

UNITY THEATRE TRUST GRANTS

GUIDANCE NOTES AND CONDITIONS OF GRANT

1. Brief history and traditions of Unity Theatre and the Trust.

Unity Theatre grew out of the agitprop street theatre in the East End of London in the early 1930's. Once established in a converted chapel in Kings Cross (built entirely with voluntary labour) Unity became the inspiration for a national upsurge in drama on social and political issues, since it was the only theatre in London throughout the 30's, 40's and early 50's producing plays on these subjects. Alongside shows specially created for Unity, it drew on the repertoire of world theatre, including innovative productions of works by Clifford Odets, Sean O'Casey, Lope de Vega, Jean Paul Sartre and Arthur Adamov. It was the first theatre in England to stage a play by Bertolt Brecht and it helped popularise the plays of Maxim Gorky.

Unity's strength lay with its audience drawn mainly from the trades unions and organised labour movements, but amongst its supporters were many eminent personalities e.g. Bernard Shaw, H.G.Wells, Sybil Thorndike, Beatrix Lehmann and Paul Robeson whose appearance with Unity, followed by international acclaim for the political pantomime *Babes in the Wood*, marked the peak of the theatre's fame.

With the outbreak of war, Unity was the first theatre to open in London once the ban on public entertainment had been lifted and it maintained a permanent repertoire of plays, satirical revues and musicals throughout the five years of hostilities. It also sent out small groups of performers who, often in hazardous conditions, provided valuable shelter and factory entertainment for those winning the war at home.

Unity emerged from the war at the head of a national drama movement that was concerned with the lives of working people. Soon however, many of the developments pioneered by Unity, such as vernacular drama, *Living Newspaper* and biting satirical shows, were accepted by the theatrical mainstream and television.

Unity Theatre was destroyed by fire in 1975.

Many well-known theatre people - Lionel Bart, Alfie Bass, Michael Gambon, Bob Hoskins, David Kossoff, Warren Mitchell, Bill Owen and Ted Willis among them - learned their skills at this influential theatre which was the working people's most sustained and successful contribution to British drama and one of the most important and enduring initiatives in popular culture this century.

The Trust

Unity Theatre Trust was set up as a charity in the spirit of these traditions. The main objectives of the Trust are to advance the education of the public by fostering, promoting and increasing the interest of people in the art of drama and co-related arts.²

2. Grant aid

In the main, the Trust will fund drama and theatre related activities, but in addition, it will also fund projects in film, TV, video, music and dance. The Trustees reserve the right to include other areas if an application merits it, as long as the application falls within the Trust's charitable aims.

3. Eligibility

The Trust usually funds projects or activities carried out by organisations. Individuals sponsored by organisations are also eligible to apply for a grant. Applicants are expected to have raised a large proportion of the project's costs for which they are applying for a grant.

4. Application forms

A grant request will only be considered on completion of an application form supplied by the Trust.

5. Financial conditions

All successful applicants must keep detailed accounts in relation to the disbursement of the grant received and make these available to the Trust for inspection at all reasonable times. Any unused grant must be returned, unless prior permission has been given by the Trust for any other use.

6. Monitoring

In their efforts to monitor the effectiveness of their grant strategy, the Trustees expect all recipients of grant to inform the Trust of the success or otherwise of the activities for which the grant was given. They also expect to be invited to the performance of plays or events the Trust awards grants to. No grant may be used for any other purpose than that for which it was approved for without the prior permission of the Trust

7. The charitable aims of the Trust

All applicants, by accepting receipt of any grant, agree not to contravene the charitable aims of the Trust as summarised in (1) above

All successful applicants will be asked to confirm in writing their agreement as above before any grant is released.

8. Logo

All recipients of grant must acknowledge the support of Unity Theatre Trust by using the supplied logo, "SUPPORTED BY UNITY THEATRE TRUST" on all publicity and correspondence.

9. Grant dates

There will usually be FOUR decision dates in any one year, one in each of the following quarters, unless the Trustees deem it necessary to meet outside these dates:

1st Quarter: January, February, March

2nd Quarter: April, May, June

3rd Quarter: July, August, September

4th Quarter: October, November, December

Applications should be received 30 days before the planned Trust meeting.

10. Administration of grants

The Trustees will inform successful applicants how their grant will be administered but it will usually be done in one of the following ways:

- i. Total grant in advance with invoices or accounts on request by the Trustees.**
- ii. Total grant after receipt of invoices or accounts.**
- iii. By instalments, with or without progress reports or and account details of the preceding period.**
- iv. A progress report should be submitted to the Trust by all successful projects.**

UNITY THEATRE TRUST
UK Registered Charity Number 210-387

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GRANT APPLICATION

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Please return all completed applications in black ink or typed to:

The Secretary, Unity Theatre Trust, 37 Dunsmure Road,
London N16 5PT

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1. Name of organisation

2. Name of project or individual

3. Name and address of secretary or correspondence address

Name

Address

4. Name and address of treasurer

(All cheques will be made payable to the organisation and sent to the treasurer unless otherwise agreed)

Name

Address

5. Name and address of auditors, if any

Name

Address

6 Is the organisation a Charity? Yes/No

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If yes, please state registered number..... Number

7. Amount applied for £

Please attach a detailed Income and Expenditure budget.

8 Describe how your project will contribute to the traditions and charitable aims of the Trust as stated in (1) of the guidance notes.

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9. Please give (one side of A4)
- i) a brief synopsis of the play, project, proposal, scheme, etc. you are applying for, and
 - ii) a clear statement of who will benefit from these activities.