

TEATRU



MALTA



TEATRU
MANOEL



CALL



Teatru Malta & Teatru Manoel

The Atelier Francis Ebejer 2023 is a new theatre work initiative that provides theatre-makers with the right tools to research and develop their scripts or theatre pieces through workshops and feedback sessions, resulting in stronger artistic quality. It is organized by Teatru Malta and Teatru Manoel who would like to cement it as the natural successor of the Atelier Francis Ebejer and Premju Francis Ebejer, launched in 2018 and 1995 respectively.

The initiative focuses on two main strands:

(i) new work that is not strictly a verbal script, and
(ii) new writing that needs to be developed. We believe that providing theatre-makers with the right tools to research and develop their scripts or theatre pieces through workshops and feedback sessions results in much stronger artistic quality. With the lack of similar models professionally implemented across the industry, artists have little opportunity to test their work before presenting it to a paying audience.

Studio Francis Ebejer is a unique and stimulating environment that offers artists the opportunity to work in a supportive and inspiring space. The studio provides access to specialized equipment,

libraries, wardrobes and technical expertise, as well as opportunities to participate in readings, critiques and a showcase.

The application process is open to all practitioners who create and/or make theatre and/or contribute to the local theatrical sphere. Applicants are required to submit a synopsis and a treatment of an original work, and a letter of motivation. Three to five projects will be chosen to form part of the Studio Francis Ebejer each year.

Teatru Malta & Teatru Manoel will keep a right of first refusal option to produce the chosen works, separately or in co-production, as of six months from the date of the showcase.





Key Dates

15 June 2023

Applications close at noon.

15 July 2023

Successful applicants will be notified on 15 July 2023, and an initial meeting will be set to discuss the project.

July - August 2023

Preparation period (Phase 1) ahead of the SFE Intensive, depending on your bespoke R&D programme.

August - September 2023

The SFE Intensive (Phase 2) will take place between 28 August 2023 and 10 September 2023 at the Teatru Manoel, together with your R&D Team.

September 2023

Showcases will be presented on the 8, 9, 10 September 2023 to an invited audience.



Who are we looking for?

We are seeking interested artists to apply for the following two strands:

(i) STRAND 1: NEW WORK

This strand is dedicated to the creation of new theatre work or a revival of a theatre work that is not strictly a verbal script or script based. The work can also be based on classics or previously produced work but should be developed or re-developed into an original piece. We welcome submissions of all forms, including devised theatre, participatory or interactive theatre, verbal or non-verbal, post-dramatic, non-linear, and other forms. We are looking for innovative and bold ideas that challenge and push the boundaries of theatre.

Please send us:

- A proposal of maximum 1000 words, which may include concept notes, target audiences, production considerations, and local and international moodboards (if any);
- A CV and artistic portfolio of the lead creative(s); and
- Any available work samples.

The format and tone of the application is open for your interpretation and creativity.

(ii) STRAND 2: NEW WRITING

This strand is dedicated to the development of new scripts, which can be based on classics or previously produced work but must be developed into an original piece. We welcome submissions in Maltese, English, and bilingual formats. Whether you have a script that needs further development or are starting from scratch, we encourage writers to apply. The applications can be mainly in Maltese, English or bilingual texts (translation may be part of the suggested process)

Please send us:

- A treatment of a maximum of 1000 words, which may include target audiences, production considerations, and local and international moodboards (if any);
- A CV and artistic portfolio of the lead creative(s); and
- Any available work samples.

The format and tone of the application is open for your interpretation and creativity.



Teatru Manoel and Teatru Malta are committed to promoting diversity, equity, and inclusion in all aspects of their work, and encourage applications from candidates of all backgrounds and identities.

Successful applicants will be given access to the Studio Francis Ebejer's resources, including rehearsal space, mentorship or advising, but also minor sets, props, costumes, actors and creative collaborators. The SFE can spend up to a maximum of €5000 to support the development of one work.

To apply, please submit a proposal outlining your idea for the strand you are interested in, along with a CV and any relevant work samples. Applications should be sent to studiofrancisebejer@gmail.com by **15 June 2023 at noon**. Shortlisted applicants will be invited to a pitch with the selection panel.

Both strands are open to all artists, regardless of age, language gender, or nationality. You can apply to form part of the Studio Francis Ebejer if you are:

1) Primarily a practitioner who creates and/or makes theatre and/or a contributor to the local theatrical sector. Each application will be judged on the merits of the project and the applicant/s.

2) Able to attend the full intensive. Failure to attend may result in cancellation of R&D. Read more about this in the FAQs.

3) Willing to listen, evaluate, critique, collaborate and share the ideas you are working on with Teatru Malta & Teatru Manoel and the SFE team.

We look forward to receiving your applications and discovering the exciting new work that will emerge from the Studio Francis Ebejer. Once an application is chosen, two phases will commence.





