



Support, Opportunities and Funding October 2020

This document contains details of emergency support for freelancers experiencing financial details as a result of COVID 19 and social distancing.

There is also information about other funding available (for both organisations and individuals). We have tried to reflect the opportunities across the whole of the UK, but this list is not exhaustive.

Puppeteers UK

www.puppeteersuk.com

Puppeteers UK is not able to provide financial support, but we do offer advice and information. Our Chair, Rachel McNally, is also happy to offer one to one advice sessions for freelancers and organisations seeking to access support and funding. These sessions are free, last 1 hour and are generally on a Tuesday afternoon via Zoom. For further information please email remcnallypuppetry@gmail.com

We also regularly share funding, job and commission opportunities via our social media

www.twitter.com/puppeteersuk

www.facebook.com/pukpuppeteers

<https://www.instagram.com/puppeteersuk/>

Equity Puppeteers Network

<https://www.equity.org.uk/getting-involved/networks/puppeteers-network/>

This group works to ensure better recognition of the unique needs and skills of puppeteers within the performing arts. If you are a member of Equity you can access tax, welfare and benefits advice. They also have a Benevolent Fund to support members who need emergency support.

BECTU

<https://bectu.org.uk/coronavirus/>

BECTU offers a range of support and resources to members including guidance and advice on SEIS and the Furlough Scheme. They also offer online sessions for members on different issues including bullying and harassment and returning to work after Lockdown.

The Theatre Artists Fund

<https://theatreartists.fund/>

This has been set up to provide emergency support for theatre workers. Applications are currently closed, but it is worth checking their website in case they re-open.

Mental Health and Wellbeing Support

<https://uktheatre.org/theatre-industry/guidance-reports-and-resources/wellbeing/>

UK Theatre offers guidance on organisations and resources to support those working in theatre who may be experiencing mental health issues.

Theatre Helpline

<http://theatrehelpline.org/>

0800 915 4617

advice@theatrehelpline.org

The Theatre Helpline is a free, independent and confidential phone and email service that provides support to people working in the theatre industry. Trained staff are available to offer support and signposting on any topic which affects your wellbeing, including: Bullying or harassment; Issues with employment or unemployment; Debt and financial issues.

Local Councils

We strongly recommend checking out your local council website and seeing what resources and support might be available in your local area.

Film & TV

<https://filmtvcharity.org.uk/covid-19-relief-fund/>

While the emergency COVID 19 funding on offer is now closed, there are a number of resources and opportunities for support to those working in film and TV including community grants, 24/7 helpline and financial advice.

Outdoors Arts UK

<https://outdoorartsuk.org/advice-resources/>

Outdoors Arts have collated an extensive list of resources and useful information. Relevant to the outdoor arts sector, much of the advice is applicable to others as well.

Citizens Advice Bureau

<https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/>

CAB offers advice and guidance on a range of issues including housing, immigration, debt and more. They are independent and impartial.

Housing

https://england.shelter.org.uk/housing_advice

<http://scotland.shelter.org.uk/>

If you are in rented housing and want advice about your rights as a tenant, Shelter offers clear advice. Please ensure you have the right website as the law is different in England and Scotland.

Jobs/Commissions/Funding

As we all adjust to the new normal, opportunities are starting to come back. We regularly share the ones we spot on our social media (see above). However, we recommend checking out these websites and organisations to ensure you receive the latest information. When considering whether to apply for a job, commission or funding, we recommend that you check out their COVID-19 risk assessment as well as be ready with your own. This applies whether the starting date is in the next month or a year from now.

Arts Jobs

<http://www.artsjobs.org.uk/search/>

by Arts Council England. You can sign up to receive email notifications or search the website to find out what is out there. If you have a job or commission or call out that you want to talk about, you can also share it here.

Opportunities Creative Scotland

<https://opportunities.creativescotland.com/>

Creative Scotland offer a similar service here.

Arts Council Wales - Jobs and Opportunities

<https://arts.wales/news-jobs-opportunities>

Theatre & Dance - Northern Ireland Jobs & Opportunities

<https://theatreanddancenir.org/news-opportunities/>

All of these organisations list jobs, commissions and calls. There is also the option to subscribe to newsletters and search on specific terms.

Universities, Museums & Galleries

These institutions often offer commissions, artist residencies etc that may be suitable. We recommend checking out individual institutions to discover the latest opportunities. Commissions and residencies are just as likely to be offered by the Maths Dept or Engineering as Arts and Drama! They are also often listed on the above websites too.

Local Councils

As above with seeking local advice on COVID 19 support, it is also checking your local council to see if there are any opportunities. Some Councils are starting to offer small commissions for outdoor work etc.

Scotland - Puppet Animation Scotland

<https://puppetanimation.org/>

PAS has a number of opportunities suitable for Scottish puppetry artists live on their website now.

Funding

Funding Central

<https://www.fundingcentral.org.uk/default.aspx>

This is an exhaustive website of funding and commissioning opportunities for the community and voluntary sector. It does cost to register but is very useful. It has a search engine which can refine the parameters quite closely. Please note however, it is always worth checking out the potential funders etc that the site throws back from a search. Some of the listings are out of date and while the general information may be correct the focus may have changed.

Arts Council England

<https://www.artscouncil.org.uk/>

Offer funding and support to both organisations and individuals. You need to register on Grantium - the online funding portal and it usually takes a week or so if you are new. They are focussing their project grants on supporting individual artists seeking to adapt their practice to the new normal.

Creative Scotland

<https://www.creativescotland.com/funding/funding-programmes/open-fund-sustaining-creative-development>

Creative Scotland have project funding grants available for both organisations and individuals looking to adapt their creative practice. Their website also includes details on their funding and adaptations they have made to the way they are distribution funds in the light of the pandemic.

Arts Council Wales

<https://arts.wales/funding/get-started/individuals>

<https://arts.wales/funding/get-started/funding-for-organisations>

Arts Council Wales have a number of different funding strands for both individuals and organisations. Unfortunately, some of these are currently closed. Please check the links above to see what funding is available.

Arts Council Northern Ireland

<http://artscouncil-ni.org/funding/for-individuals>

<http://artscouncil-ni.org/funding/for-organisations>

Currently all grant programmes for individuals are closed, however small grants for organisations are open. Check back regularly to see when funding becomes available.

BFI

<https://www.bfi.org.uk/get-funding-support>

If the majority of your work is on screen, it is worth checking out the BFI funding opportunities. The majority of these programmes have remained open during COVID 19

Independent Cinema Office

<https://www.independentcinemaoffice.org.uk/advice-support/>

The ICO largely offers support for independent cinemas/screenings/festivals but worth checking out their pages if the majority of your puppetry work is on film.

If you can suggest further links to add to this document please email peter@puppeteersuk.com