

Routes n

A guide to getting new
work programmed in
the North of England

Published by Venues North
2023

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Introduction

Getting work programmed is hard; getting new work programmed is even harder. Without a known title, famous actors or national reputation, persuading programmers to take a risk on your new show can be challenging. There is a sense of the touring landscape shifting, as we seek to find ways of offering audiences a deeper, more meaningful engagement with touring work, resulting in new and different relationships between artists and venues.

This guide has been put together to help artists and companies making new work overcome some of the barriers to getting their work programmed.

We can't promise it will help you book a 20 date national tour, but we hope it provides a useful insight into programmers and programming and helps you in your approach to venues.

There is one key piece of advice:

Be targeted in your approach

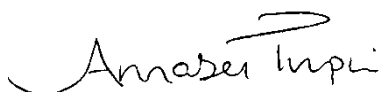
A blanket approach to venues is unlikely to net results. Being more targeted in approaching venues that have appropriate programmes, policies, spaces and audiences for your work will save you lots of time and energy in the long term. We hope that some of the information included in this guide will help you do that.

You are far more likely to be successful in getting venues interested in your work if you set out to develop relationships rather than just sell them a show. Think about your core purpose, and that of the venue, and if there is a match, then think about how you can benefit each other.

Once you have identified a target list of venues, start to develop a relationship with them. Be clear about what your rationale is for approaching those venues and be prepared to have honest conversations.

Being successful doesn't have to mean touring to 20 different venues; it might be having really good, strong, meaningful relationships with six. Every programmer who does support your work has the potential to be a champion for it, so invest in these relationships.

We look forward to getting to know you and your work.



Annabel Turpin
Chair
Venues North

General Information

What is Venues North?

Venues North is a network of venues from across the North of England who are committed to supporting artists to create new work. Our aim is to work together as venues to support new and emerging artists from the North to get their work more widely seen regionally, nationally and internationally.

Venues North members meet three times a year to share our learning around supporting artists, and to champion the artists we support.

Venues North is not a closed network or an exclusive group of venues, but open to any venue in the North that shares this commitment to artist development and new work. From April 2022, we have operated on a paid membership model to cover meeting costs.

Current members include:

Alphabetti Theatre	Newcastle
ARC	Stockton
Blackpool Grand Theatre	Blackpool
Bolton Octagon	Bolton
Brewery Arts Centre	Kendal
Carriageworks	Leeds
Cast	Doncaster
Crewe Lyceum	Crewe
Darlington Hippodrome	Darlington
Gosforth Civic Theatre	Newcastle
Harrogate Theatre	Harrogate
HOME	Manchester
Hull Truck Theatre	Hull
Interplay	Leeds
Lawrence Batley Theatre	Huddersfield
Leeds Playhouse	Leeds
Live Theatre	Newcastle
Liverpool Everyman & Playhouse	Liverpool
Liverpool Lighthouse	Liverpool
Liverpool's Royal Court	Liverpool
Northern Stage	Newcastle
Oldham Library Studio	Oldham
Royal Exchange Theatre	Manchester
Sheffield Theatres	Sheffield
Slung Low's HUB	Leeds
Square Chapel Arts Centre	Halifax

Stephen Joseph Theatre	Scarborough
Storyhouse	City of Chester
Sunderland Culture Company	Washington
The Atkinson	Sefton
The Civic	Barnsley
The Dukes	Lancaster
The Edge Theatre & Arts Centre	Chorlton
The Georgian Theatre Royal	Richmond
The Lowry	Salford
The Old Courts	Wigan
Theatre by the Lake	Keswick
Theatre Delicatessen	Sheffield
Theatre in the Mill	Bradford
Theatre Royal	Wakefield
Unity Theatre	Liverpool
University of Salford	Salford
University of Sheffield Performance Venues	Sheffield
Viaduct Theatre, Dean Clough	Halifax
Waterside	Sale
York Theatre Royal	York
Z-arts	Manchester

What do we mean by ‘new work’?

By new work, we mean new theatre and performance, usually devised work or new writing, or work that explores the boundaries of theatrical form.

How do Venues North members support artists?

The individual venue information below lists many ways that Venues North members support artists. The overarching ethos of Venues North, which all members have signed up to, is that we will, whenever and wherever possible, do the following:

- talk to artists, and respond when they contact us
- be honest, even if that means saying no or that we don’t like someone’s work, or we don’t think it is good enough
- be clear and transparent in what we offer in terms of support for artists
- signpost artists to other people if we can’t help them

Which programmers should you talk to?

Every venue is different, and the more targeted you can be in selecting which venues to approach, the more likely you are to get a response. The information about each venue included below should help with this but do have a good browse around each venue's current programme and see whether you think your work is really likely to fit.

Also, look at the tour schedules for other another artist or companies who you think make work that might appeal to similar audiences as your own, and consider approaching these venues.

Know your geography – and if you don't, buy a map! Many venues have exclusion clauses, either because they share audiences or want their programme to complement rather than replicate that of nearby venues, so do take this into account before approaching venues or ask about catchment areas and exclusion clauses early in your conversation.

How do you get to know programmers?

Performance is based on a relationship between artists and audiences, and programmers are, momentarily at least, at the centre of that relationship. Therefore, if your work is designed to be presented in a programmed venue, building a relationship with programmers is the first stage in building a relationship with potential audiences.

Approaching programmers can be hard, but Venues North members are committed to ensuring they are accessible to artists. Aside from direct contact via phone or email (see venue information below for individual preferences on contact methods) here are some other ways of getting to know programmers:

- At gatherings of programmers and artists (eg festivals and showcases)
- At shows – programmers often see work in their own venue, so attending a show at their venue and asking for a meeting beforehand is a good tactic
- At scratch nights – programmers interested in new work often attend scratch nights or work in progress showings
- Via social media – follow programmers on Twitter or Facebook and join or initiate conversations
- At special events for artists, such as North East Exchange, Theatre Deli's Open Stage and Deli Drop-ins, Alphabetti's Meet and Unity's Creative 'pool
- At the bar – where programmers can often be found pre and post show, both for informal and curated discussions

What should you ask programmers for?

Programmers aren't necessarily going to offer you a two week run in their venue the first time they meet you. In fact, they probably aren't even going to offer you one night. Offering programmers a range of opportunities to get to know and support your work can help you develop a longer term relationship. Ask them to:

- Come and see your work – and feedback
- Watch an extract online – and feedback
- Come and see you perform at a scratch night
- Come and see a work in progress sharing
- Talk to another programmer who has seen your work
- Introduce you to other artists/creatives
- Have a coffee and a 'no obligation to book your work' chat
- Show you round their venue

If your budget permits, hiring space within a venue for R&D/rehearsals can also be a good way of getting to know an organisation, providing a risk-free opportunity for programmers to get to know you and your work.

As the relationship develops, ask if they can:

- Offer you a slot at their scratch night
- Offer you any R&D or rehearsal space
- Read through your promoters pack before you send it out
- Talk through your creative process/plans with you
- Help you identify your audiences and how to reach them
- Help you with your budget
- Read over a funding application for you
- Give advice on fees and financial deals
- Offer support with documenting the development of your work
- Act as an outside eye during rehearsals
- Help you develop and/or test associated outreach/wraparound activity
- Act as an advocate or champion for your work and talk to other programmers on your behalf
- Write a statement or letter of support to accompany a funding application

Like any relationship, it is really important not to force the pace, and to accept a 'no' if ultimately that's the outcome. Be prepared to respond quickly and appropriately, but if you are asking for help or feedback on your work, set realistic timescales – especially if you are asking someone to read over a funding application for you.

Inviting programmers to see your work

It is always good to invite programmers to see your work but be realistic on your expectations of how many will be able to respond – there are only seven nights in any one week, and programmers have commitments to seeing work they have already programmed in their own venue as well as work elsewhere. Resources in terms of time and money are limited, so don't be disappointed if programmers don't come – but do invite them, and if they aren't able to attend, do send them links to clips of the work online afterwards. Full length recordings are great but not every programmer can commit to watching hours of footage.

If programmers do come, don't expect instant feedback – giving honest feedback is hard, especially if you are expected to give it straight after a show. Suggest in advance a follow up call or email within the next few days, to give them a chance to think about the show and structure their feedback.

When do programmers programme?

One of the most difficult questions programmers get asked is 'when will you be programming the [insert season]?'

Here are some possible answers:

- When I know whether I have got funding next year or not
- When I know whether this enormous potential project is going to happen or not
- When I have finished writing this funding application
- When I get back to my desk with an hour to spare to look at some potential shows
- When I get time to watch all the online recordings I've been sent
- When I have finished my financial/HR/operational tasks
- When someone tells me about a show I am really excited about
- When I see a show I really want to book
- When I know what's out there
- When I have enough potential shows on the table to make a decision about the balance of the programme
- When the companies I have provisionally booked know about their funding

Programming rarely happens at a set time, especially as many programmers aren't just programmers, but also act as chief executives, directors, finance and HR managers, building managers and so on. Marketing deadlines sometimes force a flurry of activity, but this doesn't necessarily relate to when programmers make decisions.

The short answer is: there is no specific time, other than 'when I have time, and before the marketing deadline'.

The best answer we've been able to come up with is a jigsaw analogy 'when I have enough of the pieces available to know what the picture might look like'.

Neither of these answers are particularly helpful if you are trying to book a tour. However, in the venue information below, each programmer has indicated how far in advance they would prefer to be contacted, when their seasons run and what kind of response you should expect if you do approach them. We hope that helps a little.

What do programmers want to know?

Generally, when artists and companies approach programmers, they send information about themselves and their show – what is it about, what does it look like, when is it available. This is essential information but there are some other things that programmers often want to know, such as:

- Why are you making this show?
- Why are you touring now?
- Who is the show for?
- How will you be selling it to them? (copy/image)
- How can you support the venue to reach those potential audiences?
- Why do you want to visit this venue?
- What kind of financial deal are you looking for?
- A sense of the scale of the show
- What your expectations are in terms of audience numbers
- How is it staged and what kind of technical resource do you need?
- Is the show/tour dependent on funding, and if so, when will funding be confirmed?
- Which other venues are you talking to/where else are you going?
- Who has already seen your work? Do you have any endorsements from other programmers and artists?

If you can answer some or all of these questions as part of your initial approach, it is likely to help programmers decide whether the show is right for their venue or not.

Remember that 'copy' is for selling the show to audiences, and will be used as text in brochures, on leaflets and websites but at the initial booking stage, programmers require a different perspective on your work. A brief description of the work, synopsis of the story and your thinking behind the show, how you want audiences to experience or feel about your work is far more useful.

Don't feel that you have to use 'funding application' language. Many programmers are interested in process as well as the production itself, so answering the 'why' and the 'how' are-you-making-it questions are as important as the 'what' are you making.

Environmental responsibility

We are all thinking about the impact our work has on the planet, and programmers may be interested to know how you are working to minimise your carbon footprint. Some venues will be prioritising work that is environmentally responsible in how it is made and toured, so do flag this up in your approach.

You may want to reference or explore the Sustainable Productions guidance provided by the [Theatre Green Book](#).

How are programming decisions made?

Whilst fees and availability are key factors in decision-making for programmers, there are many other factors that play a part, such as:

- Commitment to other shows
- Balance of programme
- Audience potential
- Mismatch of need/perception
- Staffing restrictions
- Staging and technical requirements
- Sales pitch
- Quality
- Personal taste
- Geographical factors
- Status of show in terms of funding

Even the font you use in your promotional pack can be a real turn-off!

How does the money work?

Most people - artists and programmers - feel a little awkward when it comes to discussing money, which often leads to an unnecessary level of confusion. Don't be afraid to own up if you don't know, it is always better to clarify things early in the negotiation process rather than further down the line when it is too late.

Financial deals

Generally, venues will offer one of the following deals:

- A guaranteed fee - an agreed amount that they will pay you regardless of how much box office income there is
- A guaranteed fee plus travel and accommodation
- A box office split – a percentage of the box office income, often after deductions
- A guarantee against a split – this means they will pay you either an agreed amount or a percentage of the box office, whichever is greater
- A guarantee plus a split – an agreed amount they will pay you regardless, plus a percentage of the box office
- A hire – you pay them an agreed amount, and you retain all the box office income
- A first call against a split – you (or sometimes the venue) have a 'first call' on the box office income up to a certain level, and once that is reached, the rest is split between you on an agreed percentage. There can sometimes be a 'second call' in the other person's favour before the split.

When agreeing deals, it is always good to ensure that as much detail as possible is agreed. For example, when agreeing travel and accommodation costs, it is worth spelling out how many people this is for, travelling to/from where and how many rooms are required.

e.g., A guaranteed fee of £500 plus travel (standard class rail travel or equivalent, return to Manchester x 2 people) and accommodation (two singles x one night)

Always clarify if the fee is + VAT or not; if you aren't VAT registered, you won't be charging VAT but if you are VAT registered and the venue isn't, it does make a material difference to the venue.

If splits are expressed as 70:30 or 60:40 always check in whose favour they are, ie do you get the 70% or the 30%.

If shorthand is being used for deals (e.g. £500 vs 70%), make sure you are clear what it means, and whether VAT is being deducted or not.

Examples

Scenario:

150 tickets have been sold @ £10 each, providing a total box office income of £1,500.

VAT @ 20% (£300) is deducted, leaving £1,200 of box office income, net of VAT

On a 70:30 split, you would receive 70% of £1,200 = £840

On a £500 guarantee vs a 70:30 split, whichever is greater, you would also receive £840, as that is greater than the guaranteed fee of £500

On a £1,000 guarantee vs a 70:30 split, you would receive £1,000 as that is greater than 70% of the box office income

On a £500 guarantee plus a 70:30 split, you would receive £1,340 (£500 guarantee plus £840, which is 70% of the box office income)

On a first call to you of £500 then a 70:30 split, you would take the first £500 of the box office income, leaving £700 to be split, of which 70% is £490 so you would receive a total of £990

On a first call to the venue of £500 then a 70:30 split in your favour, the venue would take the first £500 of box office income leaving £700 to be split, so you would receive £490 (70% of the remaining £700)

On a deal where there was a first call to you of £500, then a second call to the venue of £250, then a 70:30 split in your favour, you would take the first £500 of box office income, leaving £700; the venue would take the next £250, leaving £450, which would then be split 70:30, so you would get a total of £815 made up of £500 + £315 (70% of £450)

Risk

The difference between these deals is essentially about where the risk sits: a guaranteed fee means the risk sits with the venue, as if they don't achieve enough box office income to cover the fee, they have lost money. A hire means all the risk sits with you – if you don't receive enough box office money to cover the hire fee, you have lost out.

Box office splits, guarantees against a split and first calls against a split are all ways of sharing the risk, which means both parties have a vested financial interest in selling tickets.

Deductions

Box office income is usually subject to some deductions, such as:

- VAT – currently 20%, which means 20% of the box office income is deducted (and paid over by the venue to HMRC) before the percentage split is calculated
- Credit card commission – usually a percentage or flat rate, to cover the card processing costs incurred by the venue
- PRS - a deduction to cover the venue's contribution Performing Rights Society for the rights to play music during the show

Contras

Contras or 'recharges' are costs incurred by the venue which are charged back to the visiting artist or company. These are usually more applicable to mid-large scale productions, for example, expenditure on marketing, technical support or get out costs specific to your show. Always ask during the negotiations whether there will be any contra charges.

