



Are you interested in hosting?

Since 2015, Lian Bell and Mermaid Arts Centre have been running Gap Day, a programme for freelance theatre artists to take paid days to dream, think and plan.

To date we have given 310 Gap Days to 153 artists in 27 counties across the island of Ireland. We're always interested in hearing from new potential hosts who can help spread the word locally. We are led by the artists – when they apply, they tell us where they would like to be hosted. So the more people who you tell locally, the greater chance that we'll be back in touch with you to arrange Gap Days!

To host at Gap Day artist, we are looking for:

- **A quiet room to for the artist to work in, ideally on their own.** (We have some budget to cover rental if need be, but every space offered by the host for free allows us to support more artists.)
- **A healthy packed lunch.** (We have €15 to cover that if you can't, or we can give the artist a lunch allowance. But it's always better when the host can arrange the lunch – it's an added touch of hospitality and is very appreciated by the artists.)
- **Someone to meet the artist and settle them in to their room on the day.**
- **If time allows, an informal introduction chat / cup of tea with a senior member of staff.**

In addition to this, each artist will receive from us:

- A €210 fee per Gap Day
- A series of facilitated online and offline gatherings from November-February, so the artists can meet each other, share thoughts and get inspiration. They'll be given a small stipend to cover their time to attend these.
- Access to an additional needs fund for people who need some extra support to be able to take their Gap Days, such as childcare.
- A small fee to pay an 'Artist Friend' – an inspiring person they want to engage with creatively – to have a chat on or around their Gap Day.
- Access to one-to-one online coaching and planning sessions.

If you'd be able to host, thank you! Let us know whether you can offer the room and/or lunch for free, and we'll hopefully be back in touch to arrange dates once the applications have been processed.

Thank you from Lian, Julie and all the team at Mermaid Arts Centre.

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"In the days after my Gap Day, I started to realise how profound an experience it had been. It allowed me to make space, not just for creative work, but for my creative spirit. It was really nurturing to be released from time pressure and to reconnect with the heart of what I do and why I love it. In an extremely challenging time, it helped me to trust that this is who I am and this is what I need to do."