Associate, who is coordinating this year's CIF on + 44 (0)161 274 0642, or email:

ruthadkins@contact-theatre.org