



StoneCrabs

MEDIA RELEASE

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StoneCrabs Theatre receives lifeline grant from Government's £1.57 billion Culture Recovery Fund

StoneCrabs Theatre has been awarded a grant as part of the Government's £1.57 billion Culture Recovery Fund (CRF), the Culture Secretary has announced today, to help face the challenges of the coronavirus pandemic and to ensure they have a sustainable future.

StoneCrabs Theatre is one of 588 cultural and creative organisations across the country receiving urgently needed support – with £76 million of investment announced today. This follows £257 million awarded earlier in the week to 1,385 organisations, also from the Culture Recovery Fund grants programme being administered by Arts Council England on behalf of the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport. Further rounds of funding in the cultural and heritage sector are due to be announced over the coming weeks.

This grant means that StoneCrabs Theatre will be able to continue employing freelance artists, thus retaining key skills and expertise. It will enable the company to continue shining a light on hidden stories, delivering bold, socially engaged theatre and placing under-represented voices centre stage. Their flagship training programme for emerging theatre directors from diverse background - which since 2006 has launched the successful creative lives of many young artists - will be able to continue. Over the next months, StoneCrabs Theatre will be able to further embrace new technologies and progress with R&D, main productions, youth training, community engagement programmes, international collaborations and online events.

Including:

Out On An Island - An oral history project celebrating 100 years of the LGBTQ+ community in the Isle of Wight. The project will culminate with a book published early 2021 and an exhibition at Quay Arts, Newport.

StoneCrabs Young Directors Programme - Fully adapted to an online format and just completed after 4 months of intensive professional training, this project can now move

towards the planning and production phase for the Young Directors Hybrid (Online with a socially distant live audience) Festival in April 2021.

Heights of Divine Apathy - An international co-production with Japanese company Busu Theatre. Currently in the R&D online phase, the final production will be performed in Japan, Isle of Wight, London and Edinburgh in 2021.

StoneCrabs Theatre is also planning to pilot a new training project for young theatre makers in the Isle of Wight, and will be making an announcement about this new initiative in the coming months.

Culture Secretary Oliver Dowden said:

“This is more vital funding to protect cultural gems across the country, save jobs and prepare the arts to bounce back. Through Arts Council England we are delivering the biggest ever investment in the arts in record time. Hundreds of millions of pounds are already making their way to thousands of organisations.

“These awards build on our commitment to be here for culture in every part of the country.”

Chair, Arts Council England, Sir Nicholas Serota, said:

“Culture is an essential part of life across the country, helping to support people’s wellbeing through creativity and self-expression, bringing communities together, and fuelling our world class creative industries.

“This latest set of awards from the Culture Recovery Fund builds on those announced recently and will help hundreds of organisations to survive the next few months, ensuring that the cultural sector can bounce back after the crisis. We will continue doing everything we can to support artists and cultural and creative organisations, with further funding to be announced in the coming weeks.”

StoneCrabs Theatre Artistic Director, Franko Figueiredo said:

“We are delighted to have been successful in our application to the Culture Recovery Fund. As a company made up of freelance theatre makers, the fund is a lifeline as it will enable us to continue employing our key workforce. Like many of our fellow theatre companies and peers, the past seven months have been incredibly difficult and being one of the lucky ones makes us humble and immensely grateful.

We thank DCMS and Arts Council England for their support. The Culture Recovery Fund is securing the future of StoneCrabs Theatre, helping us through these challenging times and ensuring that we can continue engaging with diverse art makers, communities and participants in the short to medium terms and for years to come”.

ENDS

ACE Boilerplate for notes to editors:

Arts Council England is the national development agency for creativity and culture. We have set out our strategic vision in [Let's Create](#) that by 2030 we want England to be a country in which the creativity of each of us is valued and given the chance to flourish and where everyone of us has access to a remarkable range of high quality cultural experiences. We invest public money from Government and The National Lottery to help support the sector and to deliver this vision. www.artscouncil.org.uk

Following the Covid-19 crisis, the Arts Council developed a £160 million **Emergency Response Package**, with nearly 90% coming from the National Lottery, for organisations and individuals needing support. We are also one of several bodies administering the Government's **Culture Recovery Fund** and unprecedented support package of £1.57 billion for the culture and heritage sector. Find out more at www.artscouncil.org.uk/covid19