CRIPtic Arts 2026

Artist Q&A

Plan

➜ Introduction
➜ Outlining the programmes
  ◆ Reach
  ◆ Launchpad
  ◆ Breakthrough
  ◆ Incubate
➜ What makes an application exceptional
  ◆ Reach
  ◆ Launchpad
  ◆ Breakthrough
  ◆ Incubate
➜ What we mean by disabled
➜ Pay
➜ How to Apply
➜ Friendly Application Process
➜ Questions and discussion

Introducing CRIPtic Arts

CRIPTIC **ARTS**

Outlining the programmes

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Reach

Five emerging UK-based disabled writers developing the script for their first full-length show over 4 months

Pay of £1,000 for participation in the programme, plus an additional £600 for writer-performers / £100 for writers to attend a half day discussion with Nickie and performers and the sharing

→ Led by Nickie Miles-Wildin

→ Peer-facilitated writing groups and 1:1 dramaturgical support

→ Three residentials - a 1-day introductory residential at the start of the programme, a 5-day midpoint writing residential and a 5-day endpoint sharing residential

→ Ideas that are open to change and growth over the programme

→ No previous or ongoing development or performance support on this piece

Launchpad

Four UK-based disabled theatre makers or small disabled-led companies (max. three people) developing an existing work-in-progress piece for a showcase in September 2026

Pay of £1,150 for the development, plus an additional £1,075 for those performing at the showcase

➔ Led by Debbie Hannan and Jamie Hale

➔ Online development sessions, workshops, industry mentors, 1:1 dramaturgy, group writing sessions, writing residential and public showcase

➔ Work not previously staged

➔ Your first or second major showcasing opportunity

➔ Performances brought together into a showcase, sharing a fully realised 20-minute excerpt

➔ Boosting disabled creatives to the next stage in their careers

Breakthrough

A commission for a disabled UK-based creative or company who's ready to break into the mainstream - and facing disabling barriers

£6,000 commission and further £1,500 to pay for six sessions with an industry mentor of their choice

➔ Led by Jamie Hale

➔ Create a small, very high quality professional sample of your work - a calling card to showcase your potential

➔ Mentoring and development budget, with support from the CRIPtic team

➔ For people with an extensive track record who have struggled to break into the mainstream

What can you create when you're not creating on a shoestring?

Incubate

Incubate is a leadership programme for four UK-based disabled emerging cultural leaders or organisational leaders/coordinators in the cultural sector

Free to attend - CRIPtic will cover access costs associated with joining the programme

➔ Led by Jamie Hale

➔ 12 peer learning sessions where participants will share their own expertise and develop as a cohort

➔ Cultural leaders and influencers and people establishing, leading or co-ordinating organisations

➔ Topics from finances and impact to social media and marketing

➔ Direction and strategy for individual or organisational growth and impact

What makes an application exceptional?

→ Don't worry about neuronormativity - we're interested in your ideas - not your structure, spelling, and grammar

→ Show us what makes your idea different from what's already out there

→ Explain why **you** want, need and are in the right place for **this opportunity** at **this point in your career**

→ Read the call-out and brief - and make sure you're addressing the things we want to know

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An exceptional Reach application shows:

➔ A strong sense of tone, voice and character in the way that you write and the sample you share

➔ An original idea - we're particularly interested in work by disabled writers that isn't about personal experience and narratives

➔ An understanding of the story you're telling, how you want it told, and the type of venues and opportunities you think it fits in

➔ Why you're applying, and how you think the Reach programme will help you grow and develop

Reach supports five emerging UK-based disabled writers developing the script for their first full-length show over four months

An exceptional Launchpad application:

➔ Shows work in an artform suitable for live performance or sharing on a stage

➔ Has an idea that feels new, fresh and original - or a refreshing take on something we've encountered before in a different form

➔ Is about a piece that is clearly understandable, explainable, and marketable, both for this showcase, and in future development

➔ Shows that your work has been developed to a considerable degree, while remaining open and flexible

