

MEDIA RELEASE

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Update on Stellar Quines Creative Scotland Regular Funding 2018 - 2021

Edinburgh based theatre company Stellar Quines, that have for over 25 years celebrated the value and diversity of women and girls, has secured their position as one of Creative Scotland's Regular Funding Organisation Portfolio 2018 – 2021.

The 3 year award of £409,333 represents a 22% cut to the company's regular funding level, and has been awarded to support 'the advocacy and sector support work of Stellar Quines' but does not extend to support the company's long term professional theatre productions.

As an award-winning company whose mission is to be *Scotland's leading theatre company, inspiring excellent in women in girls*, the reduction in Core resource in order to produce professional theatre and provide theatre opportunities for women is a disappointing outcome. The company will receive transition funding for the year 18/19 and it is understood that Stellar Quines will be able to apply to the new strategic touring fund from 2019.

As the only theatre company dedicated to women and girls we are committed to advocating for female creatives, artists, practitioners and crew and this funding is an essential and welcome resource. However, funding at this level and with these conditions will require a serious review of the company's artistic programme. Stellar Quines Board and team are currently in negotiation with Creative Scotland to determine how we will move forward in light of these changes.

We appreciate the RFO funding was over-subscribed and difficult decisions have been made. We congratulate our colleagues and peers who have been successful in securing RFO funding, and hope to nurture relationships with them. Equally we are aggrieved to hear of the losses to fellow companies in our sector.

Jemima Levick, Stellar Quines' joint Artistic Director | CEO had this to say of the news:

"In the light of the funding announcements across the sector we welcome Regular Funding. The reduction and conditions of the funding does however have an impact on the artistic ambition of the company, particularly in relation to our touring theatre production and professional opportunities for women in the sector. As a company we remain committed to advocating and supporting gender parity, particularly in the political climate we find ourselves in. We have some time of review and reflection ahead of us."

Jane Hogg, Stellar Quines' Chair of the Board had this to say of the news:

"The Stellar Quines team and Board worked hard on a Business Plan and application which reflected the artistic ambitions of the company's Artistic Director, Jemima Levick, and the needs of the sector and the company's audience. We welcome Regular Funding support but recognise this is not a level the company anticipated, or fully reflects its mission. We are working to support the Stellar Quines team at this time, and with Creative Scotland to seek an outcome."

ENDS

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Stellar Quines is an award winning Scottish theatre company that celebrates the value and diversity of women and girls by making brilliant theatre, provoking change, nurturing artists and empowering participation.

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The company achieves this through a year-round programme designed to excite and inspire the audiences and artists we work with that includes producing and touring world class performance, commissioning research, championing campaigns and delivering activities to support artist development and community engagement.

Rebecca Davis – Producer

Hannah Forsyth – Company Administrator

Catherine Grosvenor – Creative Learning Associate

Jemima Levick – Artistic Producer & CEO

Shirley Monteith – Marketing Associate