



**PQ**  
**2019**

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**Call for Applications:**  
Performance Space  
Architecture Exhibition  
**OUR THEATRE  
OF THE WORLD**

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OUR THEATRE OF THE WORLD

The Prague Quadrennial of Performance Design and Space invites proposals for the Performance Space Architecture Exhibition, *Our Theatre of the World* that will take place in Prague, 6-16 June 2019. Proposals are accepted from **all types of applicants**, including but not limited to curators of Countries and Regions, performing arts venues, individual architects and designers, community and festival organizers, etc... Eligible projects should be realized anytime after 1 January 2011.

**CURATOR:** Andrew Todd

**DATES:**

- Call Published: 30 November 2017
- Deadline for Proposals: 31 May 2018
- Announcement of Selection: 31 August 2018
- 14th Edition of Prague Quadrennial: 6-16 June 2019

**TO SUBMIT APPLICATIONS:**

The submission form can be accessed at the following link:

<https://tinyurl.com/pqarchapplication>

Form should be completed and video emailed (or sent via WeTransfer or similar provider) as an MP4 file to **call@pq.cz** with subject line: OUR THEATRE OF THE WORLD with file title including the name of organization or individual submitting, the project name, and the country in which the project occurred in the following format:  
organization/individual.projectname.country.mp4

**COPYRIGHT:**

By submitting to Our Theatre of the World you grant permission to the Prague Quadrennial to reproduce, edit, and display the video in any way it desires, whether for promotion, retrospectives, or archives, etc... in perpetuity. Applicants must have secured the rights to submit the film and must grant these permissions. All other rights reserved.

All projects are obligated to secure all author's rights and copyrights for all components (design, video materials, music, text, etc...) that will be utilized as part of their performances, and guarantees that PQ organizers will not be held responsible for any claims made by third parties.

**PLEASE NOTE:**

- Production expenses are covered by the participants; PQ will provide the apparatus and formatting for display to fit into overall exhibition aesthetic.
- **While as many as possible of the projects meeting the submission requirements will be displayed, only 3-5 projects will have representation from their team invited to PQ to expand on their projects.**
- All other participants wishing to attend PQ will need to self-fund all expenses, including travel, accommodation, per diem, etc...

**ABOUT PQ:**

Organized by the Ministry of Culture of the Czech Republic and realized by the Arts and Theatre Institute, the Prague Quadrennial of Performance Design and Space is the largest international exhibition and festival event dedicated to scenography, performance design and theatre architecture. Since 1967 PQ has been an exchange, networking and educational platform exploring the best works in scenography and design for performance through exhibitions, festivals, workshops, performances, symposia, educational events and residencies.

The last edition of this international performance design event in 2015 was held at more than 30 venues, featured more than 500 live performances with over 180,000 visitors, and was named one of the twelve most trend-setting European festivals in the prestigious EFFE Awards. Individual exhibitions of countries and regions were organized by some of the most important cultural organizations from over 75 countries, including ministries of culture, art and theatre institutions, as well as international festivals, theatre companies and prestigious theatre and visual arts schools.

**CURATOR:**

**Andrew Todd** is an architect, writer and musician. He studied at Cambridge and Penn and has run his eponymous practice in Paris and London since 2004. He wrote the book *The Open Circle – Peter Brook’s Theatre Environments* in collaboration with the great theatre director between 1996 and 2003 (when it was published by Faber). His practice has built and designed performance spaces for clients such as the Young Vic and Old Vic Theatres and the municipalities of Paris, Lausanne, Molde, Marseille, La Ciotat and Ris Orangis. The firm’s Hardelot Elizabethan Theatre was hailed on its completion in 2016 as ‘an architectural masterpiece... in the manner of the Bilbao Guggenheim, for a fraction of the cost’ (Le Moniteur). Chevalier des Arts et Lettres, winner of the Villa Kujoyama and 40 European Architects Under 40 Prizes, finalist for the Mies van der Rohe European Union Architecture Prize, Andrew has recently published the book *Common Sense: Building a World to Share*, and writes regularly about theatre for The Guardian.

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The world is the theatre of all actions, such as the unfolding ecological crisis, which affects us all both globally and intimately, in the air we breathe and in the fragile soil under our feet. Each and every theatre is -in some sense- an attempt to model this world, to present it in miniature, in real time, for a group of witnesses gathered locally. PQ 2019 invites you to present to the world your space for performance - whether it is an expensive new facility, a modest adapted space or an ephemeral environment.

