

Artist Submission Call Out
Quaranscenes

Fable Workshop is looking for writers and performers who would be willing to use their time spent social distancing to help create new theatrical works that push the boundaries of how theatre can be produced for an online audience.

In the wake of this global emergency, the worldwide theatre community has found itself without work for the foreseeable future, with many of the industry's most talented voices finding themselves effectively "on pause" at home. Here at Fable Workshop, we're looking into new ways that theatre can be created, produced, performed and enjoyed in an online society to both explore the way we engage with theatre in the 21st Century and assist those in the industry who may be struggling in these unprecedented circumstances. We call it: Quaranscenes!

The Brief:

The idea of Quaranscenes is to use the platform of live-streaming to deliver content (as many individual theatres are currently doing) but to push the medium further by using the software tools available to us to create compilations of short, bespoke live-streamed theatre pieces from the comfort of our own homes. We aim to curate a programme of short scenes into hour-long live-streamed events using specific streaming software that can be viewed on youtube.com.

Why use Youtube and Stream-software?

- Whilst platforms such as Facebook Live and Instagram are immediately more accessible for an everyday audience, the creativity of the streamer is limited to what is going on in front of the camera. This is not the case when using streaming software, where streamers can use screen sharing, overlays, multicam set ups and more to create a multitude of presentation options. We believe that by using these programmes we will have much more creative freedom to explore what kind of theatre can be made online! A good example is to look at Streamlabs OBS.
- Furthermore (as a little bonus): These streaming services allow its users to monetise the streams through donations! We would love to be able to help the community in any small way we can, and as such we hope to build enough of a platform so that donations could be made during the live-streams which would then be shared amongst the participating collaborators accordingly as a way to help artists get back on their feet once we're allowed back outside.

This is where we need your help!

We're calling out for two types of submissions:

Writers

We're looking for submissions of short 5-15 minute "scenes" that can be performed from inside somebody's house. These can range in any subject matter or genre, creativity is the key! It can be drama, sketch, mime, horror, comedy, surrealist; it could be from a fly-on-the-wall perspective or presented directly to camera, the choice is yours!

Things to Consider:

- Technical implications - With technology available through streaming services, you might not even base your scene around characters. We could be voyeurs on somebody navigating the internet through screen-sharing, or you could make it so that the Chat function is integral to the action and the viewers control the scene. Be brave!
- However - Bare in mind your performers are limited to their house, so any epic outdoor locations may be unrealistic. These should be scenes that are achievable to create from inside the average household. Likewise it's best not to include complicated props or practical effects, we can't ask our actors to create something out of their own funds.
- This isn't a recording, there is no editing. This has to be something the performer can do live on camera in real time.
- Streaming can be done on laptops, phones or tablets. So think about what kind of device might be best for your work! You may not have a preference, but if you do, make sure you specify.
- It's not all doom and gloom! - There is no theme to adhere to, this isn't ABOUT being quarantined, we just want to explore what can be created and performed using the household as our canvas.

- We'll eagerly be looking over all submissions when curating the streams, and whilst we suggest to aim for a 5-15 minute idea, don't panic if your submission is a little longer or shorter, we'd love to hear it and incorporate it where possible!

If you have something you would like to submit please send it to fableworkshoptheatre@gmail.com with both the heading "Quaranscenes Script" and your name in the subject line. We look forward to reading them! You do not need to complete the online form. Just drop us the email

Actors

Once we have collected enough stories to build an hour, we'll have to cast them. Therefore we would love to hear from any and all actors who are self-isolating and would like to participate!

Below you will find a list of monologues and duologues. We would love you to pick one and send a self-tape to fableworkshoptheatre@gmail.com. Send your self-tape through [wetransfer.com](https://www.wetransfer.com) to us!

Please also complete the online form so we know about your technical set-up, and how many people you will be working with. You only need to do one form per household. If someone else lists you on their form, we just need the self-tape. The link is here and also on our website:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSf4A4HcxHHcoBSYHD2MneysaE_8Lb5kyRynN90odFny7cRv6Q/vi/wform?usp=sf_link

- The audition texts are not set to be performed in any particular way, so record them however you want.
- We'll do our best to match the story to the performer and give you time to learn and rehearse the piece at home whilst also helping with the technical elements of any streaming software that you want to use.
- We anticipate that you will have a week to rehearse the scene so that you can try things. But of course we will manage this depending on the complexity of the script and what you are going to try and achieve with it.
- Furthermore if your whole household is creative, perhaps a share-house full of actors or directors or designers, then even better! We want to hear from you as we generate more and more material for larger casts.
- Remember: The scene may be written, but all the staging is up to you. It's YOUR interpretation of the work.
- If you need assistance with the rehearsals then you can let us know and we can offer directorial or dramaturgical advice where we can.
- If you are an actor/writer then let us know if you would like to perform your own text, but we want to prioritise work that gets people to connect as much as possible, so we will have reduced number of solo managed entries per stream
- You will of course need some sort of device capable of streaming, but don't panic, it doesn't need to be a top of the range device! Most mid-range PC's or Mac's will be fine. You can also stream direct from your phone if you like. Of course if you have a more technical ready set up, that is great as well. Part of the fun will be the variety of streams, set ups, and locations! If you have questions about this, drop us an email and we will help!