Identifying audiences

Who is the show for, and how can you help venues reach those audiences are the most difficult questions to answer, but also the critical ones. No venue has a ready-made audience for new work that will just pay their money and turn up. Developing audiences for new work is a long-term project for venues, and artists and companies are critical to this process.

The more specific you can be about who you think the audience for your work is, the better able programmers are to decide whether they might be able to get an audience for your work. It also means that if your show is booked, venues are able to work with you to deliver targeted marketing and audience development campaigns.

It can feel uncomfortable to be specific about who you think the audience are, as if in some way you are indicating you don't want other people to come. We all want 'everyone' to feel that they can come to your show, but the reality is that not everyone will and the more specific you can be, the more successful marketing and promotional activity will be.

Sometimes it is useful to describe your audiences to programmers by likening your work to that of other artists and companies, i.e. my work is likely to be enjoyed or appeal to audiences of work by XX, XX and XX.

You can also use your development process to help identify audiences, through scratch nights, sharings, work in progress performances and other connected engagement activity. It is important to identify in advance what the aims of these

activities are, who you are looking to engage with and why, and then to capture and be able to articulate what you have found out.

Venues can help you define your audiences, so if you have venue partners on board during the development of your work do ask for support with this. Looking at their audiences for similar work and asking them to share appropriate data with you will strengthen your audience development plans, both for funding applications as well as approaches to other venues.

Reaching audiences

Once you have identified your potential audience, then you need to work out how to reach them. What will your own activity look like, and how can that complement activity undertaken by the venue? What will the communication between you and the venue's marketing staff look like? Invest in this relationship, it is a key one to achieving success.

Do set expectations of what success will look like at the outset – how many people are you realistically expecting to attract, and does that match the venue's own target?

Think about the language you use in your description of the show – is it familiar to the audiences you are trying to reach?

Where else might these audiences be, if they aren't at the theatre? How else might they spend their leisure time? What do they watch on TV or at the cinema? What else might they be interested in?

Increasingly 'depth of engagement' is becoming a key consideration, so programmers aren't just interested in the number of people who might come and see your show, but also what the opportunities are for them to engage with it.

This doesn't just mean offering a traditional devising workshop for local schools/colleges but being open to a much wider range of engagement with the venue's audience and local community. Are you willing to talk to local artists, to open up your rehearsal room or share your practice with them? Are there opportunities for local students and artists to respond to your work by creating their own? Can audiences engage with the show and its themes online, either before or after the show? Will this involve passive activity – watching an online trailer, reading your rehearsal room blog – or active engagement – contributing their own thoughts, material, responses?

Developing audiences is a partnership between artists and venues. Do be realistic about the capacity of the venue to support you with this, as sometimes additional outreach activity can feel like it is adding to everyone's workload rather than supporting it. Offering a free workshop at the last minute because tickets aren't selling is not helpful!

Do your research – find out about existing education, outreach and creative learning programmes, ask what the venue’s priorities are and what has worked in the past and then plan your activity – in advance - accordingly.

Arts Council England National Portfolio Organisations

You may hear some venues referred to as NPOs (National Portfolio Organisations) which means they are part of Arts Council England’s current National Portfolio of regularly funded organisations. Being an NPO means signing up a number of shared ambitions (Arts Council ‘Outcomes’) and agreeing to embed four Investment Principles in how you work.

You can find out more about the [Outcomes](#) and [Investment Principles](#) via these links; your own work is very likely to align with many aspects.

Alphabetti Theatre, Newcastle



Programmer's Contact Details:

Name:	Ali Pritchard	Position:	Artistic/Executive Director
Email:	programming@alphabettitheatre.co.uk ali@alphabettitheatre.co.uk support@alphabettitheatre.co.uk	Telephone:	0191 261 9125

Artistic Policy:

Alphabetti Theatre is an award-winning (The Stage Fringe Theatre of the Year 2023) artist led multipurpose performance space in Newcastle upon Tyne. Our building is repurposed, previously a rubber stamp factory, we were built by our local community and local artists, on a shoestring budget. This created our much-loved DIY aesthetic in our building and is a space for great art, which we believe should be for everyone not just those who can afford it – the first week of all of our core productions are charged at pay what you feel, weeks two and three of productions are ticketed with tickets from £3 to £15. Our year-long programme of work consists of 230 theatre, 100 artist development, 44 music, 24 Comedy, 24 Cabaret performances. We have minimal financial resources but what we do have, we will pass onto to our artists. We co-produce 90% of the work that is on our stages and very rarely have theatre productions that are touring, if we do program touring work it will only be via a larger partner festival e.g., Newcastle Fringe Festival.

Evening Theatre program: This is work predominately aimed at adult audiences. We tend to program 12 productions per year with each production running for 3 weeks (18 performances). Each of these productions will be co-productions with Alphabetti and will rehearse and premier at Alphabetti. We aim to programme 12-18 months in advance and want to be a creative co-producer / partner, so we are working with the artist at the start of an idea and conception of a creative process. This way we can support and guide them through funding, marketing, community engagement, producing, developing, creating and finally performing the show. This means we very

rarely will program a finished piece of work. Each of these productions are used as inspiration around the remaining work in the building from one night music, cabaret and comedy performances to artist development opportunities and community engagement work. All these productions will have as a minimum 1 audio described, 1 captioned and 3 relaxed performances.

Family Theatre program: This work is predominately aimed at family audiences with children 12 years and under. We tend to program 2-5 productions per year to coincide with school holidays, with each production running for roughly 3 weeks (18 performances). Each of these productions will be co-productions with Alphabetti and will rehearse and premier at Alphabetti. We aim to programme 12-18 months in advance and want to be a creative co-producer / partner, so we are working with the artist at the start of an idea and conception of a creative process. This way we can support and guide them through funding, marketing, community engagement, producing, developing, creating and finally performing the show. This means we very rarely will program a finished piece of work. Family programming is relatively new to Alphabetti but since our first family show in 2017 we have built a steady and regular audience and reputation for high-quality work that is affordable to all. When we program family theatre, we will also have an evening show running at the same time, so the theatre and the backstage facilities will be shared by both creative teams.

We select artists and companies to work with based on the content, style of their work, if it is a good fit for our company and space. We often identify artists through one of our artist development streams. Additionally, we try to see as many performances as we can, so invite us to your work. We won't program that show but we may be interested in being part of your next project.

Music, Cabaret & Comedy programming: We do not program mixed bill events, we're looking for artists in these genres that have 45 – 90mins of material that make up a full show. We program music, cabaret and comedy on 9.30pm slots on Friday & Saturday nights predominantly on our stage in the bar the D'Addario Stage. We want to encourage audience crossover and development for the artists, it also provides vital income from the bar as it keeps audiences in the building for longer. This programming is inspired by the "core" theatre show that is on, so we look at artists covering similar themes or crossover in creative teams. We program these events 4-6months in advance.

Artist support:

Our aim is to support artists from starting on one of our artist development streams to evolving and over time being programmed as part of our “core” theatre program. We currently have two streams but we often have new opportunities, so it is good to follow us on social media and subscribe to our mailing list.

Reaction Artist

This stream is there to develop under-represented artists in the performing arts ecology by this we mean (not exclusive or exhaustive):

- Identify as a woman
- Identify as LGBTQIA+
- Identify as a person who has experienced racism and are part of an ethnic diverse background.
- Identify as living with a physical or cognitive disability.

Alphabetti commission an emerging theatre maker or company to create a short piece of theatre in reaction to the long running “core” theatre show that month. Alphabetti partner them with a mentor, they both come and watch the dress rehearsal, then they create a short complete piece of theatre (10-20 minutes) over the course of a week (Tues - Sat). They then tech and dress the piece on the Monday and then perform it 3 times after the “core” theatre show (Tues - Thurs) at 21:15.

What we offer the reaction artist & mentor:

- A run of 3 performances
- A £500 fee for the artist and £450 for mentor
- Free rehearsal space
- Artistic Support
- Technical Support, we provide a technician for the get in and to operate the performances.

Response Writing Competition:

This stream is funding dependent, it is produced in partnership with Just Write. This is a writing competition, open to anyone over the age of 16, they could be emerging or established. All plays will be read blind and judged by the merit of the play. It's free to enter and the winning script receives a cash prize.

How does it work?

- Writers come and watch one of the selected “core” theatre shows during the first week of performances (Tuesday - Thursday). When they arrive at the box office, ask for a Writer's Pack. This will contain information about who they're writing for, cast, director, any other conditions of entry and information about how to submit their script.

- They will then have until midnight that Friday to write a complete 10- 20-minute play responding to any aspect of the production they've seen – what they write is up to them, but they'll have to follow the instructions in the pack carefully to be considered.
- Our Just Write creative team (Ben Dickenson, Martin Hylton and Paula Penman) will read the submissions and select a winning script. Unfortunately, due to the number of entries we receive, we are unable to offer notes.
- All applicants are notified by the Sunday of that week.
- The winning script goes into rehearsal for 1 week.
- It will then be professionally performed after the “core” theatre program during the third and final week of the run (Tuesday - Thursday).

This is a stream for emerging directors and actors, the Just Write creative team hold regular workshops for directors and actors and from here they select the creative teams for each competition. For more information about our opportunities visit: <https://www.alphabettitheatre.co.uk/opportunities>

Commission or support new work in development:

Yes

Financial deals:

Each offer varies but on average we offer the following.

For Evening and Family Theatre:

- 18 performances (all charged at pay what you feel)
- A guarantee of £2,700 plus a second call box office split of 70/30 once net box office exceeds £3,860.
- £2,250 theatre tax relief advance plus any additional monies if the production's rebate exceeds £2,500 after the claim has gone in.
- Free rehearsal space
- Input and Funding Application Support
- Artistic Support
- Community Engagement Support
- Technical Support
- Audience Development and Marketing support
- Support in making the production accessible.

For Music, Comedy & Cabaret:

- 1-3 performances (usually 1)
- £100 guarantee to artist again 70/30 box office split whichever is higher
- Alphabetti provide technician.
- Free rehearsal space (cabaret only)
- Theatre Tax Relief Rebate (cabaret only), this is not the advance like theatre, but Alphabetti will process their claim.
- Artistic Support
- Technical Support
- Audience Development and Marketing support

Artists can contact us by:

Email, phone, or web link.

How far in advance: It's never too early to talk to us. We want to work with artists from the inception of an idea.

If you approach us, you can expect:

A reply either suggesting a meeting or pointing you in the direction of other opportunities. We are a very small team so if you don't get a response within a fortnight, please follow it up with a phone call or another email, we won't mind.

We aren't interested in booking:

Amateur Dramatics, touring work, finished complete productions.

Spaces & Capacities:

Theatre	80 seating
D'Addario Stage	80 standing and seating

Seasons:

September - March

March - August

ARC, Stockton



Programmer's Contact Details:

Name:	Annabel Turpin	Position:	Chief Executive & Artistic Director
Email:	Annabel.turpin@arconline.co.uk	Telephone:	01642 525181

Artistic Policy:

ARC's artistic policy is to provide creative activity and cultural experiences that are contemporary and relevant. We want to present a creative programme that helps us understand and enjoy the world as it is today and excites us about the future.

Co-design is a key principle of our creative programme. This means we will work proactively with artists and communities to develop work that is relevant to and resonates with our local communities. This doesn't necessarily mean work that is about, or made specifically for Stockton and the Tees Valley, but we will present work that our local communities can connect to, and that helps us understand the world we live in.

Ideas may come from artists or communities but in many cases the work will involve both. Our co-designed programme will therefore incorporate artist-led, community-led and co-created work. This will form our core programme, which will be enhanced by our presented work (music, comedy, film and some of our performances for families).

By communities, we mean communities of place, interest, identity, need and action, and we also think of artists we work with as a 'community'.

The work we create is for our local communities, but also for communities like ours. They exist all over the country, in areas where there are high proportions of people facing inequalities and barriers to engaging with culture, usually as a result of either their protected characteristics or socio-economic status.

Core programme

We are currently in the process of working to shift our programming model to a more community-led and community-responsive way of working. From 2023 we will be commissioning artists to make work in response to provocations developed with our communities. Details of commissioning opportunities will be shared via our website and social media channels, or you can sign up to our ARCADE newsletter [here](#) to be sure of hearing about them.

This doesn't mean that there won't be opportunities for artist-led work, but we'll be looking for it to align closely with our community priorities.

We prefer to work with artists and companies during the development of work, as this enables us to find ways of engaging audiences alongside the creative process, before presenting the final show. This means we are unlikely to be interested in booking a finished, touring piece of work.

We are not interested in work based around classic texts or adaptations, or that has historical themes, as the vast majority of our programme is set in the modern day.

Ultimately, we present work we are passionate about, so there are exceptions to everything.

Disabled-led work

We have a specific artistic policy around disabled work, developed with our strategic partner Little Cog, which includes a commitment to supporting work which champions changing perceptions of disability and disabled people, and ensuring that the work we programme and commission does not perpetuate negative stereotypes and myths around disability and disabled people. We tend not to programme work that focuses on a particular condition or impairment.

You can watch a short film that explains more about this policy [here](#).

Presented programme

Our presented programme (ie primarily bought in/touring work) includes:

Family

ARC's family programme is mainly focussed on work for under 7s. We present theatre, dance and puppetry performances on Saturdays approximately once a month. We co-commission a Christmas show for under 7s with the Albany in Deptford, and a February half term show with The Civic in Barnsley. Details of these opportunities will appear here on our website under Artists/Opportunities. Our family shows are usually booked at least 6 - 12 months ahead.

Music

ARC's programme encompasses a wide range of music including rock, pop, soul, jazz, folk and indie. The Point is an ideal space for music, with a seated capacity of up to 400 and a standing capacity of 550. ARC also presents a monthly series of daytime classical concerts in association with Master Musicians, featuring young musicians from across the world. Concerts are usually booked at least six months in advance.

Comedy and light entertainment

ARC has a fabulous reputation for comedy amongst audiences and comedians alike. Some of the best comedians around knock on our door wanting to perform here.

Our comedy programme includes:

- aspiring newcomers at our seasonal Beat the Gong events, where the audience gets to judge whether new acts get 'gonged off'
- circuit regulars at our monthly Catch 22 Comedy Club nights
- stand up favourites such as Chris Ramsey, Marcus Brigstocke and Jenny Éclair
- comedy legends like Lee Evans and Jack Dee, who have chosen ARC as a great venue to try out new material

Film

ARC's film programme features a range of mainstream, arthouse and family films, independent and world cinema. We regularly host post-show discussions and Q&A sessions with guests. We also screen live broadcasts such as NT Live and other productions. Regular film screenings run Wednesday – Saturday, with matinee and evening screenings. One-off screenings take place on Monday and Tuesday nights, either as private hires or collaborations.

Exhibitions

ARC's exhibition programme, which shown in the second floor Gallery, allows us to represent our local community visually. We exhibit work by local artists and community groups, as well as exhibitions developed by local curators. The programme is booked at least 12 months in advance.

Creative learning

We provide lots of opportunities for people to take part in creative activities, including children, young people, adults, disabled and older people. You can read more about the programme on our website.

Community-led events

We work with lots of different local people and organisations to help them stage their own creative events and activities. If you have an idea for an event or activity and want to talk to us about presenting or running it at ARC, please contact us.

