



Are you a theatre maker or company with an idea for a new piece of drama/ theatre you want to develop and tour to rural and community venues?

Background

Create Tour Connect (CTC) is a national partnership commissioning, developing and touring new theatre and drama across the rural and small-scale touring network in England. Since 2024, the project has been demonstrating how collaborative shared practice and a coordinated national approach can help address key challenges faced by artists and venues across the country.

Now in its second phase, 18 partner organisations representing 4 regional consortia will be touring 3 new adult theatre productions in 2028-2029. Reaching audiences across a diverse range of small-scale spaces including village halls, community venues, libraries, and locally led studios, CTC will offer a supported opportunity for new contemporary theatre and drama pieces for national touring.

CTC is led by South East based arts charity Applause Rural Touring and supported by Arts Council England.

Applications are now open for artists and companies from the South West / South East

The commission for the South West / South East will be led by regional consortia leads Applause Rural Touring and Artsreach.

Full information pack is available xxxxxxxx (please read the guidance before applying)

Commission opportunity

- ⌘ Proposal for a new piece of theatre relevant to contemporary rural and community adult audiences (3 hander + 1 tech on tour).
- ⌘ Funded (minimum) 36 date tour across the Network (Feb- April 2028)
- ⌘ The company or artist must be based in the South East or South West region of England as defined by Arts Council regions.
- ⌘ The company or artist must demonstrate understanding of or experience in touring to community spaces
- ⌘ Availability to develop a new show and tour across the network in Spring 2028



Budget:

Development: £36,000 (inclusive) for the creation and production of a tour ready 3 hander theatre show.

Community engagement: £1,500 towards working with a community group as part of the development.

Marketing/Publicity: £3,500 to support marketing and the development and supply of publicity materials.

Associated Touring: The company will tour in Spring 2028 fulfilling a national tour of a minimum of 36 dates over a 9-week period organised by the regional touring partners. The touring partners will co-ordinate bookings and will contract the company directly for individual tour dates. These will be booked regionally to ensure sustainability and keeping travel costs to a minimum.

Touring fees: £57,800 (inclusive) to cover all costs for four people on tour (3 + 1 tech) to deliver a 36-date national tour using a mixed financial model.

All fees stated are inclusive of VAT

Timescale:

- Development period (during 2027/8)
- Touring – 36 dates (minimum) from late Jan – early May 2028

Application process

Deadline: **1 November 2026**

Shortlisted interviewees informed: w/c **23 November 2026**

Interviews (online): w/c **30 November 2026**

Decision: **by mid-December 2026**

Draft publicity assets for tour menus: **March 2027**

The successful artist/company will be selected by a panel of representatives from the commissioning organisations. A shortlist will be selected from the received applications who will be invited for an informal online chat to discuss your proposal further before a final decision is made.



How to apply

Applications will be via the [Eventotron](#) online platform.

If you are already registered with **Eventotron** you can apply to [Create Tour Connect 2 – South East/West](#). Otherwise, you will need to [register](#) first and then apply to the season above.

We are committed to equality of opportunity and welcome applications from individuals or companies, regardless of age, gender, ethnicity, disability, sexuality, social background, religion and/or belief.

We want to hear about

- you/your company and the work you do
- your proposal and your experience or understanding of rural and community touring
- your budget and touring fees
- your approach to sustainability

If you feel more comfortable applying by video or voice recording, please contact Applause – programming@applause.org.uk for further information.

If you have any questions about this commission, call out and want to discuss your application before applying, please get in touch by emailing Sally Lampitt programming@applause.org.uk