



2012 Cincinnati Fringe Festival Performance Application

CINCINNATI FRINGE: A BRIEF (BUT RIVETING) HISTORY

One dark and stormy night in 2003, Jason Bruffy, former artistic director of Know Theatre, sat in a local watering hole with play-actor Nick Rose. As is often the case when spirits are involved, talk turned to theatre – specifically what might be missing from the rich Cincinnati theatre scene. The ideas flew from their minds and mouths and what came out of that drunken discourse was the genesis of a festival. With the help of Jeff Syroney, their thrilling plan was achieved in 2004 when the Cincinnati Fringe Festival was born.

In 2007, Know Theatre’s current Producing Artistic Director, Eric Vosmeier, took the reins and continues to oversee Fringe, including last year’s most successful and well-attended Festival to date. With a more “artist centric” approach, including FringeNext and FringeDevelopment (more on those later) Cincinnati has become a favorite stop on the Fringe circuit for many out-of-town artists and provides a safe and satisfying means for local Fringe enthusiasts to produce their works.

We are excited that you’re considering becoming a part of the 9th annual festival. Whether you’re new to the Cincy Fringe or an experienced Fringe producer, please read on to learn a little about the basics, and for an explanation of the application process.

WHAT IS A FRINGE FESTIVAL?

Fringe Festivals typically feature independent theatrical endeavors that wouldn’t normally get produced at mainstream theaters due to their experimental style or boundary-pushing themes. The adoption of “lottery drawings” for performance spots at the majority of Festivals has allowed more mainstream productions to have the spotlight as well but Fringes are still primarily an opportunity to try out and/or gain feedback on innovative new works, with many of the shows receiving their first ever public performance. Fringe originated in 1947 in Edinburgh, Scotland, and the Edinburgh Fringe Festival remains the largest in the world, with over 2,700 performances over the course of four weeks. North American festivals began appearing in early ‘80s Canada and made their way across the border when Orlando opened their Festival in 1991. Since then, Fringes have been popping up all over the U.S., including New York, Chicago, Minneapolis, and San Francisco – among many others. The large number and staggered scheduling of current Festivals allows some artists to travel the road with their shows, giving them the opportunity to live the perpetually Fringe-y life.

The Cincy Fringe (“Kinda weird. Like you.”) is produced by Know Theatre of Cincinnati, making it one of the only festivals to exist as a production of a theatre company’s regular season. The festival is spread throughout the Over-the-Rhine neighborhood of Cincinnati, just north of downtown, with all venues in walking distance and Know Theatre serving as Fringe Festival headquarters.



WHAT ELSE HAPPENS AT THE FRINGE FESTIVAL?

I'm glad you asked! The answer is: a lot. The Performance Fringe is the largest part of the Festival with over 150 performances of 35 productions in a dozen venues, but we don't stop there, mister! Over the years we've added numerous layers to the Festival - including FringeNext, which gives high school students an opportunity to produce their own new works alongside professional artists from around the world, and Fringe Development, which features special workshops and one-night-only performances. On top of all that, the party continues each night after performances with the Fringe Bar Series, which features the nightly Channel Fringe Hard-Hitting Action News Update and events like Fringe Olympics, Fringe Prom, and everyone's favorite, Fringe-a-oke, as well as a lot of other fun stuff - some of which we may not have even thought of yet! Throw in the gentlemen from Higher Level Art (www.higherlevelart.com), who will once again be coating a side of our theater with one of their magnificent murals, and you start to wonder how you might find the time to take in all that the Cincinnati Fringe has to offer!

HOW DO WE CHOOSE PRODUCTIONS?

The Cincinnati Fringe is a juried festival. The selection committee is composed of local artistic directors, actors, writers, and producers. After devouring your sample material, they make recommendations based on a few key factors:

- Is this work that will be unique to our region?
- Is the proposed project able to be produced within the Fringe structure? (more about this a little later)
- How does the proposed project fulfill the goal of the Cincinnati Fringe Festival to

present diversity, creativity, innovation, inspiration, and passion?

- How will your production benefit by being included in the Cincinnati Fringe Festival?

We realize that some of these questions may be somewhat abstract, but it is Fringe after all. Roll with it, yo.