Strategic projects

As part of ARC's regional and national work, we manage strategic development projects that benefit the wider cultural sector. Current projects can be found on our website.

Artist support:

We dedicate time, space and resource to supporting artists at ARC because we want artists to make work that is relevant for our audiences. We want to make sure that our programme is representative of our communities, and that our audiences hear stories that resonate with them.

We look to support artists whose work contributes to our artistic policy.

Find out more:

If you are an artist and want to connect with us, please visit our website to join ARCADE, our artist mailing list. Our Producer is happy to offer advice and guidance to any ARCADE member, either via a one-to-one session or as part of our monthly ARCADE Surgeries. To arrange a time, please email artist.development@arconline.co.uk. You can also see current opportunities for artists to get involved on our Opportunities page here.

ARC Getaways

ARC Getaways offer free accommodation and workspace for one week, to enable artists and companies working in performance to get away and embrace some fresh thinking along with some North East air.

ARC Getaways can be used for research and development processes, rehearsals, writing or thinking time – whatever artists need to do to help further their artistic practice or process. There are no requirements to share work, although artists are welcome to host a sharing if that's useful. All we ask is that artists spare half an hour on their first day for an informal meeting with ARC staff, so we can get to know them and their work.

ARC Getaways are available for artists and companies working in performance whose work or practice aligns with our Artistic Policy. Please read the policy before applying.

We are keen to use ARC Getaways to introduce new artists to the organisation, particularly those who are currently under-represented in our programme.

Please visit our website for more details and how to apply.

ARC House

We encourage artists to spend time in Stockton, to find out more about our local communities. Appropriate accommodation is hard to find in the area, is often expensive and involves additional travel. Since 2016, we have rented a house in

Stockton which means we can provide self-catering accommodation for artists working with us.

Associate Artists & Companies

We also support a number of Associate Artists who we believe are making work that makes an important contribution to our artistic policy. You can read more about them and the support we offer here. There is no application process to become an Associate - all of our Associates have grown out of relationships that began through collaborating on a specific project.

Our support includes producing and touring some of our Associates work, so you may see an ARC Production popping up in a venue near you!

Commission or support new work in development:

Yes

Financial deals:

In the Studio, we offer small guarantees (£300-£500); and in the Theatre fees range from £850-£1,200. However, most of our work is made collaboratively where fees are negotiated as part of a wider support package. We rarely book more than one or two performances, but often invite companies to spend more time with us, developing work and leading audience engagement activity

Artists can contact us by:

By email: introduce yourself and your work, tell us why you are interested in working with ARC, how your work fits our programme and audiences. Let us know when and where we can see your work, or how we can find out more.

How far in advance: We are interested in working with artists throughout the creative process, so prefer to hear from artists in advance of starting new work. Because we work in this way, our programme is usually provisionally committed up to 12-24 months in advance. It is never too early to talk to us!

If you approach us, you can expect:

Any emails personally addressed to ARC staff will be responded to; generically addressed emails will be read but only responded to if we are interested in the work. We aim to reply to emails from artists and freelancers we are working with, wherever possible within 10 working days, and to emails from artists and freelancers new to us within 20 working days.

We aren't interested in booking:

We don't generally book work that is based around classic texts or adaptations – our programme is almost entirely new work. We also tend not to book musicals or comedy theatre. As explained above, we also rarely book finished, touring work.

Spaces & Capacities:

The Point (Music/Comedy space)	400/550 standing
Theatre	250
Studio	100
Cinema	130

Seasons:

Sept – Dec

Jan – June

Arts Centre Washington



Programmer's Contact Details:

Name:	Helen Green	Position:	Head of Performance for Sunderland Culture
Email:	helen.green@sunderlandculture.org.uk	Telephone:	

Artistic Policy:

Arts Centre Washington (ACW) is a community hub that seeks to build engagement in the arts primarily amongst the residents of Washington which has some of the lowest levels of engagement in England. A converted farm housing a 120 seat theatre, gallery spaces, recording studio, artists' studios, art workshop, café bar, rehearsal studios and function / meeting rooms, ACW is a multipurpose arts centre, programming exhibitions, film, comedy and music. Our core priorities are:

- Work for, by and with children and young people
- The support and development of emerging artists, especially those based in Sunderland
- Engaging the community in artistic excellence

There is also a strong current of participation running through everything we do with approximately 75% of visitors to ACW taking part in activities. ACW seeks to balance programme offered elsewhere in the wider city of Sunderland and north east by

concentrating on work that is original, inventive and, of course, small scale. Work that really appeals to us is:

- Performance for children and families
- Performance that has real relevance to local audiences e.g. heritage, armed forces, politics
- Adaptations of well known classics: plays, novels etc
- Performance that involves community participation and amateur dramatics

Artist support:

Rehearsal space, support with ACE applications

Commission or support new work in development:

When funding is available; mainly targeted at emerging Sunderland writers

Financial deals:

Splits & guarantees.

Artists can contact us by:

Email

How far in advance: 6 months – 1 year

If you approach us, you can expect:

I try to answer all approaches but my capacity is limited.

We aren't interested in booking:

Original children's theatre; plays dealing with subjects relevant to local audiences; theatre that is representative of our community.

Spaces & Capacities:

Theatre	120
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Seasons:

Autumn; Spring; Summer

Blackpool Grand Theatre



Programmer's Contact Details:

Name:	Adam Knight	Position:	Chief Executive
Email:	adamk@blackpoolgrand.co.uk programming@blackpoolgrand.co.uk	Telephone:	01253 743321

Artistic Policy:

Blackpool Grand Theatre is an Arts Council England National Portfolio Organisation 2023-26 and Grade II* listed Frank Matcham designed theatre, famously saved by and for the people of Blackpool. We are a nationally recognised, local resource, committed to inspiring a lifelong love of [the] theatre, The Grand presents mid to large scale work on our main stage including the best in West End musicals, drama, commercial and contemporary dance, ballet, opera, music, and comedy. In 2021, Blackpool Grand Theatre self-produced for the first time with the new musical *Around The World In 80's Days*. The Studio is our creative hub for small scale performances, for work in development, and is home to our extensive range of high quality community engagement projects, including our internationally recognised Story Led Resilience programme, which was shortlist nominated for The Stage Awards 2023, Community Project of the Year Award. We have well-established relationships with many high profile companies including as a partner theatre of the Royal Shakespeare Company; partner and education lead for the Children's Theatre Partnership (for whom we have been commissioned to create resources for the UK national tours of *Holes*, *Animal Farm* and *Unexpected Twist*); the Royal Opera House; and National Literacy Trust to name but a few.

Artist support:

We support artists through programming, co-commissioning, and providing space for research, development and work in progress sharing. Dependent on the project, we from time to time provide mentoring and in-kind support through provision of space or access to expertise.

Commission or support new work in development:

Yes. Current and recent commissions and co-commissions include: Gary Clarke Company, Northern BroadSides, Emmerson & Ward, The Knotted Project, 20 Stories High. We are currently working in partnership with Nottingham Playhouse and will be staging *The Real & Imagined Story of The Elephant Man* at Blackpool Grand Theatre in Autumn 2023. We are lead education partner for Children's Theatre Partnership and have been commissioned to create the accompanying education resources for the current UK national tour of *Unexpected Twist*. Current projects include: working with BAFTA award-winning writers Craig Cash and Phil Mealey on a new comedy for 2024/25; working with Northern BroadSides, Customs House South Shields, and Barnsley Civic on a project in development for 2025/26; and supporting the development and co-commission of Gary Clarke Company's new work.

Financial deals:

The type of deal we offer depends on the scale of work, length of run, element of risk and potential for commercial return or audience development. Negotiated deals may be in the form of splits, first calls, guarantees or structured deals. Where we're unable to support the development of work through financial investment, we will explore and consider ways that we can support work that we believe in through the provision of investment in kind.

Artists can contact us by:

We prefer initial contact by email as it allows time and space to review your proposal. It's helpful if you send a link to a tour pack, reviews, and video footage of production/workshop, or include some information about the people involved in your project, within your initial email.

How far in advance: Lead times are shorter and more flexible for The Studio, for the main house it's a good idea to get in touch at least 12-18 months in advance.

If you approach us, you can expect:

We will always endeavour to respond directly to personally addressed emails, particularly where links to more detailed production information have been provided. Generic or non-addressed emails are unlikely to be responded to.

We aren't interested in booking:

We are passionate about creating "More Stories for More People" and are keen to champion work on our stages that authentically reflects the lives and multiple experiences of communities we work with in Blackpool and beyond. We are passionate about creating space in our programme for work with a social justice lens and a golden thread of resilience running through it. Where we can, we aim to work in a co-productive, benefit for all capacity, and are passionate about staging work that acts as a catalyst for dialogue, discussion and debate as well as reflecting the mission, vision and values of Blackpool Grand Theatre, offering opportunities enjoy, participate and learn through theatre. If you have a great idea, we'd love to hear from you!

Spaces & Capacities:

Matcham Auditorium	1,085
The Studio	Up to 80

Seasons:

Spring, Summer, Autumn/Winter with brochures published in March/April, August/September, November/December.

Brewery Arts Centre, Kendal



Programmer's Contact Details:

Name:	Hannah Flynn	Position:	Programme Manager
Email:	programming@breweryarts.co.uk	Telephone:	

Artistic Policy:

Brewery Arts is the leading centre for combined arts in Cumbria. Our mission is to engage and enrich the community, and empower the next generation through culture and creativity.

Established for 50 years, we are based in the centre of Kendal and offer a range of live performance venues, cinemas and creative studios. The programme presents a vibrant and wide-ranging offer of music, theatre, comedy, dance, film, literature, visual art and creative learning.

Our artistic policy is to present ambitious, high-quality work that resonates with local, national and international audiences. We strive to represent diverse voices and to provide enriching, inspiring and uplifting experiences for audiences of all ages. We want our programmes to light up our stages and fire up the imagination, through unmissable live experiences.

We do this through the following programme strands:

- **Music:** We present a rich programme of music performances across the year, including contemporary indie, rock, folk, world music, experimental genres, club nights and DJs.

- Theatre and Dance: We present ambitious, high quality mid-scale theatre and contemporary dance, in partnership with others and often as part of national or regional tours. We are also building a strand of cabaret nights.
- Comedy: We present popular comedy shows, by regional and national performers throughout the year, and we also have a growing Comedy Club strand for emerging acts.
- Family Entertainment: Throughout the year we present high quality, magical, family theatre, including a festive show for Christmas. We are passionate about bringing families and young people together, to develop a lifelong love of the arts.
- Cinema: Our cinema programme features the best in independent cinema, selected mainstream releases, and specialist seasons and festivals.
- Literature and Spoken Word: We have a monthly spoken word night, open mic sessions, and we present spoken word artists in our core presented programme.
- Festivals: Each year we present the major international festival Kendal Mountain Festival. We also partner with other local, regional and national festivals, markets and fairs.

Artist support:

We support by presenting work and through talent development.

Commission or support new work in development:

Yes, subject to funding.

Financial deals:

Variable (split, guarantee, fixed fee, or venue hire)

Artists can contact us by:

Email

How far in advance: 6-12 months

If you approach us, you can expect:

A response within 2 weeks if we are able to take your idea forward

We aren't interested in booking:

Spaces & Capacities:

Theatre – suitable for theatre, dance, comedy, music	230-340 seated
Malt Room – suitable for music, cabaret, comedy	150-420 (cabaret 150, standing 420)

Seasons: Jan-April, May-Aug, Sept-Dec

Carriageworks Theatre, Leeds



Programmer's Contact Details:

Name:	Zoe Salmon	Position:	Programme Manager
Email:	zoe.salmon@leeds.gov.uk	Telephone:	+441133367803

Artistic Policy:

At The Carriageworks Theatre in Leeds City Centre, community, family, and accessibility drive our artistic practice. Our theatre comprises two intimate and flexible spaces. Our Main Auditorium (345) and Studio (55-70) can be used in a variety of exciting formats – we're always open to ideas.

We are primarily a receiving house and programme a variety of small to mid-scale local and touring work. We focus strongly on children's theatre and programme new writing alongside well-loved and established touring theatre. We balance this with a vibrant mix of comedy and speakers.

Alongside this, we are intent on championing our community. We are proud to be the home of Leeds Community Arts Network; a community-led initiative striving to make the arts accessible for all. We run the Carriageworks Young Theatre Makers; a devising group focused on nurturing the next generation of theatre makers. We are also a partner of Leeds Lit Fest, which celebrates literature and culture in Leeds.

At our heart, we are committed to programming work made by local theatre-makers and work that reflects and represents the diverse stories of people living and working in Leeds.

Artist support:

Showcasing and offering fees for new work.
Supporting Leeds-based companies, especially those making children’s theatre, by offering rehearsal space where possible.
Rehearsal and R&D space is always available to hire.

Commission or support new work in development:

No

Financial deals:

Preferably splits and hires but guarantees and guarantees vs. splits can be negotiated for the right shows.

Artists can contact us by:

Initial contact: Email. Please include a tour pack and if possible and send an idea of the financial deal you are looking for.

Please feel free to send links to video content but please direct me to a specific time.

How far in advance: I usually work 6-12 months ahead. 9-12 months for new writing.

It’s always worth getting in touch as I often have little gaps.

If you approach us, you can expect:

While I will strive to respond to all enquiries, I may not always have the capacity to reply to generic emails marketing a show if I am not interested in programming it. For shows I am interested in programming, please expect a response within 2 weeks.

We aren’t interested in booking:

Mediums, Hypnotists, Tribute Bands.

Spaces & Capacities:

Main Auditorium	345
Studio	55-70

Seasons:

Spring/Summer: February – July

Autumn/Winter: September – January

Cast, Doncaster



Programmer's Contact Details:

Name:	Deborah Rees	Position:	Director
Email:	programming@castindoncaster.com	Telephone:	01302 303959

Artistic Policy:

Cast's mission is to enrich the creative and culture life of our communities through high-quality artistic experiences. We aim to raise engagement in the arts in Doncaster through a varied performance programme; to raise aspiration and develop cultural capital through participation in creative activity. We work in partnership using the arts as a powerful tool for social change and place making.

Cast's artistic programme spans a number of spaces and includes both indoor, outdoor and digital work. We mainly programme touring product in our spaces, alongside community work, hires, and work that we co-produce and/or co-commission. We have a thriving artist development programme with a range of different strands.

Artist support:

Artist co-operative network, R&D space, rehearsal space, occasional tech and open; mentoring; support with funding applications; programming shows

Commission or support new work in development:

Sometimes when we have funds available for this

Financial deals:

Box office splits usually

Artists can contact us by:

Initial contact: Email

How far in advance: 6 months – 18 months

If you approach us, you can expect:

We will get back in touch if we have something we can offer you.

We aren't interested in booking:

Hypnotists, wrestling, mediums

Spaces & Capacities:

Main Space	620
Second Space	140 - 200

Seasons:

Spring and Autumn

Crewe Lyceum Theatre



Programmer's Contact Details:

Name:	Rhys Hopkin	Position:	Theatre Director
Email:	rhopkin@crewelyceum.co.uk	Telephone:	01270 508791

Artistic Policy:

We programme mid-scale touring theatre, with a particular interest in companies from the region, as well as dance, comedy, music and family/children's entertainment.

