

# THE KING JOHN FESTIVAL CALL FOR ART PROPOSALS



JULY 9 -23, 2017

SUBMISSION DATE: JUNE 23, 2017

HOSTED BY





# THE KING JOHN FESTIVAL

## CALL TO ARTISTS

### STATEMENT OF INTEREST

What does it mean to be an artist in 2017 America? How much is intention worth, and how do our values manifest in our daily lives? If profound change can come from the smallest moments of beauty, we intend to celebrate despite the ugliness.

### OUR MISSION

Inspired by Shakespeare's *The Life and Death of King John*, our mission is to facilitate collaboration between artists of multiple mediums and celebrate the importance of art in 2017 America.

### OUR OBJECTIVES

1. Draw contributions from artists of all ages, disciplines, and backgrounds.
2. Offer a platform for exploration of a contemporary artist's role in society.
3. Use art to examine a little-known dramatic work through modern political, historical, and cultural lenses.

### THE KING JOHN FESTIVAL

The King John Festival is an opportunity to merge artistic mediums and celebrate the continued relevancy of William Shakespeare's body of work. Voices Found Repertory will stage a fully realized PRODUCTION of Shakespeare's *The Life and Death of King John* and host an ART GALLERY inspired by the text. We invite artists of all backgrounds to join us in creating original work inspired by this underappreciated political tragedy.



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### THE PRODUCTION

*The Life and Death of King John* is an action-packed political tragedy about a man with great power who seems indifferent about the consequences of his actions. The real King John's tone-deaf decisions made him one of Western history's most controversial leaders, but his legacy in American entertainment is mostly preserved through parody in films like Disney's *Robin Hood* (1973) and Mel Brooks' *Men In Tights* (1993). While Shakespeare maintained the image of an impulsive leader with questionable taxation policy, he reveals more about the man's character and lets the audience ultimately decide how they feel about him. Much like Oliver Stone's *W* (2008), *The Life and Death of King John* takes a somewhat objective point of view on its tragic subject without ignoring his flaws, and the catastrophic consequences that ensue.

### THE GALLERY

The Gallery Night gives visual and performance artists a chance to reflect on Shakespearean text and themes from a modern-day perspective, and create pieces according to their preferred area of expression. The submissions will manifest into a gallery night hosted by VFR, displaying the vast interpretations of the human experience depicted in classical theatre. We intend to curate an evening of immersive viewership, inviting our attendees to dive into an individual artist's piece with their community.

### THE MESSAGE

Our production will be a sort of Shakespeare-meets-*Black-Mirror* look at where we, Americans in 2017, are going, and who's taking us there. The festival as a whole, however, will take a lighter tone. Certainly we find ourselves in an ugly point of history, but if Shakespeare has anything to say about ugliness, it's that it will, eventually, pass. The King John Festival is a reminder of art's importance: its power to reflect ugliness through creative lenses and make something beautiful. Voices Found Repertory is committed to accessibility and creating opportunities for artists to use their time and talent in powerful ways. We're proud to celebrate this play as a community facing opposition from the sort of people who make this story a tragedy. The King John Festival will be an entertaining, cathartic, multi-disciplinary experience to validate the importance of art in 2017.



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### SUBMISSIONS

The King John Festival wants to celebrate YOUR art! Below is a list of prompts inspired by *The Life and Death of King John*. We encourage artists to respond organically and personally, creating something unique to their discipline. All types of art will be considered - visual, performance, poetry, music, dance, photography, etc.

We're also interested in work from all spans of life! Do you know a kid with a great story or a grandparent with a plethora of memories to share? Mull over this proposal and send us their response; multi-generational conversations are incredibly important within our human community.

### PROMPTS:

1. What is the purpose of art in 2017? Why does your work and your identity as an artist matter?
2. How does religion influence the power dynamic of the modern family?
3. National flags: share what they mean to you.
4. Explore a personal memory of being "lost at sea".
5. "Eulogy," a song by Frank Turner (contains expletives).
6. "Revolutionaries," a song by You Won't.
7. "Cry havoc, kings." (Philip The Bastard, II.i)
8. "O that my tongue were in the thunder's mouth,/Then with a passion would I shake the world,/And rouse from sleep that fell anatomy/Which cannot hear a lady's feeble voice." (Lady Constance, III.ii)
9. "There is no sure foundation set on blood." (King John, IV.ii)
10. Kid-friendly: Discuss one of the suggested prompts. Make up a country that shares your values, and create a flag. Use the song "Red, Yellow, & Blue" by Born Ruffians as inspiration.



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### SALE INFO

Interested in selling your work individually at the King John Gallery Night on Sunday, July 9, 2017? You'll receive 100% of the profits.

Additionally, we hope to document the event by compiling an art book filled with images of each artist's work. These will be sold at the gallery night and Voices Found Repertory will retain the profits.

### DEADLINE

In our effort to include all mediums, we are asking for a form of digital submission. If you're a dancer, send us a video snippet of your choreography. If you're a sculptor, send us a photo of your piece. If you're a writer of short stories, send us a PDF. In the month leading up to the gallery night, we will individually discuss the optimal way to showcase your piece based on its needs.

Please submit all pieces to [voicesfoundrep.kingjohn@gmail.com](mailto:voicesfoundrep.kingjohn@gmail.com) by **Friday, June 23, 2017**.

Along with your piece, please provide your name, age, location, and medium. Optional information to include is a bio and/or purpose statement.

Questions? Shoot us an e-mail, we'd love to hear from you.