BODY POLITIC

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Composer Commission- No Place

Freelance commission | Fixed fee: £3,000

About Body Politic

Body Politic is an Oxford-based, female-led hip hop dance theatre charity, creating ambitious performance work, developing artists and opening up opportunities for young people to engage with hip hop culture.

We are looking to commission a composer to collaborate with choreographer and director Emma-Jane Greig on the creation of an original score for *No Place*, a new full-length hip hop dance theatre production premiering at the University of Oxford's Schwarzman Centre for the Humanities in May 2027.

1. About the work: NO PLACE

No Place is a bold new hip hop dance theatre work about collapse, connection and hope.

In a world that feels increasingly uncertain, what does it mean to imagine something better?

Three performers enter an ever-shifting landscape where nothing stays fixed. Driven by the desire to find something beyond the present, they search for a place where things might be different- a utopia. But as their visions emerge, unravel and break apart, the physical world around them begins to change.

Through explosive physicality, intricate choreography and moments of intimacy, No Place explores what happens when the things we believe in begin to disappear. Bodies are pushed to their limits. Certainties fracture. Connection becomes both fragile and essential.

But perhaps utopia isn't a distant place waiting to be found.

Perhaps it exists in the moments we create together: in presence, in connection, in the possibility of seeing and being seen.

Created by Oxford-based choreographer and Artistic Director Emma-Jane Greig (EmJ), No Place brings the energy and vocabulary of hip hop dance theatre into conversation with questions about how we live, imagine and belong.

2. The commission: creation of an original score

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We are looking for a composer to work closely with Em-J to develop and create an original score for *No Place*.

The music will play an integral role in shaping the world of the production, working in dialogue with the choreography, movement and dramaturgy. We are interested in creating a distinctive sonic landscape that can move between the unsettling and the hopeful, the intimate and the expansive.

The score should explore the tension between utopia and dystopia, collapse and possibility, isolation and connection. We are particularly interested in the use of sound, texture and layering to create atmosphere, build tension and support the physical energy of the work.

An important element of the creative process will be incorporating words and phrases drawn from 16 interviews gathered during the research and development period. These recordings will provide a human voice within the soundscape. We are interested in experimenting with the distortion, manipulation and layering of these voices, creating moments where spoken language becomes texture, rhythm and musical material.

We are looking for a composer who is curious and open to experimentation, and who understands the relationship between music, movement and storytelling.

We welcome approaches that draw on hip hop, electronic music, sound design and other contemporary musical influences. We are interested in hearing how you might interpret and respond to the themes and creative direction of the work, rather than prescribing a fixed musical style.

Creative approach

The composer will:

- Collaborate with EmJ throughout the creation process, developing musical ideas in response to the evolving choreography and dramaturgy.
- Create an original score that supports the overall world, atmosphere, pace and emotional journey of the production.
- Experiment with recorded interview material, including the manipulation, distortion and layering of voices.
- Develop and refine musical material in response to feedback from the choreographer and creative team.
- Attend agreed in-person creative sessions and production rehearsals in Oxford.
- Edit, mix and master the final score, delivering production-ready audio files.

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Creative reference

A short work-in-progress video is available to provide an introduction to the movement language and emerging world of the production:

Watch the No Place work-in-progress film

Sound references used in work-in-progress

3. Additional commission: short digital assets

Alongside the theatrical score, the commission includes the creation of a short audio element for three digital assets, which will be used as promotional material for the show.

This will involve the manipulation, distortion and layering of selected voices and phrases from the research interviews, working with three pre-selected musical tracks.

The three assets will be supplied with the relevant visual content and agreed creative direction.

Delivery deadline: 11th January 2027.

4. Timeline and working arrangements

The commission will take place across four creative periods, followed by the production and performance period.

The majority of the composition and editing work can be undertaken remotely. However, the composer will be expected to attend agreed in-person sessions in Oxford to work alongside Emma-Jane and the creative team.

Proposed schedule

Period	Dates	Working arrangements
Week 1	Monday 1 – Friday 5 March 2027	Initial creative development, musical exploration and composition. Three working days.
Week 2	Monday 12 – Friday 16 April 2027	Continued composition and development of the score. Two working days.
Week 3	Monday 19 – Friday 23 April 2027	Score development, choreography integration and revisions.
Week 4	Monday 26 – Friday 30 April 2027	Final composition, editing, mixing and preparation of performance materials.

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Production week	Wednesday 26 – Sunday 30 May 2027	Technical rehearsals and performances at the Schwarzman Centre, Oxford.

The composer will be required onsite for agreed technical rehearsals and performances. Exact attendance requirements and call times will be confirmed with the creative team.

Online creative check-ins will also be scheduled as part of the development process.

5. Fee and expenses

Total fixed commission fee: £3,000

The fee is based on a total allocation of 12 working days at £250 per day, comprising:

Commission	Allocation	Fee
Original theatrical score – composition, development, recording, editing and final delivery	11 days	£2,750
Three short digital assets – voice manipulation and editing	1 day	£250
Total	**12 days**	**£3,000**

The fee is inclusive of the composer's time for composition, recording, editing, mixing and delivery of the agreed final audio materials.

Travel expenses and per diems for agreed in-person working days and production attendance in Oxford will be covered separately by Body Politic, in accordance with an agreed expenses arrangement.

Any additional work outside the agreed commission scope will be discussed and agreed in advance, including any additional fee.

6. Deliverables

The composer will be expected to supply:

Theatrical score

- Original music and sound material for the production.
- Edited, mixed and mastered final audio files, ready for playback in performance (compatible/ mastered for Qlab software).
- Agreed individual cues and/or separate audio stems where required for the production.
- Final audio files in formats agreed with the production/technical team.

Digital assets

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- Edited and processed interview audio for use across three short digital assets.
- Final audio files supplied by 11th January 2027.

All materials will be delivered to Body Politic by agreed deadlines, in formats suitable for the intended use.

7. Who we are looking for

We are interested in hearing from composers and sound artists with a distinctive musical voice and an interest in collaborative, interdisciplinary practice.

You will ideally have:

- Experience composing original music for dance, theatre, performance or other moving-image / interdisciplinary work.
- An interest in hip hop culture and contemporary music, or an openness to working within a hip hop dance theatre context.
- Experience or an interest in electronic composition, sound design, sampling, recording and audio manipulation.
- An ability to work collaboratively and respond creatively to movement, choreography and storytelling.
- Confidence working independently, managing deadlines and delivering high-quality audio materials.
- An interest in exploring the relationship between music, spoken word and the human voice.

We welcome applications from composers at different stages of their careers. We are particularly interested in hearing from artists whose voices and experiences are underrepresented within the music and performing arts sectors.

8. How to apply

Please send the following by 30th November 2026:

1. **A short introduction** – tell us about yourself, your creative practice and why this commission interests you. This can be sent in writing or as an audio recording.
2. **Examples of your work** – 3-5 links to relevant compositions, sound design, recordings or previous collaborations. These do not need to be dance-specific.
3. **Your creative response** – a short paragraph or audio recording outlining how you might approach the musical world of *No Place*, including any initial ideas, influences or areas you would be interested in exploring.
4. **Your availability** – please clearly confirm your availability across the proposed creation and production periods.
5. **Your location** – let us know where you are based, particularly in relation to attending in-person sessions in Oxford.

We do not expect a fully developed musical proposal or unpaid sample composition as part of the application.

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Please send applications to: admin@bodypoliticdance.com

For any questions about the commission, please contact EmJ at artisticdirector@bodypoliticdance.com