Our programme also includes larger scale national tours alongside amateur and community groups.

Our studio programme aims to offer smaller scale work that can help attract and develop younger audiences, as well as assist with developing work for emerging artists.

Externally, we have an event space on our doorstep that we programme alongside partners within the town's Cultural Forum, and have some available funding for certain events.

Artist support:

We are currently developing a new associate artists scheme. Presently we are able to support through R&D time in our spaces, technical and marketing support, signposting and mentoring. We have also been able to offer training to artists with funding support from the local authority.

Commission or support new work in development:

Yes

Financial deals:

We can offer splits, calls, hires and small guarantees.

Artists can contact us by:

We prefer initial contact by email. Any programming enquiries received via our info@ or boxoffice@ addresses will only be replied to if the work is of interest.

Please try to include the following information:

- Contact details
- Any opportunity to see the work
- Potential dates
- Information on the piece and creative team

How far in advance: 6 months

If you approach us, you can expect:

All personalised emails will be responded to, and where appropriate, we may also ask if we can share your details with our programming colleagues in our other venues – mainly in the South East of the country – should we think your proposal would work in any of these.

We aren't interested in booking:

We will consider any request that is of sufficient quality

Spaces & Capacities:

Main Auditorium	677
Lyceum Studio	90
Lyceum Square	500 (outside space)

Seasons:

We programme work January to November – December is held for our annual pantomime.

Darlington Hippodrome



Programmer's Contact Details:

Name:	Heather Tarran-Jones	Position:	Programming & Development Director
Email:	Heather.tarran-jones@darlington.gov.uk	Telephone:	01325 406735

Artistic Policy:

Darlington Hippodrome is a home for people and communities to enjoy live performances and engage in learning and participatory experiences, celebrating the Theatre's rich history in a beautifully restored theatre. We are a receiving house, programming a varied programme of musicals, music, comedy, high-quality drama, dance, opera, and orchestral concerts.

A vibrant and welcoming venue, we are open Mon – Sat from 10am and present shows most evenings. Matinees take place on Thursdays and Saturdays. We also have a variety of rehearsal / education spaces available for workshops, classes and artist development

Darlington Hippodrome is also home to Darlington Operatic Society who produce and present two shows annually. We also host several community hire events and performances throughout the year.

As well as the main Hippodrome House, I also programme fringe and small scale performance and comedy in The Hullabaloo Theatre as part of the Hipp @ The Hullabaloo evening programme.

Artist support:

We offer space in kind for projects that align with our cultural objectives. These tend to be projects that support the development of north east based artists and include a community element. They are often A.C.E funded

We also offer small pockets of funding through our Place for Everyone Fund (up to £1,500). We are open to fresh ideas and happy to be approached via email

Commission or support new work in development:

Yes, if we have enough funding through a Place for Everyone and the work connects with our local community

Financial deals:

Hippodrome - Mainly box office splits in the Hippodrome. But also happy to explore first calls and the occasional guarantee

Hipp @ The Hullabaloo – Preferably box office split, but can look to offer guarantees up to £350 depending on the show

Artists can contact us by:

Email.

How far in advance: 3 – 9 months for Hipp @ The Hullabaloo, 12 – 18 months for Hippodrome programme

If you approach us, you can expect:

Any personalised emails will always be answered and if shows are of interest they will be held on file. If the email is not personalised and the show is not of interest for Darlington Hippodrome or Hipp @ The Hullabaloo then we will not reply.

We aren't interested in booking:

Private commercial hires

Spaces & Capacities:

Darlington Hippodrome	1005
The Hullabaloo Theatre (for evening adult programme)	150-170

Seasons:

Hippodrome – Programme 9 – 18 months in advance to ensure good lead in time for marketing and to guarantee inclusion in at least 1 brochure.

Hipp @ The Hullabaloo – Programming is on-going. Minimum 3 months lead in time required for marketing

Enable Us – University of Sheffield



Programmer's Contact Details:

Name:	Porl Cooper / Nick Hopwood	Position:	Programmer / Head of Performance Venues
Email:	enableus@sheffield.ac.uk n.hopwood@sheffield.ac.uk	Telephone:	0114 222 8889

Artistic Policy:

Established in 2017, Enable US (a University of Sheffield Performance Venues initiative) is a two-week festival of high-quality new theatre and touring performance presented each Spring & Autumn at University of Sheffield Drama Studio. It provides a platform within the University of Sheffield Performance Venues to bring audiences, artists and the University community together to experience, inspire and be inspired by performances that stimulate thought and broaden understanding, as well as providing access to workshops, training and development.

In our twice yearly Enable US Festivals, we are enabling new and innovative performing arts companies to perform in Sheffield, companies that may not have previously had a platform to present their work in the city. The Enable US Festivals take place at the Drama Studio for two weeks in Spring and two weeks in Autumn. They attract a growing audience from Sheffield and beyond to enjoy performances that are new, inspiring, and exciting.

Our artistic programme encourages opportunities for students at the University of Sheffield to work alongside professional arts practitioners, to develop their own creativity and to grow as individuals. We also aim to develop work-based learning programmes and internships within the cultural and creative professions.

We Actively seek work with themes and topics which resonate across Faculties and Schools (beyond School of English), a full list of which can be found here:
<https://www.sheffield.ac.uk/departments/faculty-departments>

Within that remit, we will prioritise:

- International Work
- Physical Theatre, Dance & Circus
- Work by midcareer artists (to balance the other local venues focus on the New and Emerging)

Artist support:

Single night programmed performances within the Enable US festival period. Resident Company opportunities, following annual call out, giving access to year-round rehearsal space, technical facilities, plus cash support, and brokered relationships with academics, schools, and faculties within the University, which may then inform the work being made.

Commission or support new work in development:

Not outside our Resident Company offer

Financial deals:

All deals are negotiated

Guaranteed fees / fees vs splits (in line with the potential yield of the space!) are met subject to secured external funding. EnableUS does not (currently) work on a financial model with university subsidy as many other university venues may do. First Calls or splits can be offered otherwise.

Artists can contact us by:

E-mail

Please try and include as much of the following information;

- Mobile number
- An invitation to see work
- Information about the work, press reviews, background info about the creative team
- Information of where the work has previously been presented
- Potential tour dates

How far in advance: As early as possible, but ideally 6-9 months in advance. We can consider productions in the short term under certain circumstances.

If you approach us, you can expect:

A response within 14 days to tell them whether their dates or production fit into our programme or if we may be interested in future productions

We aren't interested in booking:

Work that has already been presented in the region (as we have limited no. of performance slots) or will be presented at other venues in South Yorkshire in the same period. Otherwise, all approaches are considered.

We are always interested in work which resonates with the University Faculties (List here <https://www.sheffield.ac.uk/departments/faculty-departments>) and that which has a specific interest to encourage engagement between the company, students, academics, and the local community

Spaces & Capacities:

Drama Studio (main home of EnableUs programme)	177 seats, flexible formats
The Octagon	up to 1230 seats, 1600 standing, flexible formats
Firth Hall (concert venue)	380 seats

Seasons:

2 weeks in the Spring (between Feb and April) and 2 weeks in the Autumn (between Oct and Dec) with occasional dates outside of this which can be included in our 6 monthly brochure.

Georgian Theatre Royal



Programmer's Contact Details:

Name:	Clare Allen	Position:	Theatre Manager
Email:	Clare.allen@georgiantheatroyal.co.uk	Telephone:	01748 823710

Artistic Policy:

Encouragement and promotion of the study, knowledge, understanding and appreciation of the Performing Arts are the key drivers of the Artistic Policy. The Georgian Theatre Royal is committed to engaging with the community through providing a diverse, contemporary, and relevant programme of events and performances. Commercial productions that attract larger audiences will help to support community productions, family productions or performances from new and emerging artists.

Theatre and Drama

The Theatre presents some of the newest and most exciting performance work being made in the UK. The programme features nationally renowned artists and companies who are making work that is relevant to people's lives today. This includes supporting the development of work by local and regional artists.

High quality touring companies such as The Globe on Tour, Mikron, Hangfire, New Old Friends and Elysium Theatre Company continue to be included in the Theatre's programming. There remains a healthy demand for theatre and audiences will book according to the production company as much as for the attraction of the show's subject matter or title.

Due to the size of the theatre, and seating capacity, smaller cast productions form a substantial part of the programming. The smaller scale nature of the production generally equates to lower costs for the production company and so the small seating capacity (155) is not a restriction. With the larger scale productions, the audience stretch needs to be able to warrant a four to six performance run in order to match the box office sales to the production costs.

Opera and Classical Music

Evenings of opera are well received, including productions of smaller cast sizes such as those from Heritage Opera. The intimate nature of the theatre lends itself perfectly to the programming of recitals by individual musicians, chamber music groups, and small choral groups and soloists. This approach enables us to maximise artistic, audience and financial opportunities.

Families and Children

A minimum of two family-oriented shows in the Spring/Summer season and a further show in the Autumn/Winter season will be programmed. The in-house pantomime is, of course, a production for the whole family to enjoy. Ticket prices for family shows are set at £9, ensuring that price is not a restriction for accessing high quality theatre. Due to high production costs, however, often the ticket sales do not reach the guarantee and so the Theatre may host these shows at a financial loss. The artistic need outweighs the financial loss and, to ensure the Theatre meets its key objective – to ensure and promote the study, knowledge, understanding and appreciation of Dramatic Art – this financial loss is sustained. It is subsidised by the more commercial programming and by the annual donation from Friends of the Georgian Theatre Royal.

Music

The genres of rock, pop, soul, jazz, and indie continue to find audiences. There is a huge appetite for tribute acts, especially music from a few decades ago and when the entertainment is delivered with big production values and talented artists with great reputations. Live bands rather than backing music is preferred, but acoustic settings work well for smaller scale tours with bigger names, enabling the Theatre to book original artists. More opportunities need to be provided for local artists, especially singers, musicians and bands that are just starting out.

Comedy and Light Entertainment

Professional comedians love the intimate nature of the auditorium, and we access high profile comedians largely through the agency, Off the Kerb Productions. Due to the low capacity (and corresponding low box office yield), agents will often use the Theatre to provide for a 'work in progress' opportunity. Although judgment may be subjective, the CEO will endeavour not to book comedians with reputations for offensive material or those with a problematic fanbase. Character comedians work well as they provide a bridge between one-man shows (of which there are many) and stand-up comedians.

Artist support:

As a receiving house, rather than a producing house, we support artists by hosting their work. The Georgian is not an NPO and relies on achieving 80% earned income. This is a real challenge for a theatre with only 155 seating capacity. However, we can still support artists, including new and emerging companies, by taking risks with guarantees and by providing excellent marketing and promotion.

Commission or support new work in development:

Sadly no

Financial deals:

Box office splits or small guarantees vs box office split. First call.

Artists can contact us by:

Email.

How far in advance: At least 8 months

If you approach us, you can expect:

A reply!

Please include excellent images of the show, especially of flyer/poster design. If I can picture the show looking great in our brochure, that's really helpful.

We aren't interested in booking:

Anything with pyrotechnics or naked flames!

Large scale casts or sets won't be viable.

Anything that's immersive or requires audience access to the stage.

Anything that's not end-on or would cause sight-line problems.

Spaces & Capacities:

Main auditorium	155
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Seasons:

Spring/Summer (February to July) Autumn (August to November)

Harrogate Theatre



Programmer's Contact Details:

Name:	Porl Cooper	Position:	Programmer
Email:	Porl.cooper@harrogatetheatre.co.uk	Telephone:	01423 502710

Artistic Policy:

Harrogate Theatre has two performance spaces (a main auditorium that seats 500 and a studio space that seats 60), which allow for producing and presenting theatre, dance, music and comedy. It is also home to a number of community groups that regularly perform musicals and plays throughout the year. The organisation also runs a vibrant education and outreach department that delivers throughout the District from an adjacent building called Hive. The Theatre has undergone considerable artistic development in the past 10 years that has seen the organisation establish itself as a significant influence in the region, with a growing national profile.

Over the past three years the Trust has acquired programming responsibilities for a programme of live events at the Royal Hall (1,000 seats) and Harrogate International Centre (2,000 seats), allowing for internationally renowned companies and artists to be part of the eclectic artistic programme.

Our Mission Statement is as follows:

Harrogate Theatres produce and present a programme of quality drama, dance, comedy, music and festivals that celebrate the diversity and richness of British and world cultures, whilst identifying opportunities to work closely with artists and practitioners that challenge and excite audiences.

Harrogate Theatres works with all stakeholders to generate educational activities that encourage an appreciation of the arts as participants or audience members. Harrogate Theatres acknowledge that activity within the arts sector contributes to the buoyancy of the local economy and therefore seeks to collaborate with other venues, cultural providers, funders and business partners.

Artist support:

Harrogate's support for new work and artists takes three main forms.

- Scheduling / programming work as part of the main programme (we should be able to see the work in advance elsewhere or as a recording OR the work should come endorsed by at least one other venue programmer who has seen the work themselves).
- Ongoing affordable sometimes free workshops, masterclasses and learning sessions for creatives from anywhere throughout the year.
- 4 annual seed commissions, which since 2020 have taken on a new approach, to try to make the process as fair as possible and to allocate our available funds as equally as possible. Each year will have a call out (via the venue's Social Network channels among other places) for 4 opportunities of seed funding, space, support in kind and up to a week of performances. We will select 3 companies that are "known to us" (either through previous support or simply programming previous work) and 1 company completely "unknown to us" but whom we would prefer to be based or creating work within the Venues North footprint. The call outs will usually contain a specific provocation. One year it might be "how does your project meet the Creative Case for Diversity", another year it might be "How does your project aim to engage XXXXXX (audience demograph)". Successful applicants are selected by a panel of 4 and not just one programmer. There are no strict criteria for who we work with but our priority is to ensure that we work with the most varied selection of companies as our resources allow and those hailing from the North of England, and Harrogate and District / North Yorkshire in particular. We actively encourage companies to make the work with us and have ongoing dialogues with all departments through that process.

Additionally, Rehearsal space is available across the year or at a very heavily subsidised rate.

There are bookable 'Surgeries' available with the Associate Producer across the year.

Please note that both our rehearsal space and studio performance space are not in step free spaces (our building is 120 years old) and we currently do not have a lift to either space. We are doing our best to remedy this and, in the meantime, continue to

develop relationships with other more accessible spaces for performance and rehearsal.

We welcome proposals for work that can present in offsite step free and low tech spaces.

Commission or support new work in development:

Financial deals:

Please do acknowledge that the studio size is only 60 seats and we can only consider deals and financial requests that can work within the potential yield of its capacity! (i.e. please avoid emailing to say that your work is “perfect for (y)our studio” whilst also telling me it comes with a £1200 price tag!)

For studio touring work we can offer a baseline or modest GT against 70%.

For main house work, GT's vs splits are preferable.

Where you are absolutely convinced “the show will sell out” we will happily take your super confident hire money (at a very reasonable rate!)

Artists can contact us by:

Email

How far in advance: Any time before the above brochure deadlines

If you approach us, you can expect:

We will try to respond to enquiries ASAP, given part time roles. As of Dec 2020, there is no full-time programmer.