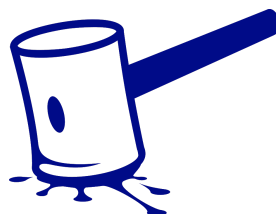
Finally

Once the pieces are curated, collaborated and rehearsed, we'll schedule an hour and live-stream something brand new to the world! After the stream, should any donations have been made by the viewers, they will be collected and distributed evenly amongst all participants that contributed to the content.

We hope you join us in this experiment as we are very excited by the potential it may hold. Not only do we hope to give the artistic community a way to continue to create and explore performance whilst enduring social distancing; but we're also excited to bring together new collaborations between artists, performers and writers who might never have been able to meet or work together otherwise. This way, we stay connected and forge new working relationships; all from the comfort of our own homes.

Once we pair an actor with a text we will let both parties know and will put them in touch with one another. How you work that creative relationship is up to you.

There is no deadline for submission as we will get started as soon as we can. So once you have something, send it our way and we will get this party started!



FABLE WORKSHOP

Quaranscenes Audition Monologues

1.

I know you've been through a lot recently. I can't even begin to imagine what it must have been like. Everyone here is missing you, including me. Especially me.

They're saying this year's Fair is going to be the biggest the village has seen for a decade. They're even getting a helter skelter in! You can imagine the chat around town, people are beside themselves, the gazette is going to have a field day! I guess we'll all be in a field but you know what I mean! It's been a while since we've had some excitement around here.

I'll never forget the year you signed up to get dunked in the tank; immediately regretted it! Everybody and their gran was lined up to have a crack at you, not before me though! I was first in line! I'd always be first in line.

Look, I don't know what I can do to help you, I don't even know if you would want my help, but if there's anything I can do, please PLEASE let me know! If it's money or just talking, anything! I promise I'll be there for it, for you! I want to be there for you. I feel so useless just being stuck here when you're not -

Hello? Are you still there? Can you hear me?

Come home soon, please.

2.

I was looking through your room today and guess what I found. Go on, have a guess! After all this time, you said you'd lost it, couldn't possibly know where it was! But there it was, tucked away in what was - quite frankly - a pretty crap hiding place.

So I think to myself, "Maybe it was a mistake?" I mean, was it? Did you just forget it was there? I kinda hope so, I hope it's just that simple, because the only other option is that you've been lying to me. And why would you do that? We don't do that, do we? We don't hide things from each other in this house. In this house we tell the truth. So please, tell me the truth, now!

I'm not angry, I promise I'm not angry, and if I am angry, it's not because it's here or because of all the wasted time I have spent on this. If I'm angry, it's because you had it all along and you didn't tell me! Do you not trust me? Am I not worth your honesty? You've got to help me understand because right now I feel like I know nothing. So this is your one opportunity, right here, right, now to tell me the truth about everything.

Tell me what happened.

3.

Alright, so I'm in this bar about 2 streets over from the hotel; back alley place but with a touch of class, you know what I mean? Does a really nice Espresso Martini but also 2 tinnies for a fiver, that kind of bar! And we're having a good time, everyone's vibing, when this couple from the table next to me tap me and ask me to take their picture. So, you know me, ever the artist, I get a few in for them and they start chatting. They ask me "Do you like to travel?" I say yes, I mean they wouldn't have found me in this place if I didn't, we weren't exactly sitting in Peckham that's for sure!

Then they ask "Would you ever consider getting paid to travel?" And at this point I feel like Bugs Bunny with the dollar signs rolling in my eyeballs; of course I would be interested in that!

Then - no joke - they look me dead in the eye and say "How would you like to earn a million dollars by going on holiday?" I nearly spat my drink on them, which would have been something 'cause I noticed they were only drinking water! At 10pm! Like a pair of psychos!

I guess I should have been checking for hidden cameras at this point but I was curious so I said "Tell me more!" They pull out this laptop, right, with a fucking powerpoint presentation about this company who supposedly 'pays' these people to go out into the world on holiday to recruit other people to join the company and go on more holidays! A fucking pyramid scheme!

I told them, I said "This sounds like a fucking pyramid scheme." They said "It's not a pyramid scheme, this is multi-level marketing!" And now my psycho-meter is pinging off the fucking scale. They really think they can make a million quid off this? That's when the laptop one leans, inches away from my face and goes "Give me one year, and I will be collecting my million."

Well that was it, I got out of there as fast as I could! Never went near that bar again. But the town itself was lovely, I'd highly recommend it. So what do you reckon? Would you ever consider travelling?

4.

