# Strand Theatre Company presents:

# ***Women on Top Series – Theatre Festival***

**Call for proposals opens November 14, 2016**

**Application Deadline: December 23, 2016, 11:59 PM**

**Email completed applications to info@strand-theater.org**

 **INTRODUCTION**

Founded in 2016, the Strand Theater’s ***Women on Top Series*** presents an annual, curated series of innovative projects by women theatre-makers. The program offers meaningful, project-based support for women artists to develop and present new works that will have significant impact for the artists, on the artistic and broader community in the region, and will uphold the Strand Theater’s mission of amplifying women’s voices on stage and off.

The ***Women on Top Series*** supports work that has a clear artistic vision. We encourage risk, innovation, complexity of thought and formal exploration, while insisting on integrity and professionalism. We are proud to support women theatre-makers from all communities, who both explore and challenge traditional performance models.

The Series will enable artists to create, complete, or remount a project that will include a public component at the Strand Theater. The public component may take the form of performances, staged readings, or any other type of event that fits with the nature of the project.

The program is open to both emerging and established theatre artists. Collaborative teams, as well as individuals, are encouraged to apply. We invite proposals for the development of new plays, devised works, and other performance pieces.

The Strand’s ***Women on Top Series*** offers resources for up to three projects annually, typically scheduled during March, April and May.

##  *WOMEN ON TOP SERIES* OVERVIEW

**PARTICIPATION:** The ***Women on Top Series*** uses a juried application process to ensure that the festival includes a diverse group of projects, ranging widely in form, content, voice, and points-of-view, and in keeping with the Stand’s broader mission. Three top selected projects will be invited to take part in this year’s festival.

**SCHEDULE:** Once selected, you will be scheduled for up to 3 weeks of rehearsal space and time, and up to 8 performances, following the rehearsal period. You may request the use of the space for meetings or casting sessions, should you require it. Rehearsals and performances will be held at the Strand Theater – 5426 Harford Road, Baltimore MD 21214

**FUNDING:** The Strand will award each of the three selected projects up to $1000 for production expenses. The funds may be used at the discretion of the artists, in consultation with the Strand’s Executive Director.

**TECHNICAL SUPPORT:** The Strand Theater is equipped with only very basic lights and sound. You are expected to keep the project’s technical requirements to a minimum. Projects will be allowed no more than two, 4-hour technical rehearsals.

**BOX OFFICE, TICKETING and FRONT-OF-HOUSE**: Strand Theater handles all aspects of online ticketing, box office and front of house. All box office proceeds are retained by the Strand Theater.

**PUBLICITY:** Strand Theatre will publicize the ***Women on Top Series*** and coordinate overall press relations, including interviews and critics’ attendance at performances. Festival participants are expected to help promote their projects and the festival as a whole, through their personal and professional networks.

**ARTISTIC SUPPORT:** Although you will steer the course of your project, the Strand’s Executive Director and Artistic Council will continue to advise and support you throughout your process.

## RESPONSIBLITIES

If your project is selected, you are provided with the funding, rehearsal space, performance dates, modest technical support, public relations, box office/front-of-house, and artistic support as described above. However, the Strand Theater is not staffing or organizing your process. YOU are responsible for:

* Assembling your team, including your cast, crew, director, stage manager, designers, and any other staff your project requires.
* Obtaining the relevant production rights for your play as needed
* Acquiring the necessary releases or paying required fees to unions, guilds, or other professional associations, should your team include members of such organizations. (Strand Theatre is not affiliated with AEA, USA or SDC.)
* Scheduling and running your own rehearsals.
* Sourcing, locating, loading-in and -out any equipment, scenery, props and costumes you may want to include in your project

##  SELECTION CRITERIA

* Artistic merit of the project
* Professionalism and experience of the artist(s)
* Feasibility of the project, including likelihood that the project can be realized, within the proposed budget and resources available
* Project’s relevance to the Strand Theater’s mission

##  SELECTION PROCESS

Your proposal will be reviewed by the Strand’s Artistic Council members, in consultation with the Executive Director. You may be contacted by the curators to discuss your application further, prior to selections being made.

##  HOW TO APPLY

The deadline for the 2017 Women on Top Series is December 23, 2016. Late submissions will not be accepted.

All applications MUST be submitted online only - hard copy applications will not be accepted. Please create a .zip folder that contains ALL of your materials and attach it to ONE email to: info@strand-theater.org. Do not send multiple emails.

Please title all uploaded files with the title of your project, followed by a dash, and the title of the application section. For example: My Great Play – Letter of Intent; My Great Play - The Work; My Great Play - Support Material, etc.

Please submit the following:

1. **The Summary:** A short summary of your piece, maximum 100 words.

2. **Letter of Intent:** Give an overview of this project, where it is at in its development, what you plan to do, and how you plan to do it. Why this work is relevant and why the ***Women on Top Series*** is the right vehicle for your production? This is your way of introducing yourselves and your work to our curators. Maximum 2 pages.

3. **The Work:** Please include a copy of the work. Works in progress are also acceptable. If the piece has not yet been written, a synopsis and complete description should be submitted. For non-text-based work, a detailed proposal/project description outlining the production should be included.

4. **Artist Bios:** Please include a list of your principal personnel on your team and brief bios of each. (Maximum two pages)

5. **Budget:** Please include a budget of your anticipated expenses. This can be very simple; we will evaluate how you imagine you will allocate the funding. Please indicate if you plan to bring any additional funding into the project.

6. **Support Materials: (Optional)** These can include links to videos or photos of current or previous work, press clippings, etc. (Maximum of 6 photos. For video, please provide a single URL (and password, if required) where video files can be viewed.)

**QUESTIONS**

## If you have any questions, please contact Strand Executive Director, Elena Kostakis at elena@strand-theater.org