To help with the volume of enquiries combined with the part time hours, there is an auto reply on the that gives an update as to where we are with programming, and hopefully some other helpful pointers, but does say that if you don't hear back in a certain timeline, please assume that the work is not a good fit for us right now. (Often helpfully saying “sorry, no” can be as time consuming as pulling together the programme, so we have found this auto response to be useful and artists have acknowledged its helpfulness.

We aren't interested in booking:

Clairvoyants. We have a strong amateur programme of musicals and some dramas, so we always have to be aware of the balance of work across the venues. We wouldn't look for Studio scale classical drama, and generally prefer new work to established texts

Spaces & Capacities:

Main House	500
Studio	60
Offsite Spaces	50-200
Royal Hall	1000

Seasons:

Jan – April (late Oct Deadline)
May – July (late Feb deadline)
Sept – Dec (early Jun deadline)

HOME, Manchester



Programmer's Contact Details:

Name:	Kevin Jamieson	Position:	Head of Programme
Email:	Kevin.Jamieson@homemcr.org	Telephone:	0161 212 3476

Artistic Policy:

<https://homemcr.org/about/work/home-theatre-programming-policy/>

Artist support:

We want HOME to be a creative hub for the region, where local and world-class talent of all backgrounds and disciplines are discovered, nurtured and showcased, and come together to create new experiences, Emerging creatives can take advantage of one-off skills workshops, long-term development residencies, commissions and regular showcase opportunities, which support the professional development of theatre makers, visual artists and filmmakers at all career stages and connect our region's creatives with national and international practitioners making work for our stages, screens and galleries.

HOME work on Artist development across all five strands of the programme; visual art, film, theatre, community and young people, digital and creative. Throughout the year we run a number of specialist skills workshops, masterclasses and in-depth

projects to support the professional development of artists at varying career stages. This varied programme aims to connect regional artists with practitioners/companies making work for our stages, screens and galleries.

Projects include;

Artist Development Surgeries

Do you want to discuss a project idea, need a bit of career advice or would like to find out more about the Talent Development opportunities here at HOME? Our producer surgeries are a chance to book in 30-minute chats with one of our Talent Development producers. We can't promise that we'll have all the answers, but it will be a chance to discuss whatever you're working on, get some feedback from an industry professional and find out more about all the opportunities at HOME.

Explore

This opportunity is designed to be the most flexible, light touch way of supporting an idea or project to get off the ground. This can be used for both professional development and research opportunities.

This fund provides seed funding (up to £500) with access to development space alongside support from Artist Development producing team.

Mothers Who Make

Mothers who Make is a growing national network aimed at supporting mothers who are artists, working in any discipline and at any stage of their careers. It is a peer support group and creative exchange session for mothers who are artists – professional and/or passionate – writers, painters, actors, dancers, filmmakers, photographers...every kind of maker welcome, and every kind of mother. Please feel free to bring along your children, of any age, whether they are inside you, beside you or running round the room!

Take Your Seat

In partnership with Unity Theatre, Take Your Seat brings together creatives from the global majority* from across Manchester and Liverpool to talk, plan together, network, troubleshoot ideas with peers, and provide ongoing support during these difficult times.

Whatever art form you're working in, whether you're starting out or an old hand, this space is for you. See performances, attend networking events and meet possible future friends and collaborators.

The sessions are led by afshan d'souza-lodhi in Manchester and Tayo Aluko in Liverpool.

Tayo Aluko is a playwright, actor, singer and producer based in Liverpool and Afshan d'souza-Iodhi is a scriptwriter and poet living in Manchester.

If you are interested in coming to a session or knowing more about the group, please email takeyourseat@gmail.com

*What do we mean by Global Majority?

“Global majority” is a collective term for ethnic groups which constitute approximately 85 percent of the global population. It is used as an alternative to terms which are seen as racialized like “ethnic minority” and “person of color” (POC), or more regional terms like “visible minority” in Canada and “Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic” (BAME) in the United Kingdom.

Examples are people from the African and Caribbean diasporas, people who are South Asian, East Asian, Southeast Asian, North African and Middle Eastern or ethnically-mixed heritages.

PUSH Festival (January, next 2025)

PUSH is HOME's bi-annual festival dedicated to supporting emerging North West-based creatives to

develop, promote and showcase their practice and create new networks. It's no secret that

Manchester is a creative jewel of a city, brimming with theatre-makers, filmmakers and visual artists

pushing the boundaries of the way we make and perceive work. PUSH shines a light on that local

talent and provides a platform for creatives from all art forms to showcase work that thrills, excites and challenges audiences. PUSH also aims to provide creatives with the skills to develop and push their

practice further so expect workshops, panel discussions and networking opportunities.

PUSH Lab (January, Bi-annual next 2024)

For artists of all disciplines, PUSH LAB is a week-long programme of conversations, events, and

workshops to inspire, provoke and challenge your thoughts of making work in 2022 and beyond. We

also hope that it will be a chance to recharge and reconnect.

There will be opportunities to meet other artists, debate important issues, learn new skills or ways of

working, and have fun in the process.

HOME is also part of the GM Artist Hub offering support to the independent practitioners, artists, and

companies of Greater Manchester. You can find out more and sign up for a free 30-minute Advisory

Session on the <https://www.gm-artisthub.co.uk>

Commission or support new work in development:

Any commissioning opportunities will be shared on our Artist Development pages.

Financial deals:

We work on a variety of deals which we will discuss with the artist and will change on a show-by-show basis. We look for deals that make most sense to the artist/company and their needs.

Artists can contact us by:

Email programming@homemcr.org

Each proposal will then be looked at by HOME's programming team which will include HOME's Head of Programme & Programme Producer as well as representatives from our Talent Development team.

If we feel that your show could fit a season at HOME then it will also be discussed with HOME's Executive and Creative Development teams for a final decision. These meetings happen monthly.

We will then get in touch with you to discuss dates/financial deal and progress your show for HOME's season

How far in advance: HOME works approximately 9-12 months in advance so please bear that in mind when making a programming approach

If you approach us, you can expect:

Any personalised emails will always be answered and if shows are of interest they will be held on file. If the email is not personalised and the show is not of interest for HOME then we will not reply.

We aren't interested in booking:

We do not hire our spaces out to companies and all work must be curated by HOME

Spaces & Capacities:

Theatre 1	447 seat, three tier
Theatre 2	130 seat, flexible
5 cinemas	
2 Galleries	

Seasons:

Sept – Feb

Mar – Aug

Hull Truck Theatre



Programmer's Contact Details:

Name:	Adam Pownall	Position:	Senior Producer
Email:	Programming@hulltruck.co.uk	Telephone:	01482 488 244

Artistic Policy:

Hull Truck Theatre is the flagship venue for Hull and the surrounding region presenting a theatre-led, mixed-disciplinary programme of produced and visiting work. We are a pioneering theatre with a unique Northern Voice, locally rooted, global in outlook, inspiring artists, audiences and communities to reach their greatest potential.

We are excited by work that is imaginative, compelling and reflects the diversity of a modern Britain through a focus on stories and people. We aim to present exceptional work across a broad range of theatrical forms and styles, to delight and inspire our wide range of audiences.

The values which underpin our programme are: Innovation; Inclusion and Integrity.
Stage 1

Drama is at the heart of our programming, and we have relationships with a number of key touring partners whose work we programme on a regular basis, including Northern Broadsides, The John Godber Company and Hull Jazz Festival.

Dance, music and comedy are programmed across both spaces and, as with the drama programme, we curate and promote work by companies of national repute. Godber Studio

Godber Studio is a space for new and sometimes more challenging theatrical experiences. We are particularly interested in exploring the idea of a 'Northern voice', and of increasing the depth of our relationship (and that of our audiences) with artists making theatre in the North through supporting the creative development of work. The Studio is also a fully equipped cinema and we present a programme of live stream broadcasts and independent films with partners such as the Royal Shakespeare Company and Hull Independent Cinema.

How We Programme

We are committed to presenting work that reflects the diverse communities and artists that populate our nation. We will not book work that does not meet the overall values of the theatre or that does not reflect the diversity and inclusion of a modern Britain.

We focus on the following strands to deliver thrilling and vital work that speaks of today:

Good Fit

This is the broadest of our strands, incorporating performances that make a good night out for diverse audiences and including everything from classical drama to jazz and stand-up comedy.

Innovative

Our primary focus for our visiting studio programme will be on developing and showcasing the work of contemporary UK artists and widening the pool of Northern based artists.

Through our partnerships with Venues North and artist networks, we will programme a diverse range of work from new writing from well established companies such as Graeae, Eclipse, Paines Plough, Sherman Theatre Cymru to spoken word, comedy and contemporary dance and circus.

Local to Hull & East Yorkshire

As the largest producing theatre in Hull & East Yorkshire, we aim to represent and nurture the talent and experience local to Hull Truck Theatre. This work will either be made in Hull & East Yorkshire or have a clear link to the region (individual artists, stories that resonate etc).

Children & Family

We look to programme a broad range of work for families and children, from well-known titles to innovate and contemporary storytelling.

Artist support:

Grow is our year-round artist development scheme for artists and companies at all stages of their career. We provide artistic residencies through Be Our Guest, which provides artists with rehearsal space, mentoring support and £1500. In May we host our annual Grow Season, which consists of workshops, conversations, performances of new work and creative networking opportunities. Applications for residencies, scratch nights and other opportunities are advertised on our website. We also offer informal 1-2-1 sessions with local artists throughout the year.

Commission or support new work in development:

Yes but usually with companies and artists we already have established relationships with

Financial deals:

Both spaces work mainly on a 70/30 box office split in the visiting company's favour; however, we do a variety of deals dependent on the show, our audience forecast and our relationship with the artist or company

Artists can contact us by:

Email

If the show is tour-ready, please send a tour pack to programming@hulltruck.co.uk with copy, images, reviews, and an indication of who the work is for. Please do not send a script or DVD unless requested. Please do be clear about how you think your work fits into one (or more) of the first three programming strands. If the show is in development, please introduce yourself and your work and tell us why you are interested in working with Hull Truck Theatre and what your work offers our audiences. Let us know where and when we can see your work, and which other industry partners you are working with. We rarely programme work by artists whose work we are not familiar with, so invitations to festivals, showcases and scratch performances in advance of tour booking are welcome. We also take recommendations from industry colleagues

How far in advance: 6-12 Months

If you approach us, you can expect:**We aren't interested in booking:**

We will not book work that does not meet the overall values of the theatre or that does not reflect the diversity and inclusion of a modern Britain.

Spaces & Capacities:

Stage 1	429
Godber Studio	135

Seasons:

Jan-Jul, Sep-Jan

Interplay Theatre, Leeds



Programmer's Contact Details:

Name:	Richard Oyarzabal	Position:	Executive Director
Email:	richard.oyarzabal@intreplaytheatre.co.uk	Telephone:	0113 263 8556

Artistic Policy:

Our aim is to work with to 6 to 8 artists / companies a year offering them opportunities to develop their work. We are interested in work that will engage the community of Armley or is for young people with PMLD that aligns with our national touring work. We present family theatre

Artist support:

Through offering rehearsal / development space and the opportunity to show work at a development stage. We have strong links with local primary schools enabling artists enabling artists to show work in development to primary age audiences.

Commission or support new work in development:

Financial deals:

Variable

Artists can contact us by:

Email

How far in advance: 6 to 12 months. We do also occasionally have short notice availability

If you approach us, you can expect:

We aren't interested in booking:

Spaces & Capacities:

Rehearsal / Performance Space	60
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Seasons:

Leeds Playhouse



Programmer's Contact Details:

Name:	Alecia Marshall	Position:	Director of Producing
Email:	programming@leedsplayhouse.org.uk	Telephone:	

Artistic Policy:

Leeds Playhouse aims to be a hub for creative excellence – a great artistic beacon in the North.

Our mission is to create world class, relevant and compelling theatre and to transform people's lives by the power and vitality of our work. We aim to have a company, an artistic programme and an audience that reflects the diversity of the society we live in.

The Playhouse's creative ecology is made up of three interconnected and equally important parts: our programme of produced and visiting work; our Creative Engagement activity and our Furnace programme of new work and artistic development.

Artist support:

We use the word Furnace to describe all of the work we do to generate and create new performance work and support and nourish our local creative community. In short, Furnace is Leeds Playhouse's development engine. It's where we develop audacious artistic voices and vital new theatre for the stage.

At the Playhouse, we develop:

People

We believe it's crucial to develop a diverse, highly skilled community of artists in Leeds and West Yorkshire. The Playhouse offers one of the most comprehensive artist development programmes in the country. Unlike the development of new work, our artist development activity has no intended performance outcome. Rather, it recognises that creativity, experimentation and innovation flourish in pressure free environments.

<https://leedsplayhouse.org.uk/for-artists/personal-development/>

Projects

Project Development is the development of brand new theatre projects that are brought to us by independent artists. We provide a safe, receptive and open environment for artists and companies living and working in the North to explore new projects, to push at the boundaries of their creativity; to try, to fail, and to try again. We create bespoke development journeys for projects, responding to an artist's needs and tailoring the way we nurture new theatre ideas accordingly.

Broadly, we support projects with time (meetings, advice, and producing / dramaturgical support), space (in our rehearsal rooms) and money (through seed funding and targeted investment).

<https://leedsplayhouse.org.uk/for-artists/develop-your-project/>

Programme

Programme development activity is anything we do to support the evolution of plays under

commission or ideas generated by our in-house directors. It allows our work to be rigorously tested, ensuring the highest possible quality across our programme.

<https://leedsplayhouse.org.uk/for-artists/programming/>

Partnerships

We are committed to nurturing a resilient and sustainable ecology for artists to create new theatre in Leeds. We want our building to be a prism that reflects the world around it and we believe that we are only as strong as the creative community we serve.

<https://leedsplayhouse.org.uk/for-artists/programmes-partnerships/>

Please visit <https://leedsplayhouse.org.uk/for-artists/> for further information, available in written English, BSL and audio.

Commission or support new work in development:

Yes

Financial deals:

We generally offer box office splits in the artist's favour or guarantees that allow them to ensure that their costs will be covered. These deals are negotiated on a performance by performance basis, taking in to account everything from scale of the production to estimated audience reach. These deals are also regularly part of a bigger support package - we often invite visiting companies to deliver workshops to our local artist network and we're open to innovative community engagement initiatives.

Artists can contact us by:

For artist and new work development:

The best way to find out about the opportunities, support, events, workshops and offers that are available for artists is to sign up to our newsletter.

You'll receive a monthly email from Furnace Producer Rio Matchett packed with information about free artist workshops, events, career opportunities, vacancies, and ticket offers from the Playhouse and from our friends across the region.

<https://leedsplayhouse.org.uk/for-artists/newsletter/>

For programming and touring enquiries:

Please send a tour pack to programming@leedsplayhouse.org.uk

For more information on how and when we programme, please see

<https://leedsplayhouse.org.uk/for-artists/programming/>

How far in advance: Artists can contact our Artistic Planning team via email throughout the year to say hello, talk about their work and invite us along to shows that they have coming up so that we can get an introduction to their work.

How far in advance: If an artist or company wants to contact us about touring an existing work to the Playhouse, or discussing a potential co-production with us, they should get in touch at least eight months in advance.

If you approach us, you can expect:

We try to acknowledge the receipt of an email as quickly as possible if it's sent to our individual, personal email addresses, but due to the volume of enquiries we receive, this may take a few weeks.

