



CASSANDRA
SOCALLY ENGAGED STORYTELLING

MENTOR'S INFORMATION SHEET

CASSANDRA - Project Overview

The general objective of the Cassandra project is to build capacity for storytellers as 'socially engaged performers': how can a storyteller convey personal messages and deal with social challenges through performative and artistic strategies? It also wants to raise the capacity of storytellers and storytelling organisations to work internationally, reach new audiences and confidently approach their role of platforming art for social good. Cassandra secured funding through Creative Europe with the Federation for European Storytelling as the primary partner.

Mentor Role Overview

Between **February 2024 and November 2024**, mentors will support a small group of young storytellers (YS) from their home country aged 18 - 29 to research and create a 20-minute solo storytelling performance. These solo performances could be combined with the performances of the others in their group to create a full-length storytelling show of approximately 1 hour. Mentors will support by offering artistic, organisational, and dramaturgical guidance and ensuring the YS are fulfilling the brief, meeting their targets effectively and creating high-quality storytelling.

These performances could use stories which are traditional, personal and/ or gathered from research with individuals and communities. They should be suitable for international touring and deal with themes of wide social significance such as; land justice, climate emergency, gender identity or conflict. As part of their preparation, the YS will be encouraged to engage with individuals or communities whose life experiences align with their chosen theme such as climate activists, LGBTQQA+ communities, or refugee support services. Mentors will ensure that the YS approach their research with appropriate sensitivity and confidence.

Throughout the project, it is important to note that the mentor's role is one of support rather than direction. The YS are preparing to be professionals on international platforms and so should be driving their own process.

Laboratories and Showcase

In 2024, there will be 2 in-person Laboratories (Labos) for all project members; the 1st Labo will be in **Alden Biesen, BE**, between **April 17 - 20** and the second in **Amsterdam, NL**, between **November 1 - 6**. During the Labos, Mentors will deliver a masterclass for the YS from all 5 nations involved. Their **masterclass plan will be included in the storytelling training resources** which will be created as part of the project. The Labos will take place alongside international storytelling festivals, allowing all project members the opportunity to enjoy and analyse world-class storytelling as part of the course curriculum.

At the end of the 2nd Labo in Amsterdam, the YS will produce a showcase of their performances for international audiences and potential bookers. The YS will go on to perform their work in various

locations across Europe but at this point, the mentorship will have reached its maturity, and the YS will fly solo.

Key Dates for Mentors

Date	Time (CET)	Location	Activity
February 8	10.00 - 11.30	Online	Meeting between festivals and mentors.
March 7	17.00 - 18.30	Online	Kick off meeting for all project members (festivals, mentors, YS)
April 17 - 20	Full Days	Alden Biessen, Belgium	Laboratory. Mentors will participate in joint training and deliver at least one masterclass in line with their expertise. Mentors will also receive a full briefing for their role.
May 7	17.00	Email	Deadline to provide FEST with a detailed masterclass plan using the template provided. (These will become part of the project's official training pack for use by the wider storytelling community.)
June - October		home country	The YS should have 3 try-outs of their performances between June - October. Mentors are not obliged to be at these try-outs but should ensure they happen.
July 4	17.00 - 18.30	Online	Mentor's mid project check-in meeting
October 10	10.00 - 12.00	Online	Festivals and Mentors, online preparation meeting for 2nd Laboratory and Show Case.
November 1 - 3	Full days	Amsterdam, NL	Laboratory
November 4+5	Full days	Amsterdam, NL	Performance Show Case

Actions Required by Mentors

- Confirm availability for the dates above
- Provide a Short Biography (150 words) focusing on relevant experience for the CASSANDRA project.
- Provide a professional photo
- Confirm the theme of your masterclass



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