



## ***Blood Beats: First Press***

Blood Beats is back – and with a brand-new model!

Blood Beats is a trans-led, interdisciplinary space for LGBTQ+ writers and artists to come together, find community and develop their craft. And this time, we're doing things a bit differently.

Introducing... **Blood Beats: First Press!**

We're looking for **12 LGBTQ+ artists/writers** to join us for **8 fortnightly sessions** in which we will work together to produce the first ever **Blood Beats Zine**. If you don't know – a zine (short for magazine or fanzine) is a small, self-published work that can be made up of text, images and/or artwork. It's an innovative, collaborative, DIY way to produce and circulate creative work.

We will discover the subject and themes of the zine together and support each other with feedback and discussion as we work on its content. We will be joined by industry guests with specialist knowledge of zine making and printing to help us on our way – and work towards a **launch event** where we will release our zine to the world!

### **PROGRAMME DETAILS**

The programme will take place over 8 sessions, running from October 2024 to February 2025. The group will meet on a **Wednesday, from 7-9pm at the Box of Tricks Office at the Yard in Cheetham Hill**. The group will be facilitated by queer writers and Box of Tricks Associates Conway McDermott and Billie Collins.

The programme dates are as follows:

30<sup>th</sup> October

13<sup>th</sup> November

27<sup>th</sup> November

4<sup>th</sup> December

15<sup>th</sup> January

29<sup>th</sup> January

12<sup>th</sup> February  
26<sup>th</sup> February

You must be able to attend **at least 6 of these dates** in order to join the programme.

### **ELIGIBILITY**

In order to apply for First Press, you must:

- Be at least 16 years old. There is no upper age limit.
- Identify as LGBTQ+.
- Be able to commit to at least 6 of the sessions, ideally in person.
- You do not have to be based in Greater Manchester, but you must be able to travel to the Yard in Cheetham Hill. We will be able to cover reasonable travel expenses.

### **HOW DO I APPLY?**

To apply, first **read the FAQs below, then apply via our online Application Form**. This form will ask you for some personal details and answers to the following questions:

- Tell us a bit about yourself – whether as a person, or as an artist - or both. We want to get to know YOU. (150 words.)
- Why do you want to take part in Blood Beats: First Press? What do you hope to get out of the programme? (150 words.)

We will also accept responses to these questions in **video or voice note format** (files accepted: mp3, wav, aiff, mp4, wma, wmv, mpg, flv, avi, mov – maximum 50mb).

The application window will open on **Friday 27<sup>th</sup> October**. The deadline for application is **12:00pm (midday) on Friday 11<sup>th</sup> October**.

### **FAQs**

#### **What happens after I apply?**

The applications will be read, and the group will be selected by Conway, Billie, and the Box of Tricks team. We will look to create a diverse collective of artists from a range of backgrounds and with a variety of experience. We will prioritise people who have encountered barriers to accessing similar opportunities.

We will inform all applicants of the outcome of their application **on or before Friday 18<sup>th</sup> October**.

#### **What if I can't attend in person?**

The sessions will take place at the Box of Tricks office at the Yard in Manchester. Participants will be expected to make their own way to and from the sessions. To foster a sense of community in the group, participants will ideally attend as many sessions in person as possible. However, we recognise that other commitments/circumstances (e.g., work, childcare, access needs) might mean that in person attendance is not always possible. In these instances, we will try and make attendance possible via Zoom.

#### **Will you cover my travel expenses?**

If needed, we can cover reasonable travel expenses to allow you to access the programme.

**Do I have to have made a Zine before? Do I have to be a writer?**

No! You do not have to have any prior experience of zine making, writing, art or publishing. You do not need to be a writer. You might be an illustrator/visual artist/photographer/poet – but you might be none of these things. We are interested in meeting people who are excited about trying something new and stretching their creative muscles.

**The new model is exciting, but what about the existing Blood Beats group?**

The broader Blood Beats community and WhatsApp group will still exist and be invited to mixers, shows and events. We're hoping a project-based approach with a focused group will give artists space to develop specific skills and to produce something together. Members of the existing group and WhatsApp are very welcome to apply to First Press, as is anyone who has never engaged with Blood Beats before.

Everyone who does First Press will be welcomed into the broader Blood Beats community – giving them access to the group Whatsapp, invitations to group events and the PlayMakers mailing list.

**Due to a sensory impairment I can't complete the online application form. Is there another way for me to apply?**

Yes! We welcome applications in any format that works for you. Just drop us an email at [playmakers@boxoftrickstheatre.co.uk](mailto:playmakers@boxoftrickstheatre.co.uk) and we can discuss your access requirements and find the best mode of submission for you and your work.

**I have specific access needs. Will these be accommodated if I am selected as one of the participants?**

The programme will be as accessible as possible. We will ask you to outline any access needs ahead of the programme and will endeavour to ensure they are met.

**I have a question that hasn't been answered here.**

Please do send it to [playmakers@boxoftrickstheatre.co.uk](mailto:playmakers@boxoftrickstheatre.co.uk) and we'll get back to you ASAP.