



Programming Policy

Decision Making

The Festival Director will be responsible for the implementation of this policy and will have final programming decision. Decisions to engage any particular company/performance will be influenced by the Programming Committee Team and the Community/Outreach Team, using their experience and knowledge of the sector. Decisions whether to re-book the same company at a later date will be influenced by the Teams, Board of Trustees and audience data/feedback from previous visit(s).

Assessment Criteria

Programming decisions will reflect the charitable objects of The Ripon City Festival Trust as outlined in our Governing Document.

Programming decisions will be based on the following considerations, at least one of which will be met:

- Artistic Quality and contribution to the reputation of the Trust
- Reflection of the diversity of the UK as a whole, not solely our local demographic
- Relevance – how does the work develop our audiences, profile and artistic programme and does it connect with our known or potential audiences?
- Artist development – does the work develop artistic practice or support artists within our region?
- Value for money and potential for sales and/or attendances
- Effect on our Environmental/Carbon footprint

Ripon Theatre Festival

As the main project of the RCFT, the primary focus is theatre, defined broadly. The Festival programme will be curated to present a wide range of work for a wide range of audiences, known or potential, including work specifically for children and families.

The programme may include and will not be confined to: drama, puppetry, storytelling, poetry/spoken word, circus, cabaret, musical theatre, opera and dance. Work selected may include new writing, classics and devised work.

The Festival may include both professional and amateur performances, workshops and participatory activity in a variety of settings. Where funds permit, the Festival will endeavour to present international work and new commissions. The Assessment Criteria will apply to all, though with relaxation for amateur work if necessary, for example in programming music or dance rather than theatre from local groups.

Work for Ripon Theatre Festival Work is selected which meets some or all of the following criteria:

- is thought-provoking
- is entertaining
- introduces the audience to other cultures, viewpoints or lived experiences
- provokes debate or discussion
- sheds new light on a situation or event
- is inspiring or resonates with the target audience
- challenges expectations or develops the artform

Finding New Work

- The Festival Director and Teams will endeavour to see first-hand all work that is to be considered and report back to the Programming Team.
- Work is also selected on the recommendation of other respected industry peers.
- Artists presented will already have been promoted by other respected venues or festivals or be able to demonstrate a track-record in developing and presenting quality work.
- Other quality indicators will include press reviews, artists’ training, previous experience in other companies.
- Artists will have identified suitable audiences for their work and demonstrated how the work is appropriate to those audiences.
- The artistic content and quality of artists’ promotional materials, digital marketing and social media channels will also be assessed.

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Trustee responsible	Catherine Anne Scott
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