ATHE Directing FG Debut Panel CFP 2023: Debut Panel Gallery Walk Session

Overview:

In the spirit of building from the rubble with care and connection at the epicenter, the Directing FG proposes to restructure our Debut Panel from a 2-3 participant panel model to a 10+ participant gallery walk model.

We hope the new model will achieve these aims:

1. Give more new and emerging directors a platform to share their work and process.
2. Give participants at ATHE an opportunity to see amazing work and processes by new directors and chat with them one-on-one in a designated space.
3. Give established directors the opportunity to give back to the Directing FG community by mentoring new directors during the sharing session at ATHE.
    a. Hiring managers/producers/artistic directors as well as experienced directors are invited to share their expertise in this non-hierarchical, informal, low-time-commitment “gallery walk” session at ATHE.

The CFP (Call For Participants) is twofold:

1. We are looking for **emerging directors** to apply to participate. Participation will include sharing a 60-second video of a directing project or process ahead of the conference to be screened during the conference, as well as attending the conference session in person to speak 1-1 with attendees about your work (Application HERE).
    a. This is an application to participate. Entries will be adjudicated by the Directing FG leadership to curate a rich and diverse panel of up to **ten** emerging directors that:
        i. Showcases theatre products that are innovative, step outside of norms, or otherwise breakdown hierarchy.
        ii. Highlights theatre processes that are innovative, daring, or different from how theatre has been directed up to now.
        iii. Prioritizes historically excluded groups and themes in the work and process.
        iv. Considers who would benefit the most from receiving feedback from established directors and showcasing their work to ATHE at large as part of this gallery/panel.
    b. Directors invited to participate will be informed of the success of their application on or before April 1st, 2023. *Selected directors must commit to participate by April 15th, 2023.*

2. We are also looking for **established directors**, artistic directors, hiring managers, and producers to commit to attend the in-person session at ATHE to provide 1-1 feedback to the gallery walk panelists (Pledge to Participate HERE).
    a. This is a pledge to participate. Those who sign up will receive email communication with details about the date and location of the in-person session, as well as details about the participants' work ahead of the conference.

Additional Details:

Who can apply to present?

- Any graduate student/early career/emerging director who has not presented with the Directing FG at ATHE before can apply to participate (Application HERE).
- Any experienced director who is a member of the Directing FG or ATHE at large can commit to attend the 1-1 session at ATHE to provide feedback to emerging directors (Pledge to Participate HERE).

What is the process?

- Step One: Apply to participate. *A video is not required at this stage.*
- Step Two: Selected participants will submit:
    - A link to an unlisted 60-second video that showcases a recently completed directing project, a directing process they have recently undertaken, or other recent directing work that fits within the context of the Directing FG.
    - a written script of a 1-3 minute "elevator pitch" of their project or process, which participants will share 1-1 with attendees of the in-person session at ATHE.
- Step Three: The Directing FG will curate a repository of the videos and contact information for the directors who created them. The link to this database may be shared publicly with all ATHE participants in the weeks leading up to the conference.
- Step Four: Selected participants will attend one pre-conference Zoom meeting to talk through ways they can promote this ATHE session, answer questions about first-time ATHE participation, and connect with other emerging directors ahead of the conference. The date and time of this Zoom session will be scheduled after participants are selected to best suit the schedules of all involved.
- Step Five: Selected participants attend an in-person scheduled session at ATHE (the Directing FG Debut Panel) where they will present their work in a gallery setting and engage in 1-1 discourse with established directors and participants of ATHE.
    - The videos will be edited into one long video and shared on a loop with low volume on a projection screen during the ATHE session.
    - Participants will be provided with one chair. Tables, WiFi, power, and A/V support MAY NOT be provided - the facilitators will communicate with participants ahead of time to manage expectations around resources.

- The focus of the in-person session is on participants dialoguing with session participants about their work and process. Presentation of work beyond the 60-second videos should keep in mind the tech limitations of the conference. 1-1 presentation of work could look like an old-fashioned poster presentation, a personal device playing your video without sound, or sitting with business cards and a portfolio. Choose your own adventure, but be aware of tech limitations in the room!
- If selected, please feel free to reach out and troubleshoot with us about how you can best showcase your work with limited technology support.

What are the important dates?

- Application to participate: March 1st at 11:59pm EST
- Participants Selected and Notified: on or before April 1st
- Selected Participants commit to participate: on or before April 15th
- Videos & Elevator pitches: due June 1st
- Pre-conference Zoom session: TBC - during the month of July
- Live session at ATHE: TBC - August 3rd-6th in Austin, Texas

Where is the conference held?

- Austin, TX Aug 3rd-6th
- Session Time & Location TBC

What else should I keep in mind?

- Due to tech limitations at the conference and the 1-1 nature of the session, in-person participation is required.
- Selected participants are responsible for obtaining consent from all involved parties to share their work as part of this panel.
- Selected participants are responsible for submitting a working link to a hosted video that can be shared publicly before and during the conference.

How do I apply?

- Fill out this application (LINK: https://forms.gle/V2KAX1udVXBt6jvN9) before April 1st, 2023 at 11:59pm EST to apply to participate as an **emerging director**.
- Fill out this pledge to participate (LINK: https://forms.gle/6PeqtTF9f4cvNZ2k8) to pledge to participate as an **established director**.