Another day indoors would lay me low.
'Tis not Corona that should be feared
But rather mine own company it seems.
Ironical that in counting all the hours
The clock has ticked; for me no time has passed
And all I do is merely contemplate
If this is all part of some grand design.
My only course of action left: to sit
And see what's on the tele. Grand Designs.
How much further must my sanity slip
That I would welcome some divine appeal?
That McLeod himself might burst in and cry
"Lo! Get thee to a Novotel at once!
For these four walls bring only misery
And sin!" Scrub all I might to expunge this
Disease and still no cleaner do I feel.
The air still fetid, my search history
Now spewing shameful truths from PC screens
As if Pandora herself opened it!
Unshackle me from this box, that I might
Roam the town and lick every door handle
And hope contagion give me more purpose!
Clarity in uncleanness is now
The only truth by which I care to live!
Infect me here so that I may now know
Outside is somewhere I'll no longer go.

5.

Have you seen this one? I love this one, it just comes out of nowhere! They must be dead, surely. I think people watch these and think, because they are so easy to access, the person must be fine. But look at the speed they are going. No one could survive something like that. Here watch it again. Makes you question whether they know the person they hit? Like, how are they that accurate? That's some insane bad luck if that just happens to you. I mean bad luck I guess if you know someone that screwed up. But man, imagine what is running through their heads in like the last 15 seconds before impact. Mad!

Here's another one... the speed to flip the car like that ... has to be going over a hundred round a corner. Like, what do they expect?

But maybe that's the point isn't it? To go out in a thrill and end up on a video like this? Sad really ain't it? Life ticking by so slowly for you, screeching to a halt, so that your goal in life becomes to go out feeling a rush. Like going on a roller coaster but knowing the end will take you off a cliff. Knowing that a million people will sit down at their computers and get a kick out of you blazing a trail over to the other side.

(Pause)

Oh god this one's the best!

Quaranscenes Audition Duologues

1.

A - We have a problem.

B - What's that?

A - It's like an annoying circumstance.

B - No I get that, what is *THE* problem?

A - The postman's here.

B - Is he normally a problem?

A - No, it's the post itself.

B - Huh, I usually have to open my post before I can determine whether it's a problem or not.

A - Can you stop joking for a second? This is serious!

B - A serious problem?

A - Yes!

B - I'm pretty sure he's just doing his job.

A - Will you shut up! The post is delivered to a box, downstairs in the hall. That means if we want it we have to ... go outside.

B - Oh, that is a problem.

A - See?

B - What should we do?

A - I dunno. Let's prioritise, are you expecting anything important to arrive?

B - No I just use email like a normal person. You?

A - Not that I can think of but-

B - What?

A - It's nothing.

B - Go on, what is it?

A - Well, your birthday present should have arrived by now.

B - Oh... Well that doesn't matter, we can leave it, it's fine.

A - No it was really good! You'll love it!

B - Well what do you suggest? *It's* out there and we're stuck in here.

A - I'll just risk it.

B - Risk it?

A - When I run out, close the door behind me. I'll use the lift, it'll be quicker. Head down, grab the post, and lift it back up to here. I'll do the special knock so you know it's me.

B - What special knock?

A - You know... *[A makes up a special knock]*

B - Very creative. One problem, what about the germs? Can't be going around touching the lift buttons, they could be covered with it.

A - Oh yeah you're right. Alright, I'll have to use the stairs. Then I'll open the mailbox, grab the post, and run back up, and hopefully won't run into anyone in the corridor.

B - Wait, surely the post itself has germs? What if the postman coughed all over it?!

A - Oh god, or sneezed on his hands and kept handing out letters willy nilly!

B - Or licked the whole bag?

A - That seems unlikely.

B - People are animals, you can't be too careful.

A - Fine, let's not risk it. It's too much trouble.

B - Good call. Better safe than sorry. Out of interest, what did you get me?

A - It doesn't matter, you wouldn't have liked it anyway.

B - Probably not. Good job it's not really my birthday.

2.

A - Carrots.

B - What?

A - Carrots, can you chop the carrots?

B - There is an easier way to ask, you know. Rather than just barking orders.

A - Is there? Well funnily enough, after extensive research from knowing you this long, I have come to the conclusion that orders are the only thing you'll actually respond to.

B - Are you going to be like this the entire time?

A - I don't know, it depends how much you annoy me.

B - I'm not trying to annoy you!

A - Then congratulations, we've found something you can do effortlessly. Carrots!

B - Look, this situation isn't ideal for me either. I didn't ask for this to happen.

A - Don't recycle lines from our break-up, that's just insulting.

B - But this is what needs to be done. It's only for a little while, I'll be out of your hair as soon as this all dies down.

A - You keep saying that, and yet you're still here! If the "situation" needs any help to die down outside then somebody hand me a fucking shotgun.

B - How about instead of being childish, and petty, and cruel to each other, we try to build bridges, yeah? How about instead of constantly flinging shit at each other we try and put our past behind us just for the time being and focus on the bigger picture. We're going to be stuck together for a while, whether we like it or not. Don't you think it would be easier for both of us if we actually tried to get along?

A - Maybe.

B - Maybe.

A - Carrots.