Our premise is that the act of performing is both universal and local. The theatre is a global phenomenon, traditions and texts flowing and jumping across political and geographical borders with total abandon. Specific, 'pure' traditions are often tied to regions (or even villages) rather than nation-state structures and identities. Languages -which often correspond to national borders- are themselves open to exchange, porous to works in translation.

Space for performance, the vessel which resonates more or less well with these traditions, is -by definition- longer-lasting, slower-moving than the texts, movements and actions it is intended to house. Does this mean that it should sink to a globalised common denominator, a one-size-fits-all paradigm? Or should it seek to respond to local conditions, appear and disappear in response to practice?

PQ 2019's architecture exhibition will examine these questions through stories -your stories- of the spaces you have made and make live. It will sidestep the nation-state structure as a template for a global discussion, and present a truly global panorama of actions ranging from the grass roots to the internationally-oriented. It aims to be a complete portrait of space for theatre, small or large, rich or poor, isolated or metropolitan, improvised or permanent.

Anybody can participate, whether you have built an opera house, a tiny community theatre or a site-specific, ephemeral setting for a single performance. The aim of the exercise is to bring all these global forces into dialogue on the same level: we all need to show, to tell stories, whether on the stage of a 200-million euro building or in a tin shack in a township. The 'you' addressed in this call may well be an architect and author of a space; or it could be the owner and self-builder of a tiny venue. But this 'you' is also plural: we will not accept entries in only one voice, **there must be a joint presentation of author and user, hence the title of this exhibition: 'OUR Theatre of the World.'** **The input of the audience is also recommended.**

- Andrew Todd, Curator

### **MEDIUM OF EXHIBITION:**

The medium of presentation is totally democratic: **a three to five-minute film** showing your space. This can be professionally produced or made with your smartphone. It must show the following narrative:

**Where** is your space? How does it relate to its social and physical context?

**Why** was it made? Who willed it, who paid for it, who operates it, and according to what range of needs and desires?

**What** is your space? What are its components, its physical conditions?

**How** is it used? This must be related by a scenographer, performer or director actually animating the space, speaking from experience.

### **EXHIBITION LOGISTICS:**

The videos will be organized for exhibition on merit, theme and diversity, although the expectation is that the widest possible selection will be presented in a specific, made-to-measure spatial context responding to this theme. There will be specific requirements for formatting: additional text and titles may be added by PQ according to a general format. **You are encouraged to present the space in your own language, but English subtitles must be included on all non-English dialogue.** In order to facilitate this, you are asked to submit three separate deliverables:

- A formatted film with titles and English subtitles
- A 'raw' film without titles or subtitles at the same resolution and aspect ratio
- A descriptive text containing key facts and the script of your film in its original language and English translation.

Up to five projects will be selected for more thorough presentation, the protagonists invited to PQ 2019 with further documentation and objects related to their space. There will be -as a result- a global conversation about space for theatre.

The projects will be also made available through the PQ website after the exhibition, in a specific interactive format.

The submission form can be accessed at the following link:

<https://tinyurl.com/pqarchapplication>

All deliverables should be saved with file title including the name of organization or individual submitting, the project name, and the country in which the project occurred

1. The completed application form should be saved as "organization.application.pdf"  
Please note no handwritten forms will be accepted.
2. The formatted film should be saved as "organization.formattedfilm.mp4"
3. The "raw" film should be saved as "organization.rawfilm.mp4"
4. Additional text and script should be saved as "organization.text.pdf"

Deliverables should be sent in a single email (or sent via WeTransfer or similar provider) to **call@pq.cz** with subject line: OUR THEATRE OF THE WORLD.



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The Prague Quadrennial strives to present performance design as an art form concerned with the creation of active performance environments, that are far beyond merely decorative or beautiful, but that are emotionally charged; where design can become a quest, a question, an argument, a threat, a resolution, or an agent of positive change...Performance design is a collaborative field where the artists mix, fuse, and blur the lines between various disciplines to search for new approaches and new visions.

This edition of the Prague Quadrennial is inspired by PQ's highest prize, the Golden Triga. Three different forces coming together to pull the chariot driven by Nike, the goddess of victory, stand proudly atop the roof of the National Theatre, reminding all that creating performance is an act of collaboration where all talents combine their strengths to achieve much more than any individual could ever accomplish alone.

The three horses pulling the chariot symbolize the three stages of human life: youth's wild instinct and intuition, the experience of adulthood, and the wisdom of age. We will use the metaphor of the Golden Triga to explore these points of view, three areas connected with the cyclical phases of the creative process:

**Imagination, Transformation, Memory.**

- Markéta Fantová, Artistic Director PQ2019



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