PHASE 1 – CONVERSATIONS & PREPARATION

Phase 1 is when Teatru Malta and Teatru Manoel will help the artists tailor a research and development programme according to the project's needs. A mentor or advisor/consultant is assigned to each project if needed, objectives and deliverables of the R&D are defined, and the right people that can take the vision from page to stage are assigned in agreement with the artists. A draft timeline that complements the objectives and deliverables of the two-week R&D during (Phase 2) leading to the showcase is mutually agreed. Each chosen project can use a budget of up to €5000.

PHASE 2 – INTENSIVE R&D & SHOWCASE

For two weeks, the applicants together with their R&D teams will be given a space at the Teatru Manoel for them to research, experiment, and develop their projects, rehearsing with chosen directors or collaborators, actors, and artists. The applicants will be given access to a rehearsal room at Teatru Manoel for two weeks and scheduled access to the main stage for the final week, with a showcase on the last three days. Besides the allocated budget, participants will have access to Teatru Malta and Teatru Manoel's amenities to produce this showcase.

During this research and development (R&D), theatre-makers are asked to work on their projects with the full support of research and development teams hired to assist them throughout the intensive.

A final showcase will be presented on the Teatru Manoel Main Stage to an invited audience. Feedback will be given to the applicants based on their showcases. Following this showcase, Teatru Malta and Teatru Manoel will have the right of first refusal on whether your project will be programmed within their programme of events.

XENI (Our Backstage Workshop) participants will also be given the opportunity to collaborate and work with SFE Projects during the intensive. This year we will have light designers, being trained by renowned lighting designer and mentor Ben Ormerod (www.benormerod.com), form part of our XENI workshops and they will light design your showcases. If you have a light designer on board your project and involved in the R&D, they can collaborate with the participants and Ben.



FAQs

1. Why is this called the Studio Francis Ebejer? Is it the same as the initiative organised in 2021 and 2022?

The Studio Francis Ebejer is the natural successor of the Atelier Francis Ebejer and Premju Francis Ebejer. Following the first round of the Atelier Francis Ebejer in 2021 and 2022, we understood that the Atelier needed restructuring from valuable feedback received from the members. The following are offshoots or ongoing projects that are addressing the needs as flagged by previous AFE members. As such, the New Work Department titled Atelier Francis Ebejer does not follow the same structure, objectives, and needs as the 2021/2022 project. The New AFE will provide you with the necessary atelier space for you to develop your project.

2. What kind of applicant is Teatru Malta and Teatru Manoel looking for?

This call is for theatre-makers who wish to propose a project for an intensive research & development period. You can be an individual, or a team of theatre-makers. We do not wish to limit the selection process according to criteria based on age and/or experience. You will need to be fully available for the Intensive (Phase 2). Teatru Manoel, being a venue based theatre, is primarily interested in projects that are appropriate for their stages. Teatru Malta is interested in all sorts of theatrical projects that can happen in different spaces. Teatru Malta and Teatru Manoel remain open to co-produce a work.

The developed projects can also be produced or co-produced by other private or public producers who attend the showcase.

3. How do I/we apply?

To apply you must send the requested documents with your application via email. If you are a group, a representative would apply on behalf of the project. The number of projects chosen per year will be subject to available funds. Late applications will not be accepted.

4. How many projects can I submit to this call?

There is no limit on the number of submissions an applicant can make.

5. How will the allocated budget be allocated and spent?

Teatru Malta and Teatru Manoel, along with relevant mentors, advisors, or consultants, will engage with you to discuss the project's R&D needs. Depending on the project requirements, creatives and materials can be sourced accordingly. For example, actors, directors and critics may be needed to stage readings and work on feedback, or else a designer/maker may be required to produce something which needs to be used the R&D, or a devised piece will need an ensemble to be present for two weeks. All participating artists will be compensated with a fee in accordance with the allocated budget.

The budget will be confirmed during Phase 1, and we aim to remain flexible in its use. There will be a maximum allocation of €5000 to be used on R&D however projects can be allocated less budget. Rehearsals spaces and Teatru Manoel's and Teatru Malta's in-house amenities are not considered as part of this budget.

6. What's going to happen if my application is accepted?

You will receive an email with the results of your application on the 3rd of July 2023, requesting a meeting with our Team. During this meeting we will discuss the project proposal.

7. What happens after the Showcase?

Teatru Malta and Teatru Manoel will have the right of first refusal valid for six months to programme and eventually produce the project within its programme of events. During those six months, one of these entities or both, will inform you of their interest and negotiate a contract defining production considerations, a timeline, and a venue for the show.

8. How can the allocated R&D budget be spent?

This will be a discussion between the applicants, Teatru Malta and Teatru Manoel whereby a budget will be allocated ad hoc based on the projects' needs. All writers, makers and artists can be paid for their work during the development and R&D phase of the chosen project.

