



UCL Culture Presents
Out of Touch: A Festival of Intimacy
Saturday 19 June 2021
OPEN CALL FOR PERFORMANCES, TALKS, INTERACTIONS

Introduction:

Out of Touch: A Festival of Intimacy is a day-long festival of intimate performances, conversations and interactions that responds to the themes of **touch** and **intimacy**, and asks what intimacy has meant whilst living through the Covid19 pandemic. Contributing work will be created by artists, UCL students and academics, and the event will take place across UCL's Bloomsbury Theatre, Grant Museum, Petrie Museum and a variety of outdoor spaces in between.

For thematic inspiration:

- BBC Ideas: What Happens When We Can't Touch

www.bbc.co.uk/ideas/videos/what-happens-to-humans-when-we-cant-touch/p08t9jsj

- UCL: In Touch - www.ucl.ac.uk/made-at-ucl/stories/ucl-helping-us-stay-touch
- BBC Radio 4: Anatomy of Touch www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m000n484

Festival Aims:

1. Bring artists, academics and students together for a festival of performances, conversations and interactions that respond to our lived experiences of Covid19 over the past year
2. Celebrate the UCL Culture venues as spaces for experimentation and innovation, with research and students at its heart
3. Welcome London and national audiences into the theatre and engage them with new perspectives on our current context

UCL Culture:

UCL Culture is a team of arts and culture professionals who work across the university, curating and animating UCL content. We believe in the power of open; in opening borders, eyes and minds. Our teams manage museums, theatres, collections and facilitate engagement. We bring diverse performers and audiences into the heart of UCL to energise the student experience and fuel UCL's creative culture with cutting edge cultural experiences.

Commissioning Performances:

Whether you are a student, academic, artist or any combination of the three, we invite you to pitch ideas for the festival (brand new ideas, or already developed work) that responds to the themes, can work within social distance measures, and be open to being performed in unusual spaces (beyond the stage itself) across the UCL Culture venues. We are interested in small scale work which has a 'pop up' feel as well as large scale ideas. We are particularly interested in interdisciplinary pieces*, and pieces which push you and the audience out of comfort zones. We are open to all types of

performance from dance, theatre, music, spoken word and poetry, circus, comedy, multimedia as well as talks and facilitated conversations. A programming team that includes student reps and UCL Culture staff will be responsible for selecting pieces and supporting with the development where appropriate.

Payment

- We will be appointing funds of up to £2,000 per project delivered by professional artists
- We will be appointing funds of up to £500 for students and academics who are not collaborating with professional artists
- We expect each project to submit a budget for their work.
- At the commissioning stage the panel will assess the project based on the criteria outlined below, and will work with successful projects to define the scope and scale.
- This may mean that projects are funded at a higher or lower scale than their original application.
- Payment will be made on signature of contract.

UCL Culture offers a range of support alongside the funding (when appropriate and agreed), which includes:

- Space to rehearse and perform (within The Bloomsbury Theatre and Studio and/or across UCL)
- Producing support (budget management support, performance development, rehearsal and workshop methodologies)
- Marketing and technical support

Application:

The application deadline is 9am on Friday 26 February 2021.

There is guidance on the form on the specifics needed to answer each question.

Overall, by this point, we will expect you to have:

- A performance idea - We do not expect you to be able to tell us what you will be creating, but we need to have confidence in your vision – whether that's a brand new idea or something you've been thinking about for a while.
- A team – people who are committed to deliver the project with you, if the piece requires it
- A budget - costs can be estimated but we need to trust your estimations
- An idea of the support you will need in order to make your performance a reality

8. Contract

The commissioned work will be appointed to UCL Culture.

A contract will be issued by Sylvia Kluczewski on behalf of UCL Culture to the appointed lead directly.

Criteria

We will be making decisions based on:

- How well the project applications meet the themes of touch, intimacy, and what intimacy has meant whilst living through the Covid19 pandemic.
- Whether the project can be delivered on time, within cost.
- Quality and innovativeness of idea