

OPEN CALL

ROOTS & ROUTES

PERFORMING ARTS FOR
YOUNG AUDIENCES
RESIDENCY LAB
DENMARK

ROOTS & ROUTES is a new four-year Danish/international residency program aimed at artists creating performing arts for children and young audiences, supported by the Danish Arts Foundation.

The overall program is a collaboration between five organizations/venues: [Teaterhuset Filuren](#), [Aaben Dams](#), [Teater Hund](#), [Syddjurs Egnsteater](#), and [ASSITEJ Denmark](#).

This cross-national collaboration between organizations with different artistic profiles will draw on diverse experiences and different networks to develop shared practices.

ROOTS & ROUTES' four residencies take an exploratory approach to the following questions: How do we create pathways for new voices? Which concepts and understandings of artistic quality are at play? What view of children are we using as our lens here?

In May 2027, 14 to 27, the first ROOTS & ROUTES residency explores the theme:

"Working With Children"

Throughout the residency, selected artists will be supported to investigate different ways of collaborating, co-creating and consulting with children in the development of performance. Rather than promoting a single methodology, the residency will create space for artists to test and reflect on different approaches, and to consider how working with children might shape both their creative processes and the work itself. It is intended for artists from across disciplines who are interested in making performance and who want to deepen or develop their thinking around the different ways children can participate in its creation.

The residency will be facilitated by Scotland-based performance-maker Eoin McKenzie, whose practice brings together participatory approaches, choreography and live art to create performances with professional and non-professional performers across generations. As Artistic Director of Guesthouse Projects, he has extensive experience developing performance through collaborative processes with children and adults, with a particular interest in how participation can shape both the process and form of a work.

Residency Structure:

The residency will unfold as a shared process of enquiry, moving between reflection, exchange, practical experimentation and making. We will begin by examining the ideas and assumptions about childhood that each of us brings into the room – shaped by our own experiences, cultural contexts and artistic practice – and consider how these influence the ways we imagine children as collaborators, participants and audiences. From there, artists will share aspects of their existing practices and individual research questions, using these as starting points for a series of practical provocations and cross-disciplinary experiments.

This enquiry will then move into a series of encounters and workshops with children ages 8 to 12. Rather than treating these workshops as a single point of consultation, time will be built into the residency to reflect collectively on what happened: what surprised us, what resisted our expectations, what changed, and what questions emerged. Artists will then be able to develop, adapt and return to their propositions through further encounter with the children, allowing the work to evolve interactively through action, reflection and response.

The final phase of the residency will create space for artists to draw together what has emerged through individual and collaborative making. Rather than working towards finished pieces, artists will consider how these encounters might begin to alter their artistic process, methodologies and the forms of work they make, before sharing emerging practices, discoveries and questions with others as a part of [ILT Festival 2027](#), [ILT Academy](#).

Objectives

The residency aims to:

- Explore working with children in an artistic, methodical, and practical approach through provocations, structured sessions and workshops with children.
- Create a shared space for artistic experimentation, reflection, peer-to-peer exchange across disciplines and cultural contexts and practices.
- Create a framework and opportunity for artistic development with an interdisciplinary focus
- Show that performing arts for children and young people encompasses a wide range of perspectives, formats, and artistic expressions

When applying this will be our key questions:

- What is your interest in collaborating with children in your work?
- How can working with children impact both you, your artistic output and the children?
- What do you hope to achieve from this residency: what questions do you wish to explore and what discoveries do you hope to have?

Our curatorial principles will be: To foster and promote new voices within the field, across age groups. Challenging existing narratives and conventions within the field. Genre diversity. An international perspective.

Structure:

- Application will close Thursday 15th of October 2026.
- All artists will receive an answer on their application no later than November 15, 2026.
- The residency will host three Danish-based and three European/Nordic-Baltic regional based artists.
- The residency will take place between 14-27th of May 2027, in Aarhus, Denmark.
- Online-meetings between artist(s), host-organization producer, artistic director and the facilitator prior to the residency to plan and to clarify expectations for the residency.

