

Submission Guidelines: Cucalorus Stage

Cucalorus has always had performances! Dance-A-Lours, Bus to Lumberton, and Visual Sound Walls are festival favourites every year. With the launch of **Cucalorus Stage**, we are expanding our performance program, bringing the same rigorous, intentional curation to our live events as we do to our screenings. We're interested in all kinds of performances: standup, storytelling, music, cabaret, theatre, comedy, happenings, installations, live art, and more! We're especially looking for new works, North Carolina or Wilmington Premieres, works that speak to current political concerns, and fringy-er experiences. Creative crowd surfing encouraged.

Types of Performances on Cucalorus Stage

Theatre/Performance/Comedy/Music: Solo shows, folk bands, durational performance art, Harry Potter improv, autobiographical performative installations: the opportunities are endless. Works 75 mins & under, new works, and low-tech performances are particularly encouraged; but we welcome all applications. Past years has seen smutty comedy songstresses, drunk feminist storytelling, live-scored short films and transcendental underground bands gracing the Cucalorus Stage.

Dance-a-lorus: Most well-attended festival favourite! Dance companies performing new works, merge choreography and film onstage. Launched in 2005 through a partnership with local choreographer's collective the Dance Cooperative, Dance-a-lorus includes a live showcase of new works, a series of master classes, and a curated program of dance films. The culminating performance serves as the opening night event for the annual Cucalorus Film Festival. The live performance event of the Dance-a-lorus program combines a choreographed dance with a film component. All other dance-related films are submitted under FILM.

Bus to Lumberton: A Cucalorus tradition, Bus To Lumberton is an interactive performance installation inspired by David Lynch's *Blue Velvet*, which was filmed in Wilmington. One of the most off-the-wall Cucalorus events (which is saying something), folks interested in submitting an idea for Bus To Lumberton should send a one page proposal to stage@cucalorus.org.

Emcees: Our Emcees are the rainbow sprinkles on the cupcake that is Cucalorus. They open for most films and events, warming up the crowd, introducing films, and running talk backs in a variety of creative ways. Past emcees have included musical comedians, beat poets, cathartic clowns, cannibalistic performance artists, and one mime.

IMPORTANT DEADLINES

Submissions Open/ April 17
Early Submissions Deadline/ June 1
Regular Submission Deadline / June 22
Successful submissions notified/ July 13
Performances Confirmed/ July 27
Intended Program Announcement/ September 20
Cucalorus Festival/ Nov 8-12

PERFORMANCE SPACES

Bourgie Nights (85 seats)

Small, elevated stage. Good tech options for audio, as this is often a music venue, but very limited lighting plot. Fringe-style performances, solo shows, musicians, storytelling shows or low-tech shows work well in this space. There are benches and chair, but also the option of standing room/ dance floor. Projector/Screen in space.

TheatreNOW (80 seats)

Cabaret space with intimate stage, table seating for around 65 (stadium style seating for a 100+). This is typically a dinner theatre space, and work work for cabaret-style shows or theatre.

Dead Crow (100 seats)

A basement comedy bar, with seats in the round, and a small, platform stage. As an already established comedy bar, this venue would work best for those who are doing stand up, improv or sketch. However, storytelling/music would also work in this venue. Low-fi. Fringe-style.

City Stage (220 seats)

Beautiful old stage, with a mix of traditional theatre raked seating and cabaret-style seating. This venue is the best for more traditional theatre pieces, but would work as well for comedy, storytelling, and music. This venue is not accessible.

Throne Theatre (250+ standing room)

This is the usual venue for Visual/Sound/Walls, our opening night party. While this is typically a music venue, with the multiple projectors in the space, it might be of interest to someone working with projection. It would also work for a travelling show, or for someone interested in creating an alternative performance space. There is a small elevated stage space, multiple lighting options and a large dance floor.

NUMBER OF PERFORMANCES.

There is no set number of shows you must perform. Each project will be programmed into a schedule that works for both the artists and the festival.
Minimum shows: 1, maximum shows: 3.

WHAT THE FESTIVAL PROVIDES

- Publicity & Marketing support (website, umbrella publicity campaign, and festival print materials)
- Front of House and Box Office
- Tech and production support
- Show Operator
- Special Event Insurance
- Your cast, crew, and creatives receive a Pegasaurus Pass, providing you with free access to all Cucalorus film screenings, stage events, Connect Conference panels, the artist lounge, as well as nightly Jengo's parties (where you can usually find free food and drinks!)
- Room & Board
- Travel Stipends are available on a first come first serve basis
- Creative networking with other innovative filmmakers, performers, and artists
- Free lunches daily at Jengo's

WHAT YOU PROVIDE

- A fully-rehearsed production with executed licence agreement/s to perform the show (where appropriate)
- Publicity and marketing for your individual show, including at least one high quality, high res promo image
- Appropriate crew for bump in, bump out
- Create your own Facebook event page

SELECTION CRITERIA: CUCALORUS VALUES

Innovation & Experimentation: Artists who are taking risk in their work, exploring alternative to genre and form.

High Energy Humour: Creators who are following the metaphorical white rabbit down the hole of hilarity!

New Work: We want to program new shows, i.e. Wilmington premieres of international or interstate shows, or premieres of new works.

Courageous Culture Shock: Performances responding, challenging, and exploring contemporary politics and cultural concerns.

Inclusive Idea Sharing: We welcome all to create, witness, and present in a creatively collaborative nature.