



ALBA | CHRUTHACHAIL

**LOTTERY FUNDED**

## Casting Call

Emma Ruse Productions, in Association with Stellar Quines, Surge and Manipulate are casting for an upcoming Research & Development of a new show by Sarah Farrell about the life of Elke Mackenzie, a prolific lichen researcher and trans woman. This project will be directed by Caitlin Skinner.

We're looking for 2/3 performers of any age who are:

- Skilled in devising, movement and audience interaction.
- Based within commuting distance of Edinburgh and Glasgow.
- Drag and/or cabaret experience is a bonus but **not essential**.

Given the subject matter of the show, we encourage submissions from performers who identify as LGBTQIA+, gender non-conforming and especially Trans women and Femmes.

**Submission Deadline: 25<sup>th</sup> November at 12pm (noon).**

After an initial shortlisting stage, performers may be invited to in-person workshop auditions.

These will be held in Edinburgh (venue TBC) on **6<sup>th</sup> December 2024**. These will last 90 minutes.

### The Project:

This will be a 2-week R&D including a 20/30 minute work-in-progress sharing as part of Manipulate Festival 2025.

#### Project Dates:

- R&D week 1: 13<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> January 2025
- Rehearsals for Manipulate Sharing: Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> and Friday 14<sup>th</sup> February
- Work-in-progress sharing at Manipulate: Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> February
- R&D week 2: 3<sup>rd</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> March 2025

These dates will take place across Edinburgh and Glasgow (exact venues tbc). Travel support is available.

**Project Fee: £1893.98**

Which breaks down to:

- £620/week x 2 R&D weeks
- £150/day x 3 days for Manipulate rehearsals and sharing
- £203.98 of Holiday Pay at 12.07%

## The Idea:

The project will be a devised, interactive piece of theatre exploring the life and work of pioneering lichenologist Elke Mackenzie. Born in London in 1911, before swiftly being moved to Edinburgh, Mackenzie was one of the foremost researchers in a field most of us never think twice about: lichen. Lichen's existence in the liminal space between multiple organisms offers a perfect metaphor for a theatrical exploration of gender and nature.

As a prolific lichen researcher and Trans woman who came out in the 1960s, Mackenzie's personal and professional lives are a testament to bravery, curiosity and wonderment. The show will transcend a biographic retelling of Mackenzie's life, drawing the audience through her microscope and into a queer lichen cabaret where questions of legacy, the queerness of nature and Trans joy are explored and challenged. Like lichen, it will exist at the meeting point of several forms: live micro-cinema/projection, dance, drag, cabaret, audience participation and live music.

## How to Apply:

To apply please **fill out our google form** ([linked here](#)) with the following:

- Your acting CV (this may be a link to your Spotlight profile).
- Video of you performing, if you have any. Please include a link to this (max 5 mins).
- Any access requirements.

Submissions close on **Monday 25<sup>th</sup> November at 12pm (noon)**

All applicants will be notified of the outcome of their application by **Friday 29<sup>th</sup> November** prior to workshop auditions on the **6<sup>th</sup> December**.

We welcome and encourage applications from people of the Global Majority, Disabled and neurodivergent people, working class people, LGBTQIA+ and those who are under-represented in the arts.

Given the subject matter of the show, we encourage submissions from performers who identify as LGBTQIA+, gender non-conforming and especially Trans women and Femmes.

*Please note that some of the archival research material used in the making process will include misgendering, dead-naming and transphobia. These will not be the focus of our work, nor will they be part of the audition stage but if you have any concerns or queries at this stage, please do let us know and we will be happy to chat.*

If you have any questions, require this information in a different format, or would prefer to ask or discuss anything over the phone or video call, please email [emma@emmaruse.com](mailto:emma@emmaruse.com)

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