There is no specific type of production that we're looking for. In the past we've presented puppet and mask shows, improv, melodrama, comedy, musicals, street performances, aerial dance, and on and on. There is no specific formula for a Fringe show and we love to be surprised.

WHAT DOES THE FESTIVAL PROVIDE?

The Festival provides a number of things to help you both produce and promote your production:

Five Performances – Every production that is available for the entirety of the festival will receive five performances. (Warning! Math ahead!) So that means less availability = fewer performances.

Box Office Services – The Festival sells all performance tickets, without exception. You, the artist, will receive 50% of the box office revenue. Hooray, you! Hooray, money!

Marketing – We market the festival as a whole. As much as we'd love to market individual productions, that would be impossible, but we will provide you with information on the best ways to target Cincinnatians.

Venue – We'll match your production with the most suitable venue we have access to. If you have special requests, please make those known very early on to allow us the maximum time to find a suitable space.



Basic tech needs – Each venue will be equipped with a light plot covering all of the performance space with a two color wash and two specials. They will also have a sound board and one playback device, like a CD player.

Venue Tech – Each production will have a technician assigned to it. This person is there to assist you with all of your technical needs. They are *not* stage managers (you’ll need to provide that on your own).

Technical Rehearsal – Each production will receive one three-hour technical rehearsal. All shows receive exactly the same amount of time. No more, no less, no exceptions.

House Staff – These amazing volunteers will tear your tickets, distribute your programs, and help your patrons navigate the festival...and they’ll do it all for a “thank you” – and maybe a beer.

Housing – Out of town artists will have access to housing, if requested. It may not be the Ritz-Carlton, but it will be free of charge to you. We will only house members of the production team (no spouses, children, pets, etc).

Artist Passes – Each member of your production team will receive artist passes, which allows you walk-up entry into all festival performances that don’t sell out. Passes are only for those who are directly involved with each performance.

Our Love – Self-explanatory. ♥!

WHAT ARE THE DATES I NEED TO KNOW ABOUT?

The “early bird” deadline for the Performance Fringe application is **Friday, December 2, 2011**. If your application is received by December 2nd, the fee is only \$35. We will continue to accept applications until **Friday, December 16th, 2011**,

but please note that applications received after December 2nd will have the application fee increased to **\$50**. Those are “received by”, not “postmarked by” deadlines, by the way, and there will be no extensions. Applications not received by December 16th will not be accepted. Seriously. Hand delivery at any time before 8pm on December 16th is also acceptable. You will be notified via e-mail when we receive your application.

- All producers will be notified of acceptance (or non-acceptance) in February, 2012 via email. If accepted, your email will also contain a digital copy of your Fringe contract.
- Printed and signed contracts must be mailed in by the first week of March, 2012.
- March, 2012 – Marketing Survey completed, Technical Survey completed
- April, 2012 – Performance Fringe schedule announced to artists
- May 16th, 2012 – Fringe Guide published in CityBeat (our awesome weekly free paper)
- May 29, 2012 – CityBeat Fringe Kick-Off Party
- May 30 – June 9, 2012 – The 9th Annual Cincinnati Fringe Festival!

A FEW OTHER THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW (that are important enough to mention even before you’re accepted)

Length of the show – The minimum run time for a show is 45 minutes. The maximum run time for a show is 90 minutes. Also, you will not be allowed to go over the runtime you give us on your technical survey (due in March).

CINCY FRINGE FESTIVAL

A KNOW THEATRE PRODUCTION

Spaces are shared – Each venue will hold up to five productions. This means that resources are shared between all of these groups. So...

Storage space is limited – Most venues have little to no storage space. Please be prepared for that, and you'll be pleasantly surprised if it turns out there is some on-site storage.

Load in/Load out – Half an hour before your show begins you will have 15 minutes to load in and set up your show, and then the house opens. Likewise, you will have 15 minutes to load out your show. There are **no exceptions** to this policy, because...

Simplicity is key – Unfortunately, Fringe is not the correct place to produce your Hippodrome-influenced spectacle with wire-work, live animals, a two-hundred person cast, and an electrified, metal *SPHERE OF DOOM!* Haven't we all learned a lesson from Spider-Man?