➔ Demonstrates readiness for a professional staging and clearly explains how this opportunity fits into your creative journey

Launchpad supports four UK-based disabled creatives or small companies developing an existing WIP piece for a showcase in September 2026

An exceptional Breakthrough application

➔ Is for a self-contained project - we're not funding part of a larger project

➔ Is using the full budget to create something small but refined - of an incredibly high quality to act as an independent 'calling card' to the industry

➔ Shows that you've achieved considerable success - and are ready to break into the mainstream

➔ Relates this specific commission & CRIPtic's support to the barriers that are preventing you breaking into the mainstream, and shows how this could provoke the change you're ready for

Breakthrough is a commission for a disabled UK-based creative or company who's ready to break into the mainstream

An exceptional Incubate application

➔ Explores yourself as a leader, and the idea you're developing

➔ Demonstrates clear knowledge of the sector, the niche you're working in, and how the work you're doing is going to make change

➔ Engages with the topics covered and explores how they would help you or your organisation grow, develop, and level up

➔ Explores what you'd bring, give and share in the sessions, and where your expertise could support the other leaders and organisations

Incubate is a leadership development programme for four disabled people creating cultural change in the arts.

Successes of previous artists

➔ Part of Incubate in 2022, Sam Brewer and Flawbored toured internationally with their show, *It's a Motherf**king Pleasure*

➔ Jacqui Adeniji-Williams was a Launchpad artist in 2021, and a Breakthrough artist in 2023 - she's since released her independent EP, *Notes to Self*

➔ Terri Jade Donovan developed *DOG DOG DOG* as part of Reach 2023 - last year, they won a Special Commendation from the Bruntwood Prize for the play

➔ Following being part of Launchpad 2025, *Apolune: Systems Normal* by Peyvand Sadeghian & Matthew Robinson opened at APT Gallery in early 2026

➔ After being part of Reach in 2024, Britny Virginia had her film *Dancing Shoes* screened nationally

Who are we looking for

➔ CRIPtic's work is for disabled people - by which we mean "people who face disableist [including audist] barriers", or "people who identify themselves as deaf or disabled – or are identified by others as deaf or disabled in society" - and disabled-led projects (where at least 50% of the group are disabled)

➔ Reach and Breakthrough are for individuals

➔ Companies taking part in Launchpad & Incubate should nominate an individual who attends sessions

➔ We are particularly looking for applications from disabled people underrepresented in the sector, including:

◆ Wheelchair users who can't work in spaces that aren't wheelchair accessible

◆ People of the Global Majority

◆ People from working class backgrounds

◆ People who have caring responsibilities (including parents and guardians of young children)

Pay and Participation

➔ Both Reach and Launchpad involve active script work, compulsory meetings and workshops

➔ These programmes are designed around development *and* performance - they're not just about the chance to stage your work, and the development elements are essential for your work to be in the final residential / showcase

➔ Your application should show that you understand and are excited about this development

➔ Because you're expected to attend, you're paid to attend

These programmes entail work - and work should be paid

Applying to our programmes

➔ Applications are open until Friday 13 March at 5pm

➔ There are forms on the website for each programme

➔ You can also fill in a Word form, and email it to artists@cripticarts.org - these are also on the website

➔ You can also apply with a video (in English or BSL) or an audio recording

➔ We're not able to provide or fund individualised access support for applications, but have designed our application to be as accessible as possible to as many people as possible

➔ If you have questions or want to clarify anything, you can email artists@cripticarts.org

Friendly Application Process

At CRIPtic Arts, we use a friendly application process designed to be accessible to as many disabled people as possible.

➔ Applications are assessed by a disabled panel, including neurodivergent assessors, and we do not expect neurotypical writing styles

➔ There is no penalty for spelling, grammar, structure, or communication differences

➔ If we need clarification on any of your answers we will contact you to request that

➔ We will clearly explain what our questions are looking for to help you answer them

Questions?

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