



## Pitch Opportunity: Young Audience Performances at Ontario Contact

The **Ontario Arts Council**, the **Department of Canadian Heritage** and **Ontario Presents/Ontario Contact** are collaborating to increase the quality and diversity of performances available for young audiences in Northern Ontario. To this end, we are arranging for a pitch session in **St. Catharines** on **Sunday, September 16<sup>th</sup>** after Ontario Contact to expose Northern Ontario presenters to high quality work for young audiences.

[Ontario Contact](#) is an annual opportunity for those working in the touring performing arts sector to network and share information in a three-day conference featuring contemporary and classical music, dance, theatre, spoken word, and youth-oriented programming. The conference includes professional development, showcases, pitch sessions, and formal and informal networking opportunities.

6 to 8 Ontario-based applicants will be selected to pitch new and upcoming projects to an audience of presenters and industry professionals, from Northern Ontario and beyond. Successful applicants will receive professional coaching to develop their pitching skills to ensure that they maximize the impact of this opportunity. These pitches are an opportunity for potential bookings with presenters across the province.

Successful applicants will receive a complimentary 1-day registration for Ontario Contact on **Saturday, September 15<sup>th</sup>**. For an additional fee, you may register for the entire conference (September 12-15). Sunday September 16<sup>th</sup> is a post-conference day comprised of multiple ancillary events including this one.

### **Context: Northern Ontario Presenter Block**

These pitches are targeted to the Northern YA presenting group who will be choosing one or more of the artists that pitch for a two-week tour in Northern Ontario. Therefore, the work should be suited to the following conditions:

- **Minimal load-in and tech requirements:** in many communities, presentations happen in low-tech spaces like school auditoriums and community halls.
- **Budget-friendly:** the artist fee should be approx between \$8,000 -14,000/week.
- **Tourability:** 1-2 shows in each community with sometimes significant travel in between
- **Outreach opportunities:** many presenters look for artists who can offer workshops, talks, or other outreach events in their community while on tour (generally for an additional fee)



### To apply:

To be considered for a pitching slot, applicants will provide a 1-2 page summary proposal that includes the following required information:

- Your name, e-mail, telephone number and website (if appropriate)
- Name and e-mail of no more than two people who will be conducting the pitch
- Company/organization name, address and registration number (if applicable)
- Support material such as video links to past productions or works in progress
- Description of proposed project

### Please address the following criteria in your application:

- Either the proposed project is in development and will be premiered in the next 12 months, or the project has recently premiered (within the last 3 years)
- The project represents high quality work that is or will be tour-ready by September 2019
- The work must be suitable for families, especially children aged 5-10
- In addition, we will be prioritizing works that:
  - Are of high artistic excellence
  - Represent one or more of the OAC's [6 priority groups](#)
  - Have not previously toured in Northern Ontario

### Additional Information

- Up to 2 people may present the project, one of whom will be artistically involved in it
- Applicants must be professional artists or companies that are **based in Ontario**
- Projects are new work/recent creations; projects premiered more than 3 years before the pitch will not be considered
- The projects may be in any performing arts genre (theatre, music, dance, etc)
- Pitches will be approximately 8-10 minutes in length, followed by an opportunity for presenters to ask questions
- The pitch sessions are targeted at the group of family-series presenters in Northern Ontario. Other presenters and industry professionals in Ontario will also be invited to attend.

### Logistics

- All costs associated with the pitch session will be covered, including travel, accommodation, and technical support
- Successful applicants must be available from 9:00am – 1:00pm on Sunday, September 16<sup>th</sup> in St. Catharines.

All applications must be received by **July 19<sup>th</sup>, 2018** to [ceilidh@ontariopresents.ca](mailto:ceilidh@ontariopresents.ca). All applicants will be notified if their application has been successful by **August 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2018**.

If you have questions or wish to discuss applying, you may contact Ceilidh Wood at [ceilidh@ontariopresents.ca](mailto:ceilidh@ontariopresents.ca).