Think of it this way: in a typical production situation, you're the only show in the venue and the technical process is all about your production. In the Fringe Festival, you're part of a bigger community of artists who are dependent upon you as you are upon them. Adherence to the basic rules of the Festival and to the idea of simplicity will make everyone's experience the best it can be.

VENUE INFORMATION

Venues range from theatres like Know's main stage to empty storefronts, to sound studios to coffee shops. You name it; we've probably used it as a venue.

Venue assignments will not be announced until April, 2012, along with the performance schedule.

Do not contact your venue – You are a producer of a show in the Fringe Festival – your name is not on the venue lease, so *please do not* call them. We will

handle all of the details of your use of the space, so you will direct all inquiries to the Fringe Staff. The venues are not familiar with the policies of the Festival and may give you incorrect information. Additionally, we request that the venues make us immediately aware of any attempt to contact them directly and doing so may result in your removal from the Festival. We are always listening, we are always watching. We're like Santa Claus, so don't make us give you coal for Fringemas.

Pianos – Unfortunately, we are not able to provide a piano or a keyboard for any venue. Please be prepared to make arrangements to supply your own.

Fire, flame, smoking, fog, etc. – Generally, most venues do not permit any of these items to be used. If your show calls for any of these, we can ask the venue for permission, but be prepared to figure out a creative way to do without.

I'VE JUST GOTTA APPLY. WHAT DO I DO NOW?

So you've made it this far and you're ready to say, "I want to be a part of the Cincinnati Fringe Festival!" Who can blame you? I know I can't. It's wonderful. Life isn't complete without it. On the pages that follow is the application. It's composed of five sections.

Section I: The Check List

This is provided for your assistance. Please make sure that all items on the list are included in your application package. You do not need to include this when you mail your application.

Section II: Contact Information

Fill in the contact information requested. A valid email address *that is frequently checked* is required. Email is the primary means of communication for the festival, so please make sure this information is correct. We will notify you via e-mail as soon as we receive your application. Please



note that we request a secondary contact for each project as well. This secondary contact will only be used in the event of an emergency. This contact will not be in regular communication with the Festival Staff and cannot speak for the production. If any contact information changes at any point in the application/acceptance process, please notify the Associate Producer, Chris Wesselman, immediately by email (fringesubmissions@knowtheatre.com) or by phone (513.300.5669).

Section III: Project Information

This section provides us with some general information about your project. This information is essential in determining venue suitability, tech needs, marketing hooks, etc. Please fill this in as clearly and completely as possible.

Section IV: The Proposal

This is the meat of the application (or the portabella mushroom, if you're a vegetarian...). This used to be a series of questions asking for a project description, group history, etc. But that seems constraining to a group of wonderful creative artists such as yourselves. Now it's a bit more free form. Have fun, but make sure you give the jury enough information to make an informed selection.

Section V: Technical Requirements

This will provide us with some preliminary information about your technical needs, like stage dimensions and whether or not you need offstage space. Please be thorough, but pithy. The section on technical requirements is especially important in determining venue assignment. More detailed technical requirements will be requested once the selection process has been completed.

Other Application Requirements:

In addition to the application, we ask that you provide some samples of your work. Choose samples that will help us understand your vision and your ability to accomplish what you intend. The following samples are REQUIRED:

- Up to 20 pages of a script sample, script outline, and/or script samples from previous works (to demonstrate quality of writing)
- For musicals: CD of songs from your project

The following samples are not required but never hurt to provide:

- Video of a prior production of the show you're submitting
- Video of a different show that features the same creative team or group (please don't send us a DVD of your high school performance in *Annie*. I'm sure you were great, but it won't help us make a decision)

If you submit a DVD, please indicate which chapter(s) you would like viewed. NOTE: we will only guarantee viewing 10 minutes of your DVD. In the event you are not able to use chapter markers, please indicate what section (by time) of the DVD you would like considered. VHS tapes, 8-track, reel-to-reel, and Betamax are not permitted – unless you are a time traveler. Applications for musicals must submit recordings on CD. Please cue to or indicate any songs you consider priority listening. We will not download material from a website or accept music samples via email. **Application materials will not be returned.** If you are applying with more than one project, please submit one completed application (including proposal, samples, and yes, the FEE) for each project.

