



# PQ 2019

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**Call to Performance Design  
Educators & Students:  
PQ STUDIO:  
COMMON DESIGN  
PROJECT UBU ROI**

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**PQ STUDIO: COMMON DESIGN PROJECT UBU ROI**

The Prague Quadrennial of Performance Design and Space will take place in Prague from June 6-16, 2019, and now invites NOTICE OF INTENTION TO PARTICIPATE IN THE COMMON DESIGN PROJECT FROM DESIGN EDUCATORS AROUND THE WORLD

**TEXT:**

*Ubu Roi* by Alfred Jarry

**CURATOR:** Patrick Du Wors

**DATES:**

- Call Published: 13 July 2018
- Deadline for Insitutions to Register Intent: 1 October 2018
- Deadline for Insitutions to Submit Projects: 31 January 2018
- Successful Submissions Notified of Inclusion: 28 February 2019
- 14th Edition of Prague Quadrennial: 6-16 June 2019

**TO REGISTER INTENT TO PARTICIPATE**

All institutions wishing to participate must register intent to do so by 1 October 2018. A 10€ per institution administration fee is due at the time of registering interest to participate (portal for payment will be open from 1 September 2018)

Link to registration form: <http://bit.ly/pqcommondesign>

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**PLEASE NOTE:**

Please note that while we are excited to offer a platform to present the work of students and emerging artists, successful candidates will be responsible for transporting themselves and their design artifacts to Prague and be required to set up and take down their exhibit. All selected participants will also be expected to attend all scheduled critique and discussion sessions for the Common Design Project (tentatively 12-14 June 2019). PQ is able to provide needed documentation and letters of invitation in support of any grant applications undertaken by participants.

Institutions of successful submissions are strongly encouraged to help support students travel to PQ if their work is selected.

**ABOUT PQ:**

Organized by the Ministry of Culture of the Czech Republic and realized by the Arts and Theatre Institute, The Prague Quadrennial of Performance Design and Space is the largest international exhibition and festival event dedicated to scenography, performance design and theatre architecture. Since 1967 PQ has been an exchange, networking and educational platform exploring the best works in scenography and design for performance through exhibitions, festivals, workshops, performances, symposia, educational events and residencies.

The last edition of this international performance design event in 2015 was held at more than 30 venues, featured more than 500 live performances with over 180,000 visitors, and was named one of the twelve most trend-setting European festivals in the prestigious EFFE Awards. Individual exhibitions of countries and regions were organized by some of the most important cultural organizations from over 75 countries, including ministries of culture, art and theatre institutions, as well as international festivals, theatre companies and prestigious theatre and visual arts schools.

**CURATORS:**

**Patrick Du Wors** is Canadian performance designer, working in a wide range performance styles and scales of production. From site-specific opera, to text-based work from the classical canon, to contemporary devised work, Patrick's work has been recognized across Canada and internationally. Patrick designed and curated the Canadian Exhibition *Shared [private] Space* at PQ2015 and served on the WSD2017 selection jury in the Emerging Artist category. Awards include the Canadian Institute for Theatre Technology (CITT) Award of Technical Merit for PQ2015 and multiple awards and nominations across Canada including the Dora Mavor Moore Awards (Toronto), Critic's Choice Awards (Victoria), Betty Mitchel Awards (Calgary) and SATAwards (Saskatoon). As an educator and researcher, Patrick is an Assistant Professor at the University of Victoria in British Columbia. Patrick was also a member of the faculty at the University of Calgary from 2013 – 2016. He has been a guest artist or instructor at the National Theatre School of Canada, Ryerson Theatre School, George Brown, and Sheridan College. Patrick is a graduate of the University of Alberta's MFA Theatre Design program and apprenticed with the Royal Shakespeare Company in the UK.

## Call to Performance Design Educators & Students PQ STUDIO: COMMON DESIGN PROJECT UBU ROI

Building on the legacy of Scenofest (2003-11) and SpaceLab (2015) PQ Studio will celebrate the real and imaginary spaces in which designers create. Our studios are both physical and mental spaces. In these spaces, our imagined ideas are incubated, assessed, selected or rejected and then re-imagined; a process repeated and repeated in search of the elusive and alchemical ingredients of theatricality. PQ Studio: Common Design Project will explore this process and its resulting products through a curated exhibition of student designs that develop out of design-coursework/assignment. The project will also include organized critiques and discussion of the exhibited works.

The diversity of presentation seen at the last 2 editions of PQ, with representation from traditional theatre, performative installation and immersive experience, demonstrates that performance design is an evolving art form - continually being redefined by its practitioners. With this in mind, PQ Studio launches this project by asking these questions: What is the relationship between traditional, text-based plays and performance design in 2019? How can performance designers engage with these texts to create immediately relevant theatrical experiences for modern audiences? How can we dynamically answer: Why this play? Why now? And how, as visual dramaturgs, can performance designers assume creative leadership of a text-based production?

