

Subject heading: two hundred pounds?

Dear xxxx,

We hope this finds you well. We know you are busy. Real talk: we're looking for £200 from your organisation, or a charity/ foundation/ other that you can recommend, or the best you can do* to support someone on a low-income to participate in a workshop and discursive programme around gender performance, dancing, class and queer community with Shannon Stewart.

Full details are below.

Thanks for your time and best wishes,

Janine and Chris

Full details:

We are [Christopher Matthews](#) and Janine Harrington, London-based artists working together to realise a public-facing and participatory project around Chris' practice, building on [a trial project hosted last Autumn](#) at Chisenhale Dance Space.

Chris' work asks questions around class, gender performance, queer community and body image. Janine's practice is engaged with questions of access, play and agency. In 2018 she wrote a proposition, [radical non-symmetrical \(reciprocated\) advocacy](#) which offers that each of us- where we engage- has agency to make changes for the better of all of us, however small our reach may seem. It is in this spirit that we want to make the most of our collective resources and develop radical ways of sharing practices and information across contexts.

In October 2019 we will produce a 4-day workshop exploration with [Shannon Stewart](#), a choreographic artist and activist working out of New Orleans who teaches each year at [ROAR Berlin](#). We are able to capitalise on Shannon being in Europe, and collaborate to share her work in dialogue with questions and practices coming up in our UK contexts.

In 2018 we used crowdfunding, Arts Council England support and earned income to subsidise the workshop, with many free and pay-what-you-can spaces. These sessions created a temporary community of artists, many of whom we had never met before. The feedback on the sessions was extremely positive, and the low-cost was vital to make it possible for people to attend. This year we hope to sponsor as many workshop participants as possible, and offer a small stipend for those with additional barriers to participation such as low income, disability, travel costs and caring responsibilities.

We are looking for organisations, individuals, patrons and charities to support participation in this project by contributing the costs of one (or more!) participant's place in the programme.*

£200 covers participation for 1 person and contributes to a pool of resource for anyone with access costs. Costs include: workshop leader, accessible central London location, administration

Workshop capacity is 20 people. We will offer as many sponsored places as possible and use any excess to further support access needs and reduce the cost for participants who are able to pay for the sessions.

Dates: 16th-19th October

We will credit all sponsors in a way to be determined through dialogue with you. We are happy to accept and credit contributions from those who wish to remain anonymous. We will share project documentation and feedback with sponsors.

If you are able to support this project as outlined, or in another way please get in touch with your ideas and/or forward this on to anyone who may be able to help. It would greatly help our planning if you could confirm any offer of support by 1st July.

Please get in touch to talk anything through,

Many thanks for your time and attention

Janine and Chris

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* As Tesco said, every little helps. Whether that's a bigger or smaller contribution, circulating this request or pointing us in another direction for help! Thankyou.