

## **The 2020 Rhubarb Festival (February 12 - 22, 2020)**

### **Call for Submissions**

**Deadline: 5:00 pm on Friday, September 13, 2019**

Festival Director: Clayton Lee

Curatorial Collective: Vanden Boomen, Theresa Cutknife, Claudia Edwards, Victoria Mata

[Click here to apply.](#)

We are currently seeking proposals for the 2020 Rhubarb Festival (February 12 – 22, 2020). The Rhubarb Festival provides artists with the space and support to create new works that are strange, pushing the edges, risky and challenging.

Selected projects will be featured during the festival and will receive technical, production, promotional, and artistic support. In addition to an honorarium, Festival artists also receive an unlimited artist pass, allowing them to see work for free by local, national, and international artists in our programme.

This year, Rhubarb is offering a decentralized approach to curatorial decision making with the introduction of a Curatorial Collective: Vanden Boomen, Theresa Cutknife, Claudia Edwards, Victoria Mata and Festival Director Clayton Lee. This initiative has been made possible by Aluna Theatre, FADO Performance Art Centre, Native Earth Performing Arts, and Workman Arts, with each of these organizations selecting and financially compensating a member of the curatorial collective.

A note on the Call for Submissions from the Curatorial team:

Our articulation of a collective vision for the Festival - one that is rooted in an attempt at radical inclusion - can only be shaped in conversation with your contributions to this Call for Submissions. This is essential to the process.

And, within this, we want to not only understand your proposed project, but your ability as an individual artist or a collective:

to think critically and to ask questions that we can collectively begin to untangle;

to challenge, to respond;

to resist, to adapt, to mutate;

to rock the boat.

In these nascent stages of planning, we are energized by the possibilities, by the ways in which the 2020 Rhubarb artists will develop their artistic practices in conversation with the curatorial team, with each other, with each other's communities and with Rhubarb audiences.

## General Programming

Rhubarb seeks proposals for new, not previously produced performance projects and experiments. Rhubarb is a space for imagination and for pushing boundaries: your own, your audiences', and those of your artistic practice. We are looking for proposals by artists who want to explore and expand – projects that fight the normative, projects that ask big questions, and forms that ask and dream the impossible.

Submissions are encouraged from both established and emerging creators. Projects in the General Programming category should run 25 minutes in length. Rhubarb encourages submissions from a wide variety of live artistic mediums with a focus on experimentation. These forms can include but are not limited to;

Theatre  
Performance Art  
Dance  
Music,  
Interdisciplinary or Hybrid forms

## Special Presentations

At Rhubarb, we pride ourselves in being open and malleable to new artistic practices and forms. Do you have a project that you feel doesn't fit within our General Programming constraints? Does it need a specific space or time constraint that you don't think is currently available to you at our Festival? The Special Presentations call is for work that doesn't fit, work that wants to bust open the containers of the Festival and surprise us in new ways that you don't think we've thought of before.

Special Projects could be, but are by no means limited to:

Late Night Cabaret Presentations  
Site Specific Work  
Durational Work  
Installation Projects  
One-to-One Performance Projects  
Multimedia Experiments  
Panel Discussions  
Community Driven Arts Projects  
One Night Performance Projects

## Submission Guidelines

### General Programming and Special Presentations

**Deadline: 5:00 pm on Friday, September 13, 2019**

[Click here to apply.](#)

#### 1. Project Proposal (saved as a .PDF file)

##### a) Artist Statement and Project Description (2 pages MAX)

- Tell us about your artistic practice:
  - As it relates to form and/or content, what questions are thinking about?
  - What is the lineage of your practice? Who has done or has been doing similar things? Who/what is inspiring your practice?
- Please describe your project
- Discuss why you think Rhubarb is a great home for you and your project:
  - What are the ways in which it will challenge other artists and/or audience members?
  - How is it adapting, resisting, or mutating our notion of performance?
  - How can the curatorial collective best support this project? What do you need?

##### b) Bios of Confirmed Participants

As honourariums are generally given on a per-artist basis versus a per-project basis, we want to understand the general size and scope of the project and the total number of artists involved in the project (performers, directors, choreographers, artistic support, designers, etc.). However, Rhubarb is not looking for a particular size of project. The number of collaborators has no bearing on the evaluation of the Project's artistic merit and suitability for the Festival.

#### 2. Support Materials

Please send through any links to script excerpts, detailed synopsis, storyboard, performance notations, videos, images, or other relevant materials. The Curatorial Collective will watch up to three minutes (3:00) of video, so please either edit accordingly or include a time-stamp to indicate what section of longer videos to watch.

## Reading Fee

### General Programming and Special Presentations

The \$20 Reading Fee paid by credit card upon submission of application.

Alternatively, the reading fee can be paid by cheque or money order made out to BUDDIES IN BAD TIMES THEATRE. Please bring/send payment to Buddies in Bad Times Theatre, 12 Alexander Street Toronto ON M4Y 1B4

**If the fee is a barrier to applying, please write to [clayton@buddiesinbadtimes.com](mailto:clayton@buddiesinbadtimes.com) by September 6, 2019.**

If you have any questions about the Festival or your application, prefer alternate methods of submission (different languages, recorded video/audio, etc.) or need support to complete your application, please contact:

Clayton Lee // Festival Director  
[clayton@buddiesinbadtimes.com](mailto:clayton@buddiesinbadtimes.com)

### **ABOUT THE RHUBARB FESTIVAL**

“Toronto's go to event for thought-provoking, political, adventurous entertainment.” Toronto Life

Established in 1979, the Rhubarb Festival is produced by Buddies in Bad Times Theatre and is Canada's longest-running festival of new performance. For over three decades, Rhubarb has encouraged established artists to take new risks and emerging artists to explore the possibilities of performance in a supportive space. Over the course of its history, Rhubarb has had an immeasurable impact on the local and Canadian cultural landscape by acting as a seeding ground for new work. A great number of Rhubarb projects have gone on to be further developed and presented in Toronto, across Canada and internationally.

### **ABOUT BUDDIES IN BAD TIMES THEATRE**

Buddies in Bad Times Theatre creates vital Canadian theatre by developing and presenting voices that question sexual and cultural norms. Built on the political and social principles of queer liberation, Buddies supports artists and works that reflect and advance these values. As the world's longest-running and largest queer theatre, Buddies is uniquely positioned to develop, promote, and preserve stories and perspectives that are challenging and alternative. The theatre sits in the heart of downtown, adjacent to Toronto's Gay Village.

For further information please contact:

Clayton Lee // Festival Director  
[clayton@buddiesinbadtimes.com](mailto:clayton@buddiesinbadtimes.com)