Depending on where we are in our planning cycle, it could take anything up to four months to confirm touring dates and in the meantime, we endeavour to keep artists in the loop about the conversations we're having in-house.

Due to the volume of invites we receive on a daily basis, we might not always be able to respond to every invitation, especially if we cannot attend. If a member of the team is available to see work, we will get back to you.

We aren't interested in booking:

We don't tend to programme live music, film or novelty acts like hypnotists or mediums. We also don't programme amateur companies because we have strong pre-existing links with established community companies, who perform annual at our Open Season

Spaces & Capacities:

Quarry	750
Courtyard	420
Bramall Rock Void	70-120

Seasons:

January-July, September-January

Liverpool Royal Court



Programmer's Contact Details:

Name:	Jess Bolger	Position:	Creative Producer
Email:	jbolger@liverpoolsroyalcourt.com	Telephone:	01517094321

Artistic Policy:

Liverpool's Royal Court is a full-time producing house in the heart of the city centre. We began producing theatre in 2006 and have developed a unique style of theatre for Liverpool audiences, produced in Liverpool, primarily utilising Liverpool actors and writers. In 2018/2019, over 180,000 people visited the theatre and experienced the unique cabaret-style stalls seating, offering dinner and drinks before the show.

Alongside a programme of popular theatre, LRC has established wide-reaching community engagement programmes most of which are free to access with no waiting list and no auditions. These programmes provide arts activities to some of the most vulnerable communities in the region for all ages.

The majority of our work is new writing, commissioned and developed by us. We are happy to discuss ideas with writers, but our shows always focus on entertainment, mainly through comedy and reflect the warmth and humour of the people of Liverpool.

Our recently opened Studio space has allowed us to broaden our reach, producing a wider range of writing and themes and welcoming newer audiences. The Studio programme is a mix of in-house productions and hires.

Mission: To be known throughout the UK as a leading producer of quality theatre and inspiring engagement programmes for non-traditional theatre audiences. To be a key organisation through which audiences can develop a love for theatre in all its forms.

Purpose: Putting our audiences and participants at the heart of all we do. We bring joy and laughter to people by putting real Liverpool lives on stage, presenting our work in a unique way to engage non-traditional theatre audiences.

Belief: That our brand of theatre production and participation programmes can be enjoyed by most people whether they have had previous theatre experiences or not.

Core Values: Liverpool's Royal Court:

- Discovers and nurtures Liverpool talent on stage and off
- Creates high quality, made-for-audiences entertainment and participation activities
- Includes all audiences, especially those from low socio-economic backgrounds
- Shows the best of Liverpool to the world

Artist support:

We are always happy to meet and discuss with artists, particularly those in the Liverpool City Region, who think their work may be suitable for our programme. We are also seeking to model a more collaborative way of working across the city with other NPOs and smaller companies. We have a dedicated rehearsal space, set building workshop and extensive costume store and are open to discussing sharing resources with emerging companies in the area.

Seed commissions

We offer seed commissions for writers who approach us with an idea for a show that we think has the potential to be developed into a full production for our main house or the Studio. We will also look at good ideas that may not be perfectly suited to our audience but may have commercial potential through collaboration with other producers.

Stage Write

Our newly launched new writing programme has a number of strands aimed at developing writing talent in the Liverpool region. Our Playwright Development Programme is a 10 month, free to access course for Liverpool writers, it is broadly aimed at writers with some experience looking at creating their first full length play. The course runs February to November with fortnightly sessions. Applications open in November for the following year's course.

We also run Stage Write showcase nights throughout the year, submissions can be made at any time and works selected will have an excerpt rehearsed with a professional cast and Director for a rehearsed reading.

Boisterous

Liverpool's Royal Court support Boisterous, run by Maurice Bessman and Miriam Mussa. Boisterous is a development strand that aims to create work for and by artists of colour as well as collaborating on initiatives that increase the diversity of our organisation.

Mentoring Programme

This year we are piloting a mentoring programme for BAME artists and creatives in Liverpool. The scheme runs for 9 months and each participant is paired with a professional theatre mentor. The scheme will continue with annual intakes.

Commission or support new work in development:

E-mail, explaining what the work is, how it has been developed and why you think it is right for Liverpool's Royal Court.

Financial deals:

Straight hires or 70/30 Box Office splits for Studio pieces. We cannot offer travel or accommodation as part of any deals.

Artists can contact us by:

Email

How far in advance: Programming happens continuously so contact can be made at any time. For Studio touring work / hires a minimum of 6 months.

If you approach us, you can expect:

We do our best to respond to all directly addressed approaches however we are a small team and may hold onto information until it is relevant / we are in a position to decide on it so it may be a while before we respond. If you are waiting on a decision from us then a reminder email is welcomed.

We will not generally reply to generic show information unless it is something we are interested in.

We aren't interested in booking:

We very rarely take external productions in the main auditorium. In the Studio we are not interested in mixed bill comedy nights, hypnotists / mediums or live music.

Spaces & Capacities:

Main Auditorium	1105
Studio	154

Seasons:

Year round programming

New Adelphi Theatre, Salford



Programmer's Contact Details:

Name:	Niki Woods / Mark Fox	Position:	Artistic Director / Venue Development Manager
Email:	n.woods@salford.ac.uk / m.fox2@salford.ac.uk	Telephone:	0161 295 6017 / 0161 295 6019

Artistic Policy:

New Adelphi building opened on University of Salford's main Peel Park campus in September 2016, delivering a new home for music, performance, dance, art, design and architecture students. These facilities provide a rich environment for creativity, co-creation, research, co-production, arts and culture on campus. Our 300 seat theatre features flexible seating configurations to suit a range of events and performances, and is equipped with a range of intelligent and generic lighting, a highly adaptable EM Acoustics PA system, and a high-powered Christie projector. The Studio Theatre is a classic black-box performance space with completely flexible seating and stage layouts, suitable for many types of performance.

Our hope is to cultivate a creative and cultural exchange between our communities, our staff and students and the artists we work with through producing and programming high-quality artistic experiences.

We are a venue that aims to:

1. Deepen the relationships between staff, students, artists, and audiences.
2. Be routed in Salford to build audiences and opportunities for and with our neighbours.
3. Deliver a multi-disciplinary programme of events across all art forms with a commitment to support and nurture emerging artists.
4. Give students and graduates first-hand placement/internship experience of working in a professional theatre environment, for example: understanding box office/FOH duties and ushering to technically supporting events and leading on some content development for marketing purposes.

We will achieve this by maximising the benefits of working with professional companies through programming new work, artists' direct engagement with the curriculum through live briefs, masterclasses, co-creation, mentoring opportunities for undergraduates, postgraduates, and graduating students. We aim to promote research and development collaborations with university staff, artists, and students.

We will work with local artists and communities to find opportunities to co-create. We'll provide a venue that hosts creative opportunities for young people in Salford, for example, through our partnership and commitment to The Lowry's Stage Directions programme. We will provide a range of free and subsidised events and build an associate artist network that provides free rehearsal space and some financial support for new work.

We will utilise the theatres technical infrastructure to offer new digital and creative opportunities for visiting companies.

Artist support:

We have an Associate Artist support scheme and a Graduate Scholarship programme

To people involved with this we can offer:

- Preferable rates/fees to artists.

- Access to free or cheap rehearsal space.
- Access our props and costume.

For our Graduate Scholarship programme, we can suggest professional artists as mentors (paid). If you'd be interested in being a mentor, please email us.

Commission or support new work in development:

If there are some student experience opportunities, (workshops/masterclasses/placements etc) and these are useful to your company/practice/funding, we are always happy to discuss.

Financial deals:

We can offer:

- Straight hire
- Box Office splits
- Guarantee vs a split
- Or we can discuss a fee.

Artists can contact us by:

Email

How far in advance: We try to programme 6 – 9 months in advance for our programmed events, however if you are looking for a hire then we can be contacted later.

If you approach us, you can expect:

We will try to reply to all inquiries even if we can't programme your work. The response maybe a no, as we don't have the time to give detailed feedback on every inquiry.

We are a university venue, so we programme all work around the teaching and assessments. We also try to programme work that is relevant to our degree programmes – Theatre/Performance/Media/Comedy/Dance.

We aren't interested in booking:

Well, it's worth an email, try us out!

Spaces & Capacities:

New Adelphi Theatre	300
New Adelphi Studio	up to 80
Rehearsal spaces (for Hire)	20

Seasons:

Two Seasons:

September - December

January – May

Northern Stage, Newcastle



Programmer's Contact Details:

Name:	Ryan Hay	Position:	Creative Associate
Email:	rhay@northernstage.co.uk	Telephone:	0191 242 7236

Artistic Policy:

Northern Stage produces at least four productions per year and presents a wide and varied programme of events, comedy, dance, and theatre with the ambition to platform quality work from the North-East and to bring quality work from the UK and beyond to North-East audiences. We programme to theme, bringing together a season of work across the year that interrogates and interprets a broad theme or idea, from different perspectives across different artforms.

Our midscale Stage One boasts one of the widest stages in England and is best suited for bold pieces of theatre that can offer a Good Night Out for audiences. It works well for adaptations, international ensembles, large scale dance work and for artists with experience of working at scale.

Our Stage Two studio works well for new writing, cabaret and more. It has a flexible auditorium that can be raked or cabaret style.

Our Stage Three studio is a flexible white space that hosts new work by local artists as well as dance, cabaret, and other late night programming. It also has a daytime life presenting theatre for young audiences.

At Christmas and other pieces of event theatre, we join stage one and two to create Epic Space which allows for flexibility on the mid-scale to create in the round, traverse, thrust configurations.

Artist support:

Northern Stage understands that touring is a crucial part of artistic development, and one of the key ways we can support artists is through programming itself. We can also provide in-kind support for rehearsals and development where we feel a piece of work will strike a chord with our audiences or aligns with our strategic objectives to nurture artists in the region who are ready to work nationally and at scale. Northern Stage is committed to approachability and accountability. Our Creative Associate holds time for building relationships with new artists every week and shares their conversations with the rest of the Artistic Planning department.

Commission or support new work in development:

Yes, We support and commission new work at scale, stories with local resonance, or adaptations of well-known pieces of culture. We tend not to produce new plays, and do not accept unsolicited scripts.

Financial deals:

Stages 2 and 3 are usually programmed on a straight 70/30 split. There is some capacity for guarantees on Stage 1 shows, and occasionally on Stage 2.

Artists can contact us by:

Emailing programming@northernstage.co.uk, or booking a meeting with our Creative Associate via this link. Priority is given to local artists, but we do also have space to meet others.

How far in advance: 6-9 months, longer for Stage One works.

If you approach us, you can expect:

Acknowledgement within 7-10 days, and a conversation.

We programme on a rolling basis and have fortnightly artistic meetings where we discuss the ways we can support artists we've met

We aren't interested in booking:

Musical Tribute Acts.

Spaces & Capacities:

Stage One	450
Stage Two	170
Stage Three	88

Seasons:

Spring: Feb-July

Autumn: September-November

Christmas: Dec-Jan

Octagon Theatre, Bolton



Programmer's Contact Details:

Name:	Will Treasure	Position:	Head of Producing and Programming
Email:	will.treasure@octagonbolton.co.uk	Telephone:	

Artistic Policy:

Artist development is fundamental to achieving our aims and evolving new work for audiences. It is an investment in culture and the long-term future of contemporary, relevant theatre in Bolton for existing and new audiences.

We support, develop and present work from an emerging generation of artists, who are keen to experiment and develop new approaches to their work. Working with culturally diverse and disabled artists and local talent is important to us.

We have a flexible main house space (300-400) and a brand-new studio theatre (~88) which are programmed at specific points during the year around our busy seasons of in-house work. We are particularly interested in work which will help us to reach new audiences, support new and diverse talent, and that will complement our seasons of popular, bold and adventurous work for the people of Bolton and surrounding areas. We primarily function as a producing house and regularly work with freelance creatives including directors, writers, movement directors, designers,

and musical directors. We programme our main house when possible, and regularly programme our studio theatre across the weekends and school holidays.

Artist support:

We support artists through general auditions, local hiring, residencies, commissions, rehearsal space, in-kind advice and support, open script windows, creative engagement opportunities and more.

Find out about how we can support you here:

Artists and Freelancers | Octagon Theatre Bolton (octagonbolton.co.uk)

Commission or support new work in development:

This is on a case by case basis.

Financial deals:

All deals are negotiated. In our studio we are best able to support a box office split or small-scale shows. Main house deals are more likely to be a guarantee against a box office split.

Artists can contact us by:

Programming Enquiries – programming@octagonbolton.co.uk

Your submission will be logged and discussed at our regular programming meetings.

Please try and include as much of the following information as you can:

- Contact details
- An invitation to see work/ recording of the work.
- Information about the company, reviews, price and technical specification
- Potential tour dates and tour pack

Casting – casting@octagonbolton.co.uk

Artist Development – artist.development@octagonbolton.co.uk

How far in advance: As early as possible, ideally 6-9 months in advance for studio programming

If you approach us, you can expect:

If you contact our Head of Producing and Programming directly or via our Artist Development account, we will try our best to respond within 10 working days.

Enquiries sent to the casting or programming email account will be read and logged; we will be back in touch should we wish to take your enquiry further. Do let us know in your email if you require a response by a specific date and we will do our best to help.

We aren't interested in booking:

Spaces & Capacities:

Main House	300 – 400 (dependent on seating configuration)
Studio	80-99 seats

Seasons:

Approx September – April, April - August

Oldham Library



Programmer's Contact Details:

Name:	Katie Maden	Position:	Development Officer
Email:	Katie.maden@oldham.gov.uk	Telephone:	

Artistic Policy:

Artist support:

We sell and market the tickets and provide a technician for the day of performance where needed.

Commission or support new work in development:

Financial deals:

We offer set fee or a box office split

Artists can contact us by:

Email, explaining a little about their show and when they are hoping to tour

How far in advance: Any time!

If you approach us, you can expect:

We aren't interested in booking:

Spaces & Capacities:

Oldham Library Performance Space	80
Various libraires across Oldham for anyone looking for doing a show in an unconventional space or for R and D	Various
We also have worked with other unconventional spaces such as pubs, gyms and Gallery Oldham.	Various

Seasons:

Jan-April, May-August, September-December

Royal Exchange Theatre, Manchester



Programmer's Contact Details:

Name:	Amy Chandler	Position:	Producing Lead
Email:	Programming@royalexchange.co.uk	Telephone:	0161 833 9333

Artistic Policy:

Situated in the heart of Manchester, the Royal Exchange is an award-winning producing Theatre with a history spanning five decades. Our overarching vision is to be an internationally recognised centre of excellence for theatre in the UK and a vibrant cultural centre for Manchester and the region.

We inspire audiences by creating and presenting excellent work that brings together diverse approaches to storytelling with our unique spaces and developing different ways for artists, audiences, and participants to engage with our work locally, nationally and internationally. Known for producing classics such as William Shakespeare, Tennessee Williams, Oscar Wilde, Noel Coward, and Anton Chekhov, we're also one of the country's leading theatres for new writing.

We produce and present theatre and participation/learning programmes throughout the year including in our temporary venue The Den. This is work created and produced in collaboration with freelance creative teams and individual artists, other

theatre companies and communities. Our work also transfers and tours nationally and internationally.

