

## TERRESTRIAL – Spring 2018 Artist Residencies

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We are looking for two groups of artists, from a diverse range of backgrounds and disciplines, to join short paid residencies in the West of England in Spring 2018.

**Keynsham**                      **12 – 17 March**  
**Weston-super-Mare**        **9 – 14 April**

These residencies form part of TERRESTRIAL's mission to instigate and support bold arts projects that are created in partnership between innovative artists and groups of local people. We hope to bring together four artists in each location, who will work with us over the course of a week to explore the town, meet with a number of community groups, and contribute to a vibrant dialogue about socially engaged arts projects.

As well as a fee for the residency, TERRESTRIAL will provide local accommodation and food – each evening artists will share food and stories, with host producers helping to cook and lead discussions.

These residencies are open to artists of any discipline – you might be a writer, a composer, a choreographer, a theatre maker, sculptor, filmmaker, game designer etc., or make work that doesn't easily fit into formal boxes. We would like to bring together artists who have an *established practice* of socially engaged/participatory/collaborative projects with those who have a *track record* in their own field (eg. music, theatre, visual art, film etc.) but have not worked in this way before. This opportunity is open to individuals and companies/collectives (maximum two people to attend from a group).

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### ABOUT TERRESTRIAL

TERRESTRIAL is a new arts commissioning and producing organisation based in the West of England (the counties of North Somerset, Bath & North East Somerset, South Gloucestershire and Bristol).

We want to provide opportunities for people living in, working in, and visiting the region to create and share extraordinary arts experiences. We're particularly keen to collaborate with people outside city centres, with people facing barriers that make it harder for them to access cultural events, and with people who have been led to feel that the arts are 'not for them'.

We believe that artists are great instigators: they are often brilliant at sniffing out underground stories, asking difficult questions, or getting the party started. We

want to invest in artists to create bold, surprising experiences – from intimate concerts to large-scale outdoor adventures – in direct *co-authorship* with groups of local people. And we want to support artists to take risks, develop skills and learn from these experiences.

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## **ABOUT THE RESIDENCIES**

The residencies will last for five days (Monday to Friday). The four artists will live together for the week in a shared house. We will try to make sure everyone has a private room, while the communal areas of the house will provide sociable space to get to know one another and share ideas, food and drink.

Each day will include some structured activity (meeting with a community group, a tour of the town) and some free time for exploration and reflection. Evenings will be spent cooking together and chatting about the day's work. On one night we'll eat out and invite a number of speakers to give presentations to artists and the public in a community space. This might, for example, be a chance to find out more about Keynsham's past as a major player in the chocolate industry, or about the murky folklore of the Bristol Channel.

We know that building trust amongst community groups – many of whom face multiple disadvantages – takes time. And our principal model will be to embed artists into communities over lengthy periods. However, in this early stage of the organisation's life, we would like to meet lots of people: artists, producers, community groups, local champions. So we are experimenting with these two short, intensive residencies to kick-start conversations.

We hope that artists will join us in this spirit of experimentation. We are not looking for anyone to create work during their residency; rather, we hope this process will provide an opportunity for us to get to know artists and local groups – and for those artists and groups to get to know TERRESTRIAL.

We will work with each artist/company to facilitate introductions to a range of local community groups (which might be residents of a particular area, a social or service group run by a local charity, a school class group etc.). We will work with the local organisers of these groups to enable artists to see how these groups work, chat to people, and lead short sessions if they like.

### **We will provide:**

- A residency fee of £500 per person.
- Economy UK travel expenses.
- Accommodation and food for the week.

## HOST PRODUCERS

### Tom Spencer

Tom founded TERRESTRIAL and has led the research process for setting up the organisation. Tom previously worked as a freelance producer (often working with composer Verity Standen on participatory music projects) and as an artist making theatre and live music.

### Simon Day

As well as his established practice as a theatre maker, Simon has been a Centre Director for the Arvon Foundation and worked in arts development through roles at Theatre Bristol and Arts Council England.

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## APPLICATION PROCESS

To apply to join one of these residencies, please send us a short statement (maximum 400 words) introducing us to your work. If you have a lot of experience of socially engaged/participatory projects, please tell us why you are intrigued by this opportunity. If you're new to working in this way, please tell us how you imagine this work might fit with your wider practice.

Please send us a short list of projects you've worked on (CV or link to artist/company website), and state clearly whether you are interested in spending time in Keynsham, Weston, or either town. You are welcome to apply in an alternative format (video, for example) if this is a more comfortable way for you to introduce yourself. We welcome applications from individuals and companies/collectives (maximum 2 people per company).

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Email applications to: **hello@terrestrial.org.uk**

Deadline for applications: **29<sup>th</sup> January 2018 (5pm)**

Follow-up conversations: **Early February 2018**

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[www.terrestrial.org.uk](http://www.terrestrial.org.uk)