

Cathy Waller Company: *Us*



Costume Design Brief

Cathy Waller Company (CWC) is embarking on its largest project to date and is looking for a Costume Designer to produce costumes for a unique dance-for-drone film, co-produced with students from Arts University Bournemouth, and a live performance work.

About the project

Based on several years worth of research that began with a commission from the Wellcome Trust in 2019, Cathy has collected hundreds of insights into and is exploring how the unseen can shape human interaction and how presumption and prejudice force exclusion.

Us began in 2019, as a public engagement research project facilitating 300+ people to express creatively how invisibility plays a role in their lives & how it impacts them daily. For 2023-24, we are exploring how the unseen can shape human interaction and how presumption and prejudice force exclusion. This project will experiment with how movement and sound can make the invisible be seen, heard and felt, in the most visible way possible, centre stage and through the lens.

We are making a suite of work for flexible programming opportunities, including a dance-for-drone film, an onstage choreographic work and an exhibition featuring an interactive element and work by a disabled photographer.

The Costume Designer will design costumes for the dance-for-drone film and the onstage choreographic work.

The dance-for-drone film

Working in partnership with Arts University Bournemouth, we will co-produce a contemporary dance film shot entirely on drones, up to 15 minutes in length and filmed in various locations around Bournemouth, Dorset. Working with a select number of students from the costume design course, hair & make-up, dance and film - our creative professional team will facilitate the students' engagement under Cathy's leadership.

The film will be pitched into the global film festival network and accompany the stage work and exhibition on a national tour.

Costumes will be androgynous, utilitarian and comfortable for the dancers to have their full range of movement. As we are filming in October we may need to consider layers and fabric type. The colour palette is yet to be determined but needs to be considered alongside the locations we're filming in and the shots we want to get.

We will need up to a maximum of 16 costumes (made up of 8 x professional dancers and 8 x AUB student dancers (tbc)).

You will collaborate with Cathy and the students to design creative and functional costumes in line with our timeframe. This will include:

- Attend the R&D days with students at AUB on Thursday 22nd and Friday 23rd June
- Facilitate at least one collaborative session with the students at the R&D days
- Facilitate independent workshops with the costume design students within the R&D, inline with the plans for the days
- Present the costumes for fittings during week one of the full-cast production
- Handover the costumes to the Company Manager and students to manage during the shoot weekend
- Attend production meetings as required
- Create, and collaborate with the students to create, sketches to present to Cathy for approval
- Produce the final designs

The Stage Work

The stage work is performed by professional dancers only and will be up to 50 minutes long. We'd like the costumes of the professional dancers to be transferable to the stage work, with enough texture to create interest under different lighting states.

We will need up to a maximum of 6 costumes, which may be transferable from the film.

You will return to the creative team to adapt the costumes as required for the stage, for the same cast. This might require any fixes, adjustments or adaptations, and will include:

- Attend production meetings as required
- Attend rehearsals to make any necessary changes to the existing costumes
- Handover the costumes to the Company Manager to manage for the performance weekend on Saturday 21st March 2024.

Timeline

The schedule for the project is as follows:

Us Dance-for-Drone			
Milestone	Dates	Activity	Location
Project kick off	Thurs 22nd & Fri 23rd June	Exploration days	AUB
Costume Creation period	July - August	Costume Designer to collaborate with students to create designs and test ideas, according to own schedule	Remote
Week 1	25th - 29th Sept	Creation with pro cast & dance students Costume parade & fittings	AUB
Week 2	2nd - 6th Oct	Creation with pro cast (no students needed)	London
Week 3	9th - 12th Oct	Production Week with students & full cast, various call times Hair & make-up rehearsal & screen tests	Bournemouth
Filming	13th - 15th Oct	Filming, full cast call, various call times	Bournemouth and various locations

Us Onstage			
Milestone	Dates	Activity	Location
	Jan/Feb 2024	Production meeting	Online/London
Creation period	19th Feb - 8th March	Dancers in creation and rehearsals	London
Production week	15th - 20th March	Tech and dress rehearsals	Rich Mix
Performance	21st March	Premier at RichMix	London

Fee

Delivery

R&D: 1 or 2 full days depending on availability @ £200 per day

Delivery fee (drone): 10 x full days @ £200 per day

Delivery fee (stage): 4 x full days @ £200 per day

Total fee: £2,600

Materials:

£1470

Travel & accommodation

Travel, accommodation & per diems to be discussed & paid by CWC

Total: TBD

How to apply

To apply please send:

- Your CV and your portfolio, giving examples of your work.
- A short statement (no more than 500 words) explaining why you would like to work on the project and with the company
- Let us know of availability challenges
- A completed (and anonymous) data collection form: <https://forms.gle/ufxpjC6GUgc8ESYRA>

We'd especially love to hear from disabled artists, and artists from the Global Majority because the work puts invisibility centre stage and we'd like to reflect that in our cast and creatives.

Send everything to recruitment@cathywaller.com by **5pm on Monday 5th June**

Timeline

Application deadline:	Monday 5th June, 12noon
Interviews:	Lunchtimes 1 - 2pm or evenings between Wednesday 7th - Friday 9th June
Notification:	Monday 12th June

Access

If you would prefer to apply by video or audio please send a private YouTube or Vimeo link, or audio file which should be no more than 5 minutes.

Let us know in your application if you have any access requirements so we can support you and put these in place for the interview.

Questions

If you have any questions please feel free to email info@cathywaller.com

About Cathy Waller Company

Led by award-winning UK disabled Choreographer Cathy Waller, the company have worked and toured extensively in the UK and Internationally over the last 10 years, to critical acclaim.

Showcasing that powerful, breathtaking, high-quality dance can be led by both disabled and non-disabled artists, the company works with an incredible creative team to bring audiences explosive, fresh and thought-provoking new dance work.

Over the past decade, the company have performed for over 200,000 live audiences and facilitated workshops and classes for thousands of young people, aspiring dancers and dance professionals.

Any information you send to us will be handled and stored in accordance with Cathy Waller Company's [Privacy Policy](#)