QUESTIONS?

If you have questions about the festival or your application, please e-mail Chris Wesselman at fringesubmissions@knowtheatre.com. You can also call the theatre at 513-300-KNOW(5669).

HAPPY FRINGING!



THE APPLICATION

****This application cannot be used for FRINGENEXT****

Section I: The Chickety-Check List:

--- REQUIRED ---

- Write the Project Name at the top of every page of your application, excluding script samples (do not write in a Project #)
- THE FEE* (\$35 if application arrives before December 2, 2011; \$50 if application is received after December 2nd - Please use a check or money order made out to **Cincinnati Fringe Festival**)
- The Application (2 copies).
- The Proposal (2 copies)
- Up to 20 pages of a script sample, script outline, and/or script samples from previous works (to demonstrate quality of writing)
- For musicals: A CD of recorded tracks from the production (1 copy). Please provide listing for any preferred tracks.

--- OPTIONAL ---

- DVD with a note about what 10-minute section you'd like viewed and no more than a half page of explanatory text (1 copy)

NOTE: NONE OF THE APPLICATION MATERIAL CAN BE RETURNED.

Please mail all of the items listed above to:

Cincinnati Fringe Festival Submissions
c/o Know Theatre of Cincinnati
1120 Jackson Street
Cincinnati, OH 45202

*THE FEE: International Applicants must make payment by bank money order in US funds, collectible by a US bank

Project Name _____

Office use only: Project # _____

Section II: Contact Information

Group/Producing Company Name (If applicable)

Primary Contact Name

Street Address

City

ST

Zip Code

Phone Number(s) [Please indicate type(s) of number(s)]

Email Address (Remember, email will be the primary method of communication.)

Secondary Contact Name

Phone Number(s) [Please indicate type(s) of number(s)]

Email Address

Website Address

Project Name _____

Office use only: Project # _____

Section III: Project Information

Title of Project/Production

Approximate Running Time (at least 45 min, no longer than 90 min) # of Performers

Discipline (i.e. Theatre, Dance, MMA fight-dancing, etc.)

Is your show a Premiere?

World US Cincinnati NA

Venue Basics:

Stage Space Required: Minimum Stage Dimensions _____

Maximum Stage Dimensions _____

Type of Venue*:

Theatre (or theatre setup) Outdoors Other/Site Specific

If Other/Site Specific, please explain:

*Please note: We will do our best to accommodate your venue requirements, but be prepared for something you may not have expected. This is Fringe, after all.

How did you hear about the Cincinnati Fringe Festival?

Friend/Word of Mouth	Social media	Website
Other Festival	Newspaper	Other Theatre
Know Theatre e-mail	Quetzalcoatl	Other

Other explanation: _____

Project Name _____

Office use only: Project # _____

Section VI: The Proposal

Project Description Question, or Sell It, Baby!:

This section used to be a series of questions asking for a project description, group history, etc. We find that constraining, don't you? We want something more creative. Obviously, as a juried festival, that jury needs to know about your piece, the group, etc. so that we can make informed decisions. But we want more! We want to see you wow the jury. We want your application to be so amazingly, unbelievably stupendous that the jury's task of selecting just 35 Fringe productions is next to impossible. So there's the challenge.

This section may only be three pages long. The smallest text you may use is Times New Roman font, 11 point, single sided, double spaced. Bring it, Homeslice.

Section V: Technical Requirements

Please list any special needs that will affect the choice of venue or enhance your production. Be very specific with regard to what you are providing and what you need us to supply. If your needs go beyond our capabilities, we will contact you to discuss potential alternatives. Please also make special note of anything you feel your production cannot do without (i.e. half of your production is filmed and half live, so projection capability is a must).

1. Lighting:
2. Sound:
3. Video/Projection:
4. Dance Floor:
5. Other needs (please explain):

Mail Completed Applications
To:

Cincinnati Fringe Festival
c/o Know Theatre of Cincinnati
1120 Jackson St.
Cincinnati, OH 45202

**CINCY
FRINGE
FESTIVAL
A KNOW THEATRE PRODUCTION**