**FAQ Session – Thinker In Residence – 18th August 2025**

Role Context: This role is not just about having a background in the performing arts. We want someone with curiosity, who is happy to try things out, to go out and explore, find new ideas and bring new ways of working.
Applications close on Wednesday 10th September, 10am.

1. **Question:** What would the makeup of the role’s working week look like?

**Answer:** The working week is a hybrid, and we have a London office. No week is the same. The Thinker in Residence would spend 4 days with Extant and 1 day with the Thomas Pocklington Trust (TPT). We regularly have a team meeting on a Tuesday, and the working week may also be project dependent. TPT normally run sessions on Friday, and they would request your time on Friday’s. TPT will cover travel costs for their in-person sessions.

1. **Question:** What experience are you looking for?

**Answer:** We want someone who will bring or connect us with spaces outside of the performing arts. This could be from technology, social science or other backgrounds etc. Through this role, we want the ‘Thinker’ to get into those other spaces outside of the performing arts, including attending conferences, finding new knowledge and asking questions to broaden Extant in where it operates and how it thinks.

1. **Question:** What’s the most important thing you’d like to achieve through this role?

**Answer:** There are no expectations from this role. There will be reflections, blogs and writing that we want the ‘Thinker’ to compile as the role progresses. There are no optimum outputs for this role.

1. **Question:** How important is it for Extant to continue to develop excellence in the performing arts? Is the plan to bring the learning from outside in?

**Answer:** It’s all about trying to widen our thinking – we’ve always been innovative. Recently we’ve supported an external project in a technological and academic sense. We want to continue to strive in innovation and pursue new fields.

1. **Question:** Are you open to film and getting into those spaces?

**Answer:** Absolutely. Our media output hasn’t just been theatre, we’ve produced short films, audio dramas, site specific performances etc. We are open and skills can be transferred.

1. **Question:** In the job specification, it mentions that the applicant can’t be in full time or part time education? Is this a TPT requirement?

**Answer:** This is a TPT requirement. The commitment of this role is 37.5 hours per week, which needs to be fulfilled. The ‘full time/part time’ education is referring to formal education like a university degree.

1. **Question:** From the job pack, could you expand on what ‘Curating an intentional’ means?

**Answer:** As the ‘Thinker’ you will begin to gatherinformation and thematic expertise from other people, organisations and experiences and then present it back internally to the Extant team. A talk or report may also be required for an external facing audience towards the end of your time.

1. **Question:** At the end of the 9 months, what do you envision the role to become? Is there potential for a permanent position?

**Answer:** There are internal plans, which we can’t reveal now but we are testing different models and ideas which will follow on in future phases.

1. **Question:** For this role, is one of the drivers here business growth for areas outside of the performing arts?

**Answer:** That would be a perceptive enquiry. We’ve also responded to genuine moments of industry need. Through the Thinker role, we want someone to push things forward with creative thought. We also have our [Collective Dreaming](https://extant.org.uk/collective-dreaming-callout) callout – to bring people together inside and outside and dream about the future. You can apply for both roles.

Email admin@extant.org.uk for any questions and these will be passed on and answered by the relevant team members.