This Common Design Project is inspired by a previous PQ project, originally conceived by Pamela Howard, that had a major presence at PQ 2003 (*A Lear for Our Time*). For 2019, the Common Design Project will serve as the catalyst for a global discussion between students and educators as they explore and create designs for *Ubu Roi* by Alfred Jarry. Design courses (whether undergraduate or postgraduate) will individually set the project within their existing teaching structures, creating local conversations not only about the text and approaches to its staging, but also the nature of art, performance design/scenography, and theatre. These conversations will then expand onto an international platform, generating an exciting opportunity to showcase the next generation of performance designers. The selected project will be invited to engage with other emerging artists, leading practitioners and PQ attendees over 3 days of moderated discussion examining the play and proposed designs.

In celebration of the practice, craft and artistry of design for text-based theatre, PQ Studio: Common Design Project invites the international community of design for performance courses to set *Ubu Roi* as a studio design project (conceived for any type of theatre, whether traditional proscenium, small and immersive spaces, found space projects, etc.) that encourages students and emerging designers to explore the text through their own lens, and to consider approaches meaningful to a contemporary audience. It is hoped that this project fits existing conceptual design project space in the course syllabi, with course leaders simply using *Ubu Roi* as the text. Participating design courses will then be able to submit one project for our international curators to consider and the projects selected by the curators will be invited to bring their work to Prague for a joint display and to have their concepts critiqued by leading practitioners.

## **PROJECT GUIDELINES**

### **A Total Performance Design for *Ubu Roi*, by Alfred Jarry**

- Submissions should be a total performance design (sometimes referred to as production design). At a minimum, this will include set/space design and costume design. Submissions may also include puppet design, projected media design, lighting design, and sound design. While, these latter disciplines are more challenging to communicate in a theoretical state, we are excited to see creative solutions that showcase students' ideas in these disciplines.
- In order to be as inclusive of diverse collaborative practices and approaches, submissions from both individuals (single designer) and teams/groups (multiple designers) will be accepted.
- Projects should resonate with PQ 2019's guiding artistic principals. In particular, we will be looking for designs concerned with the creation of active performance environments, that are far beyond merely decorative or beautiful, but that are emotionally charged; where design can become a quest, a question, an argument, a threat, a resolution, or an agent of positive change.
- We encourage students and performance design educators to mix, fuse, and blur the lines between various disciplines to search for new approaches and new visions.
- In addition to artistic ideas, submitted projects will also be evaluated on quality of craft of the visual communication tools for performance design, such as a model, storyboard, and costume drawings, but we are open to alternative forms of visual communication, such as 3D modeling, provided it can be supported for exhibition at PQ.
- Submissions from undergraduate and graduate students will be accepted.
- This project is focused on performance design for a text-based play: *Ubu Roi* by Alfred Jarry. As we are asking students to examine the role between traditional, text based work and performance design in 2019, will not be considering adaptations, such as dance pieces or other work "inspired" by the play.
- Submissions must demonstrate a complete design vision of the play and presented materials should be ready for a professional level production.
- A short written design concept will be permitted, but we strongly discourage verbose writing as a substitute for visual communication.
- A 10€ per institution administration fee is due at the time of registering interest to participate (portal for payment will be open from 1 September 2018)

PQ strongly encourages the institutions of successful submissions to help support students travel to PQ if their work is selected.

Successful candidates will be responsible for transporting their design artifacts to Prague and be required to set up and take down their exhibit. All selected participants will also be expected to attend all scheduled critique and discussion sessions for the Common Design Project (tentatively 12-14 June 2019)

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**PROJECT TIMELINE**

- **NOW – 1 OCT 2018**  
Performance design course leaders/instructors/professors submit the simple form below by 1 Oct 2018 indicating they intend to participate by setting *Ubu Roi* as a course assignment or independent study (for advanced students). A 10€ administrative/processing fee is due at the time of registration/no later than 1 October (payment portal will be open from 1 September 2018)
- **1 SEPT 2018 – 10 JAN 2019**  
Individual courses set *Ubu Roi* as the text for studio based design project (conceived for any type of theatre, whether traditional proscenium, small and immersive spaces, found space projects, etc....). Course leaders should then select one project per institution to submit for possible inclusion in the joint display at PQ 2019
- **5 OCT 2018**  
Further information on the submission portal, including format and required materials, will be issued to participating schools.
- **31 JAN 2019**  
Deadline for course leaders to submit selected entry (ONE per institution, whether by individual designer or a team/group)
- **28 FEB 2019**  
Successful Candidates notified. Details of exhibition format announced.



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The Prague Quadrennial strives to present performance design as an art form concerned with the creation of active performance environments, that are far beyond merely decorative or beautiful, but that are emotionally charged; where design can become a quest, a question, an argument, a threat, a resolution, or an agent of positive change...Performance design is a collaborative field where the artists mix, fuse, and blur the lines between various disciplines to search for new approaches and new visions.

This edition of the Prague Quadrennial is inspired by PQ's highest prize, the Golden Triga. Three different forces coming together to pull the chariot driven by Nike, the goddess of victory, stand proudly atop the roof of the National Theatre, reminding all that creating performance is an act of collaboration where all talents combine their strengths to achieve much more than any individual could ever accomplish alone.

The three horses pulling the chariot symbolize the three stages of human life: youth's wild instinct and intuition, the experience of adulthood, and the wisdom of age. We will use the metaphor of the Golden Triga to explore these points of view, three areas connected with the cyclical phases of the creative process:

**Imagination, Transformation, Memory.**

- Markéta Fantová, Artistic Director PQ2019



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