- The residency will be led and facilitated by Eoin McKenzie guiding individual and/or collaborative exploration of the artistic research questions posed by the selected artists.
- The residency can facilitate artistic work/practice with a group of children and/or one child within the age-group 8-12 years, in timeslots of up to three hours including breaks, and in three to four days of the residency.
- Cross-disciplinary exchange through shared methods and artistic experimentation
- Perspectives from 'outside' the artistic sphere, excursions, individual/collective artistic research, and working towards the development of a shared presentation for industry professionals and others interested in the overall residency-theme as a part of [ILT-festival 2027](#)
- Photo/video in part of the research, and video-interviews with dissemination partner ASSITEJ DK, to secure the residency programs aim to share practice and knowledge more widely than artists in the residency.

Requirements:

- Be from, live in/work in a European or Nordic-Baltic Country.
- Work professionally with performing arts for young audiences.
 - Performing, writing, directing, producing, choreographing, etc.
- Be eligible to travel and available for the duration of the residency dates.
- Be able to participate in English language
- Be able to present Children's certificate if chosen for residency
- Be able to invoice (either privately or through a company)

As part of the residency, we offer:

- An artistic fee of 17.000 DKK for the entire stay
- Travel and accommodation
 - Flight, trains, hostel and transport to/from the airport and stations.
 - Public transportation in Aarhus in relation to the residency's program.
 - Breakfast and lunch will be included in the accommodation, and per diems if/when joint dinners are not a part of the program.
- Tickets to events as part of the residency.

The facilitator of the residency in Aarhus

Eoin McKenzie is a Glasgow-based performance maker and Artistic Director of Guesthouse Projects. His work draws on choreography, live art and participatory practice to make formally ambitious performances concerned with how we live together. His practice focuses on how performance can operate as a civic and propositional space - unearthing modes of being together that rehearse our collective existence. Often bringing together professional and non-professional performers, children and adults in shared processes, his work explores collectivity, care, play and the politics - and poetics - of sharing space. His debut work, *The Show for Young Men*, has toured across the UK and internationally, including Southbank Centre, NOTTDANCE and Krokusfestival, and has been remade in Denmark with AabenDans and Artishock in Kazakhstan. Recent research includes a British Council-supported residency with Kuitolil Festival in Mexico, where he worked with local child and adult dancers to explore the choreographic potential of Jack

Halberstam's conception of 'wilding'. He is currently developing *People Dancing*, a new intergenerational performance made with residents of Easterhouse, Glasgow, through an ongoing process begun in 2022.

Hosting partner of the first ROOTS & ROUTES residency:

Teaterhuset Filuren is a theatre house specializing in performing arts for children and young audiences. It combines artistic excellence with educational outreach, offering workshops and interactive experiences that encourage youth participation in the arts. Filuren is a professional theatre and runs after school theatre classes for more than 700 children and youths, an extensive in-school programme where Filuren's specialized theatre and dance pedagogues facilitates a wide range of workshops in schools – as well as a two-year talent programme for 16-25 year olds with a possibility for a one year extension, for those seeking for admittance in stage art schools in Denmark and abroad – a programme that every year's gathering 36 young people in the frame of the professional theatre.

Teaterhuset Filuren has been producing artistic work for young audiences since 1972.

We are committed to children and young people's:

... space, agency, and access to influence cultural institutions aimed at them

... space, agency, and access to equality with adults – as individuals and group, in the conversation, and within the arts and societal structures

More general information on [the ROOTS & ROUTES program here](#).

If you have any questions regarding the ROOTS & ROUTES residency, Aarhus May 2027 please contact Teaterhuset Filuren at: teater@filuren.dk, mark your email "R&R" in the subject field.

APPLY HERE

Partners' websites: [Teaterhuset Filuren](#), [Aaben Dans](#), [Syddjurs Egnsteater](#), [Teater Hund](#), [ASSISTEJ Danmark](#)

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