Each season we present a varied programme with a strong commitment to staging riveting revivals and championing new work.

Artist support:

Nurturing new talent, supporting artistic risk and investing in new ideas is a huge part of what we do. Our artist development programme is built to reflect and enhance the quality and diversity of the Royal Exchange Theatre's current work; bold, inclusive shows for diverse audiences as well as new work created by the most exciting artists, writers and makers. In 2020 we will be continuing to explore & develop additional opportunities & strands of work – updates will be posted on our website.

To find out more about current opportunities <https://www.royalexchange.co.uk/get-involved>

WRITERS EXCHANGE

"If you live near Manchester and went to every single show...at the Royal Exchange, you'd have a pretty good grasp of what was going on in British theatre." The Stage, July 2017

With over 180 premieres in its archive and a string of awards, the Royal Exchange Theatre has a rich history of supporting, developing and producing new work by playwrights at various stages of their journey as artists. Through an ambitious, diverse and bespoke programme of playwright support and new work, we endeavour to nurture and facilitate artistic risk and are dedicated to reimagining the relationship a producing theatre has with its audiences and artists.

The Royal Exchange Theatre is rare in our commitment to producing work by writers at different stages of their career. It is vital that writers are given the opportunity to benefit from a range of experiences and empowered to define what they feel would be most beneficial to their development as an artist.

Our aim is to develop and produce the best new plays and work for our stages from exciting and diverse voices. We commission a range of projects from some of the UK's most exceptional artists, creating ambitious new work as well as vibrant new adaptations and translations of classics through which we strive to re-envisage our relationship to that work.

We also support artists through a range of partnerships with organisations such as New Earth Theatre Company, Graeae, Talawa and Eclipse which enables us to forge new relationships and bring new voices into the theatre.

We endeavour to support as many new and aspiring playwrights as possible through:

- Script Submission Windows are opportunities for playwrights to submit a script for feedback and to mark the start of a longer conversation and journey for both of us.
- Writing Resources for playwrights packed with online inspirations including things to consider when writing a play, tutorials and tips from experienced playwrights.
- Writers can also join the Open Exchange network to access workshops or opportunities to collaborate with other artists, directors and theatre-makers.

- Bespoke opportunities including Come Closer for playwrights to pen monologues as pop-up encounters and our Young Writers Programme for anyone aged 16 – 25 who is interested in writing plays, reading scripts and sharing their work.

THE BRUNTWOOD PRIZE FOR PLAYWRITING

The Royal Exchange Theatre is the home of the Bruntwood Prize for Playwriting, Europe's biggest playwriting competition. Since its inception in 2005, over 15,000 scripts have been entered, £304,000 has been awarded to 34 prize-winning writers and 25 winning productions have been staged in 38 UK wide venues. At the heart of the Bruntwood Prize for Playwriting is the principal that anyone and everyone can enter the Prize – it is entirely anonymous and scripts are judged purely on the basis of the work alone and with no knowledge of the identity of the playwright. In 2015 it celebrated its 10th anniversary and is now recognised as a launch-pad for some of the country's most respected and produced playwrights. The website associated with the Bruntwood Prize for Playwriting, www.writeaplay.co.uk, is designed to support anyone interested in writing for live performance and has a huge range of resources and a wealth of information, support and inspiration from blogs, courses and filmed workshops with some of the world's most renowned playwrights such as Simon Stephens and Suzan-Lori Parks.

Commission or support new work in development:

Not currently – reviewing in autumn 2023

Financial deals:

Box office split against a guarantee

Artists can contact us by:

Email

Please note we are not booking any touring or externally produced work into our Studio in 2023. In the autumn of 2023 we will be looking at plans for 2024.

If you approach us, you can expect:

Any emails personally addressed to Royal Exchange staff will be responded to, but we often hold emails on file until we start programming the relevant season, so replies may come weeks or months later. Generically addressed emails will be read but only responded to if we are interested in the work. Please note that any emails with attachments totalling over 4MB may be blocked by our servers

We aren't interested in booking:

Clairvoyants, wrestling, tribute bands, commercial musicals. We also don't hire our spaces to theatre companies for public performances; all work must be programmed into our artistic season. All work must be a Manchester - and ideally a North West - premiere.

Spaces & Capacities:

Theatre	750 - 700
Studio	90

Seasons:

In 2023 Feb – July & Sept - Jan

Sheffield Theatres



Programmer's Contact Details:

Name:	Helen Dobson	Position:	Programmer
Email:	programming@sheffieldtheatres.co.uk	Telephone:	

Artistic Policy:

One of the country's leading theatres, Sheffield Theatres is home to the world-famous Crucible, Lyceum, and Studio Theatre. Taking pride in creating bold, passionate and enriching work across our three stages, we have been recognised for our ambition in 2013, 2014 and 2017 when we won the Regional Theatre of the Year Award in the Stage Awards, as well as 5 UK Theatre Awards in 2019, and we have been nominated for 8 Olivier Awards for Standing at the Sky's Edge.

Across the three theatres, we produce a diverse programme of work spanning a range of genres. We present a range of work currently on tour in the UK and work with theatre artists locally and nationally to nurture and develop new creative talent. We are proud to be at the forefront of presenting theatre performances that are accessible to all and have a longstanding commitment to equality and diversity on all our stages.

The multi-format Tanya Moiseiwitsch Playhouse is used for presenting in-house work as well as programming a range of visiting work subject to season availability. There

are normally between 4-6 spaces per season for visiting work. It is programmed on a season-by-season basis, and we have defined stages in the programming cycle to allow for a fair and transparent process. We have set criteria/objectives that we assess all submissions against, which are Artist Development; Audience Development; Creative Case for Diversity; Sales; Artistic Quality, and a successful submission will satisfy at least one of these criteria.

The Crucible is home to world class in-house productions. The stage is surrounded by seats on three sides and is used to showcase top quality productions made right here in Sheffield such as the award winning Everybody's Talking About Jamie, Standing at the Sky's Edge, and Life of Pi. When available, this space is programmed on a rolling basis for single night shows, subject to our own producing schedules.

With over 100 hundred years of history our largest stage, the Lyceum Theatre, presents the very best theatre productions from the West End and Broadway. The Lyceum is programmed on a rolling basis showcasing week long runs of drama, musicals and comedies.

Artist support:

In 2019 Sheffield Theatres launched The Bank, a talent development hub dedicated to supporting artists. The Bank is Sheffield Theatres' creative space for local artists and theatre-makers to develop work, skills, collaborations and careers with the support of the staff, resources, and creative teams at Sheffield Theatres. The Bank is also home to The Bank Cohort, a group of writers, directors, producers, and other creatives who are supported and mentored over 9 months in a programme including practical sessions on developing skills, seed funding for projects, and opportunities to work on Sheffield Theatres' productions.

Sheffield Theatres is committed to supporting artists at all stages of their career, further to the Bank Cohort, we hold Artist Residencies. Which offers artists, time, money and space to develop their ideas and explore their artistic practice. The New Work Department also holds a yearly open submissions process for writers wanting to make a formal introduction to the team with their work and have the opportunity to discuss their writing ambitions further.

For up-to-date information about upcoming artist support schemes and details of how to get in touch please visit www.sheffieldtheatres.co.uk/for-artists You can also email talent.development@sheffieldtheatres.co.uk

Commission or support new work in development:

Yes

Financial deals:

Deals are negotiated subject to a number of variables, but we aim to provide modest guarantees and/or box office splits. We do not offer travel/accommodation on top or, or as part of deals.

Artists can contact us by:

Email. We are very interested to hear why artists want to bring their work specifically to Sheffield Theatres, and why it would be a good fit in our programme. Please provide as much detail as possible – a tour pack with images, reviews and a short tech spec is great. Also, if you have a production trailer or a full recording of the show or previous shows, it will be a huge help.

How far in advance: 6-12 months for the Playhouse

If you approach us, you can expect:

If emails have been addressed to someone personally at Sheffield Theatres, artists should expect a response via email once a decision has been made. Generically addressed emails will only be replied to should the work be of interest to us. Every submission received is considered, so it is only necessary to make contact once. Due to emails being filed by season of enquiry, there could be a wait of up to two months before receiving a response if outside the season currently being programmed. If a company's work is unknown to us, we may ask to be invited to see some of your work before making a decision.

We aren't interested in booking:

We don't programme tribute bands, hypnotists, mediums etc. We're unlikely to programme adaptations of classic texts, and all work is part of our season of programmed or produced work.

Spaces & Capacities:

Crucible	925
Tanya Moiseiwitsch Playhouse	In the Round – 389 Thrust – 294 End on – 182
Lyceum	977

Seasons:

Our seasons and submission windows are typically as follows:

Spring (January-May) Submissions to be received by June the year before

Summer (May-August) Submissions to be received by October the year before

Autumn (September-December) Submissions to be received by February the same year

Slung Low, Leeds



Programmer's Contact Details:

Name:	Alan Lane	Position:	Artistic Director
Email:	info@slunglow.org	Telephone:	07305 155698

Artistic Policy:

A programme of progressive work which otherwise might not get to be seen in Leeds.

Artist support:

Rehearsal or R&D space at The Warehouse to Holbeck and Slung Low at Temple is open access to anyone who has need of it and can be requested via a simple online form on our website.

Anything we support should be able to meet at least one of these criteria:

- If the support of The Warehouse in Holbeck would clearly be of benefit to the artist requesting the resource, and that benefit can clearly be demonstrated by the artists. Our primary role is to support young and emerging artists.
- If the support of The Warehouse in Holbeck would result in an audience experience that might otherwise be missing from the city. One of our roles is to contribute (often as an outlier) to the healthy diversity of performances that are presented in the city.
- If a specific project or performance would encourage a new (and unlikely) audience to The Warehouse in Holbeck. One of our missions is to make sure that

people who wouldn't normally consider a theatre somewhere they might visit always feel welcome at The Warehouse in Holbeck.

Commission or support new work in development:

Yes

Financial deals:

All performances are offered as pay what you decide with audiences paying after they have seen the performance. 100% given to artists in cash on the night and card payments when collaed via BACS. Preferable (but not essential) that artists provide small quantity of print for internal and small local distribution.

Artists can contact us by:

Email, phone, or post.

How far in advance: At least two months.

If you approach us, you can expect:

A response within a couple of days, a kind welcome and a warming experience!

We aren't interested in booking:

Everything is considered, although primarily it leans towards new work.

Spaces & Capacities:

The Warehouse In Holbeck – Cabaret Space	160
The Warehouse In Holbeck – Big Space	250
Slung Low at Temple – Outdoor Rehearsal / Performance Space	150
Slung Low at Temple – Various meeting rooms	Various

Seasons:

Program is all year round

Stephen Joseph Theatre, Scarborough



Programmer's Contact Details:

Name:	Ben Rothera Nelli Mooney	Position:	-Programmer (Maternity Cover) -Assistant Producer & Talent Development Co-Ordinator
Email:	programming@sjt.uk.com	Telephone:	01723 356 646

Artistic Policy:

Bold relevant and surprising theatre which inspires and entertains. As well as being a producing theatre we programme a variety of work from one-nighters to week long runs.

We produce 6 in house shows a year which typically run for at least 4 weeks and programme visiting work year round, except for January which is allocated for maintenance.

Our main house is called The Round and is an in the round space. It is flexible though, so we can configure it thrust or end on, where the capacities are a bit lower, so please talk to us about what you need, the scale of programmed work we do is really varied.

The McCarthy space is our studio sized space and is also our cinema. It has fixed raked seating and a slightly raised stage.

We programme in both these space and we are interested in theatre, comedy, music, spoken word, dance, variety and family work.

When getting in touch it would be useful to have a rough idea of dates artists are looking for and what technical requirements the show has.

Artist support:

We offer a variety of development opportunities.

We support artists by offering rehearsal space for development, showcasing new work to industry professionals and the public, play readings and support for R&D projects.

We are also developing a network of local performers and theatre makers from Scarborough and the surrounding areas.

Commission or support new work in development:

Very occasionally

Financial deals:

We offer a variety of deals dependent on the show and audience forecast which will be negotiated with the artist.

This could take the form of a guarantee, a box office split, first call or a guarantee against a box office split.

Artists can contact us by:

Email with as much information as possible including any footage or images of the show

How far in advance: We're looking 12 months ahead at the visiting programme. So ideally you should get in touch 1 year in advance but that shouldn't stop you contacting us as we sometimes are able to programme work within shorter periods

If you approach us, you can expect:

If your show is something that we would be interested in we will contact you by email.

Due to the volume of enquiries, we are not always able to respond to everyone. However, we do keep a record of all enquiries.

We aren't interested in booking:

We are interested in most things but we tend not to programme performance/Live Art, work that is very abstract and because we have 2 in house Christmas shows each year we tend not to programme other family or children's work at Christmas.

Spaces & Capacities:

The Round (in full round)	400
The Round (in Thrust)	237
The Round (Full 3 Sides)	275
The McCarthy	160

Seasons:

Spring/Summer (February – July)

Autumn/Winter (September – December)

Storyhouse, Chester



Programmer's Contact Details:

Name:	Emily Mackenzie	Position:	Programme Manager
Email:	Emily.mackenzie@storyhouse.com	Telephone:	01244 730536

Artistic Policy:

Artist support:

We do not have an in-house artist support scheme, however we can support new and upcoming artists and performances through presenting them as part of our programme.

Commission or support new work in development:

Yes

Financial deals:

Splits/ hires/ small fees

Artists can contact us by:

Emailing programming@storyhouse.com

How far in advance: For main stage 9-12 months lead in time/ Garret 6-9 months

If you approach us, you can expect:

A member of the programming team will get back to you to ask for further info , discuss dates or let you know if we do not have the capacity to be able to take the event if not possible.

We aren't interested in booking:

Tribute acts/ drama for main stage we have to consider based on our in-house production titles

Spaces & Capacities:

Main Space Thrust stage set up	485
Main Space Proscenium set up	840
Garret studio	147 unreserved seating

Seasons:

We programme all year

The Atkinson, Southport



Programmer's Contact Details:

Name:	Marie Kenny	Position:	Programme Manager
Email:	Marie.Kenny@sefton.gov.uk	Telephone:	

Artistic Policy:

The Atkinson is Southport's home for music, theatre, art, literature and history. We offer an exciting and varied destination for families, cultural tourists and arts enthusiasts alike, with a full day and night time offer. Significant investment has been made in refurbishing our stunning 19th century buildings to create a welcoming and accessible multi art-form venue with a strong contemporary feel. Our traditional Theatre and dynamic Studio space present an outstanding programme of music, comedy and performing arts from some of the UK's foremost musicians, actors, performers and companies.

Artist support:

The Atkinson is a receiving house but we are interested in supporting new work that focuses on audience development and community engagement.

Commission or support new work in development:

Yes

Financial deals:

Splits, fees, calls and hires

Artists can contact us by:

Email

How far in advance: 6-18 Months. We welcome invitations to Work in Progress/Scratch Nights in order to get to know your work.

If you approach us, you can expect:

I do my best to reply to all personal approaches within a few weeks. Due to the volume I receive, I can't reply to all general show information unless it's something I'm potentially interested in.

We aren't interested in booking:

Hypnotists/ mediums

Spaces & Capacities:

Theatre	400
Studio	Flexible space max 280

Seasons:

Year round

Theatre By The Lake, Cumbria



Programmer's Contact Details:

Name:	Amy Clewes	Position:	Producer
Email:	Programming@theatrebythelake.com	Telephone:	017687 81113

Artistic Policy:

As the only professional, Arts Council England-funded, producing theatre in Cumbria, Theatre by the Lake (TBTL) plays an important role in the cultural scene of the region and is one of the UK's leading regional theatres. It delivers an annual programme of home-produced and visiting work and has established itself as a major attraction for both Cumbrian residents and visitors to the Lake District.

TBTL is an essential creative hub in an area of comparatively limited cultural provision. We operate in England's second largest and second least populated county with 70% of settlements comprising under 200 people. As a producing theatre, the work we create, commission and share is critical to levelling up access to high quality arts for rural and isolated communities, particularly children and young people, and developing local talent.

Our VISION is:

Theatre enriches the lives of everyone in Cumbria, and theatre made in Cumbria is celebrated on the national stage.

Our MISSION is:

In our venue and out across Cumbria, we make and share great theatre that tells stories, builds communities and celebrates our place.

Our VALUES are:

Collaborative - we are stronger when we work with others

Bold - we are brave and ambitious

Inclusive - we are accessible, welcoming and celebrate diversity

Innovative - we are creative and make our own opportunities

Connected - we are rooted in our place, our communities and our landscape

Artist support:

From our relatively isolated location in Cumbria, we work to help develop the work of artists, with a particular focus on artists and companies with links to Cumbria. Our talent development network, Cumbrian Creatives, currently numbers approx. 250 members and through this we've been able to offer a number of commissions, development and scratch performance opportunities. We're also able to offer R&D space where available and are happy to share the knowledge and experience of our team in a variety of ways.

If you have any thoughts or ideas of how we can further support artists, do get in touch!

Commission or support new work in development:

Yes

Financial deals:

We prefer direct splits or calls on box office if possible, especially in the Studio, but can offer guaranteed fees depending on the show.

Artists can contact us by:

Emailing a tour pack to our dedicated programming address – programming@theatrebythelake.com. Ideally this will include tech info, the sort of deal you usually look for, and any other key info (although we're aware not everyone has this info at the time of enquiry). Enquiries must include information about when they are touring, and which of our two spaces is appropriate for the work as we will not be able to consider any programming requests which do not contain this information.

How far in advance: As far in advance as possible, it takes us a while to slot our seasons into place

If you approach us, you can expect:

A friendly reception! Due to the high volume of enquiries and the fact that we are a very small team, we are unfortunately unable to respond to every enquiry. We look at programming emails in batches according to upcoming seasons, so it may be a few months before we start programming the season for which artists are enquiring.

All emails will be read, but we only have the capacity to respond to those which are of interest.

We aren't interested in booking:

The limited capacity within our small team means we're unable to accept/read unsolicited scripts

Spaces & Capacities:

Main House	389
Studio	Between 60-100, dependent on configuration
FOH spaces	Approx. 40 – can work for participatory events

Seasons:

Year round

Theatre Deli, Sheffield



Programmer's Contact Details:

Name:	Daljinder Singh	Position:	Executive Producer
Email:	daljinder@theatredeli.co.uk	Telephone:	

Artistic Policy:

Theatre Deli Sheffield supports new talent and artists in general, new work, new writing as well as established work and touring productions. We are open to work for young people and the local community. We welcome installations, immersive performances film screenings and similar work. If you have an idea that hasn't already been mentioned please get in touch with us to have a chat.

Artist support:

Talent Development Programme, Artist Residencies, R&D opportunities, and free space. Mentoring, Deli Drop Ins and Meet Ups.

Commission or support new work in development:

We are able to offer space and other facilities to support the development of new work and ideas.

Financial deals:

70/30 split with limited guarantees available

Artists can contact us by:

Email sheffield@theatredeli.co.uk

How far in advance: 6 weeks minimum.

If you approach us, you can expect:

A response within three days

We aren't interested in booking:**Spaces & Capacities:**

Theatre	Up to 150
Dance Studio	Up to 50
Rehearsal Room 1	Up to 15
Rehearsal Room 2	Up to 5

Seasons:

Spring/Summer and Autumn/Winter

Theatre Royal, Wakefield



Programmer's Contact Details:

Name:	Emma Proctor	Position:	Communications and Programme Manager
Email:	programming@theatreroyalwakefield.co.uk	Telephone:	01924 215 531

Artistic Policy:

Our strategy is to retain and develop our existing audiences and enable them to experience more creatively stimulating work, while also attracting new audiences and encouraging them to return. We take a strategic approach to broaden and diversify the productions presented, maximising the impact of programming.

We programme three seasons a year with a varied programme of: drama, pantomime, musical theatre, music and comedy. We will continue to expand our programme with innovative drama and family friendly productions. We will collaborate with other producers to present the best of touring theatre, alongside our own productions. Across both our performance spaces we will develop our creative programme to both build and diversify audiences.

Our stage is usually occupied 265 days of the year and some of the work is made by us, right here in Wakefield (like our hugely popular pantomime). The rest we hand pick from the best that the UK has to offer. Theatre Royal Wakefield is for everyone,

that's why we are also proud to present work from our local community, amateur societies, and groups on our stages. We showcase a varied programme of drama, pantomime, musical theatre, dance, music, comedy and family friendly theatre.

As well as a vibrant and varied programme, we run a busy Participation programme. We regularly work with young people, socially isolated older people, refugees and asylum seekers and adults working to improve their mental wellbeing. We are embedded in our local community and have a brilliant team of more than 140 volunteers.

Artist support:

We support artists by offering a flexible space for development, showcasing new work, play readings and support for R&D projects.

Commission or support new work in development:

No

Financial deals:

Split deals, Hires, Guarantees against splits, First calls, All deals are negotiable

Artists can contact us by:

Email

How far in advance: Our diaries are open 1-2 years in advance

If you approach us, you can expect:

If emails have been addressed to the programming team at Theatre Royal Wakefield, artists should expect a response via email once a decision has been made. Generically addressed emails will only be replied to should the work be of interest to us.

We aren't interested in booking:

Hypnotists
Mediums
Roy Chubby Brown or similar
Wrestling
Pantomimes (including adult pantos)

Spaces & Capacities:

Matcham Auditorium	499 (Stage rake 1:30)
Walker Studio	40-60 (depending on seating layout)

Seasons:

Spring (mid Jan-Apr)

Summer (May – early Jul)

Autumn (mid Sep – early Nov)

The Civic, Barnsley



Programmer's Contact Details:

Name:	Currently in Recruitment	Position:	Director of Programme
Email:	programme@barnsleycivic.co.uk	Telephone:	01226 237000

Artistic Policy:

We deliver a broad range of work which serves the people of our town and borough. Our programme consists of a yearly Pantomime, music including tribute acts, theatre, circus, dance, children and family work

Artist support:

We commission and co-commission a number of artists each year. We tend to support artists who are based in Barnsley Borough or South Yorkshire.

Commission or support new work in development:

Yes

Financial deals:

Fees, splits and hires

Artists can contact us by:

Email or weblink.

How far in advance: As soon as possible

If you approach us, you can expect:

We aren't interested in booking:

Spaces & Capacities:

Theatre	336
Theatre (gig)	600 standing
Creation Space	60
Gig Space	100-150 standing

Seasons:

We programme all year except for late July to early September

The Dukes, Lancaster



Programmer's Contact Details:

Name:	Karen O'Neill / Porl Cooper	Position:	CEO / Programmer
Email:	Programming@dukeslancaster.org	Telephone:	01524598500

Artistic Policy:

Our touring programme is divided into two seasons, Autumn and Spring.

We are interested in:

- Drama/Theatre- We are interested in split weeks of titles with name recognition, usually re-told with a twist and northern voice (eg classic novels in new adaptations, Shakespeare, well-loved plays). We are especially interested in Productions created for and performed in The Round. New work that has strong audience appeal. Musical theatre or music lead work also.
- Contemporary Work in MoorSpace In 2019 our Creative Learning building was renamed Moor Space and given a new identity and purpose and is now our home for contemporary theatre. The contemporary theatre programme at Moor Space is an expansion of the current delivery of The Dukes and will allow us to present more diverse stories and provide a home for emerging local artists to experiment and explore their work. These artists and their work are reflective and focus on issues of wellbeing, mental health or present a conversation about the challenges with our society.
- Contemporary Dance We are interested in dance or dance/theatre for all audiences including families.
- Family Work Our offer to children and families focuses on small-scale monthly work for the under-5s and large-scale work twice a season for the over-5s. Our

monthly under-5s offer presents small-scale puppetry and storytelling-based theatre to provide an accessible and intimate first theatre experience for children and families. This work is presented in our Round theatre.

Theatre, comedy and dance are programmed into all three spaces. We are interested in new work and also in production partnerships.

Artist support:

MOOR SPACE The newest performance space in Lancaster, Moor Space is a place of cultural democracy where artists are invited to present their work in partnership with the Dukes. Focused on contemporary and new work MoorSpace is a place to develop ideas, practice and present work. **WORKSHOPS** The Dukes workshop programme is delivered by artists in response to artists.

OPEN SPACE R&D space, time and support is available at the Dukes throughout the year. We are keen to support both local and regional artists and emerging companies. For more information, please contact Lauren.

Creator MEMBERSHIP Are you a creative in Lancaster or Morecambe looking for connections and opportunities to develop – join our free creative membership.

CREATIVE COLLABORATORS Creative Collaborators work with The Dukes across its diverse output from programming to creation of place to creative learning. We work closely with these artists to embed them in The Dukes and share our skills, knowledge and access to support their work.

BLAST FEST – New work festival each spring with commissioning pot and support.

LANCASTER PLAYWRITING PRIZE – Annual prize in partnership with Lancaster University.

Commission or support new work in development:

Yes

Financial deals:

We can offer splits, minimal fees and guarantees but are willing to negotiate

Artists can contact us by:

Email

How far in advance: In Autumn our programme is finalised in May, and in Spring our programme is finalised in September

If you approach us, you can expect:

We will respond to emails

We aren't interested in booking:

Tribute bands, mediums, clairvoyants, choirs.

We are unable to present live theatre June-August due to technical resources committed to our annual outdoor show.

Spaces & Capacities:

The Rake	313
The Round	230 full round/194 thrust/120 thrust with set
MoorSpace	100

Seasons:

Spring Jan – June

Autumn Sept - Dec

The Edge Theatre and Arts Centre, Manchester



Programmer's Contact Details:

Name:	Janine Waters	Position:	Artistic Director
Email:	janine@edgetheatre.co.uk	Telephone:	0161 2829776

Artistic Policy:

We programme small or mid-scale touring theatre, new writing, children's work, music, dance, comedy and spoken word.

Artist support:

Each year we work with 2 early and mid-career Manchester based companies to create a new piece of work, as part of our Made at The Edge scheme. This can be through free rehearsal space, artistic direction or scratch nights

Commission or support new work in development:

Financial deals:

Usually, a 70/30 split

Artists can contact us by:

Email with programming in the subject line, telling us a bit about yourself, your work and why you think it would work well at The Edge.

6-12 months

If you approach us, you can expect:

Emails to Janine@edgetheatre.co.uk about programming will be looked at and, if of interest, responded to within 12 weeks. Unfortunately, we cannot respond to all the emails that come through to this account due to the high level of proposals we receive.

We aren't interested in booking:

No arts events, tribute bands, mediums, clairvoyants

Spaces & Capacities:

Theatre	62-102
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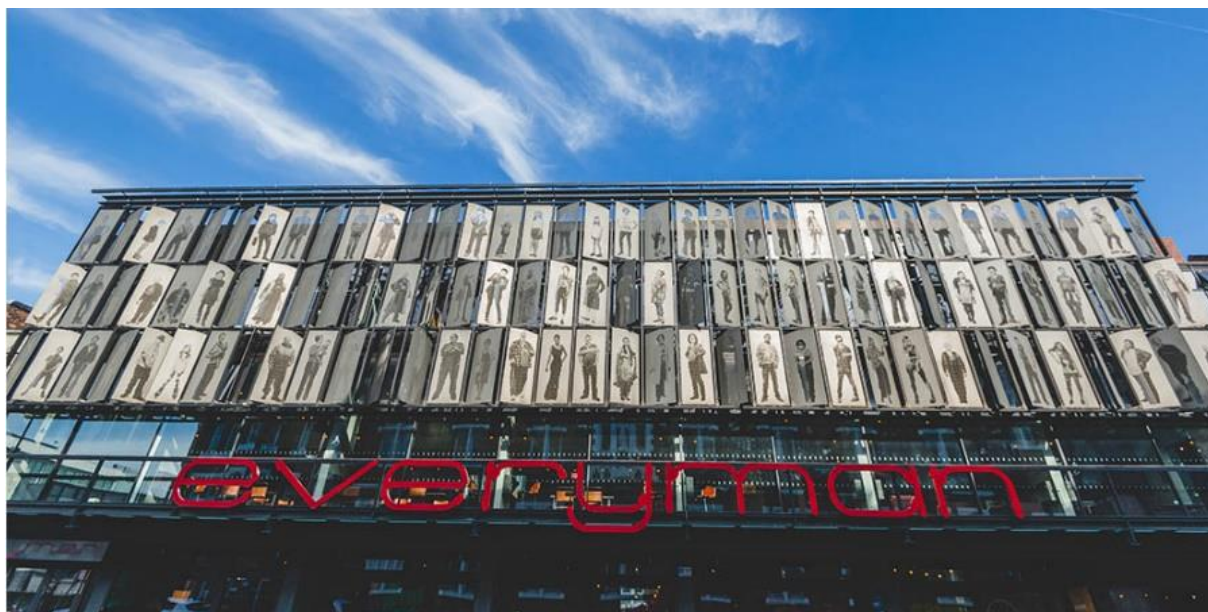
Seasons:

Jan – Apr (Spring)

May – Jul (Summer)

Sept – Dec (Autumn)

The Liverpool Everyman and Playhouse



Programmer's Contact Details:

Name:		Position:	
Email:	a.nelson@everymanplayhouse.com	Telephone:	0151 708 3704

Artistic Policy:

The Liverpool Everyman and Playhouse's mission is to inspire our city and reflect our community. We believe in change-making, socially impactful theatre that is representative of the North West. Across our two spaces we seek to program and produce work that Liverpool wants to see and to harness the power of theatre for good. We love creative, inspiring, and relevant theatre that speaks to diverse, contemporary Liverpool. We actively seek out new work from North West artists with embedded talent development a vital touchstone of what we do.

Artist support:

YEP

Our dedicated Young Everyman Playhouse department (YEP) provides opportunities for young people aged 14-25. There are six strands to YEP; actors, directors, marketers, producers, technicians and writers which recruit annually. YEP members get access to £5 show tickets and free access to pre-show events and workshops.

Playwrights Programme

Each year, up to ten writers are invited to join our completely free Playwrights' Programme and work closely with our New Works Associate to hone their playwriting skills and knowledge. The programme invites writers to explore the fundamentals of playwriting through a series of fortnightly workshops led by the New Works team, visiting writers, directors and other practitioners. Applications open in Sept/ Oct.

New Works

Our New Works department work with supported artists offering tailored support and mentorship. This includes script notes, seed commissions, rehearsal space, RnD time, mentoring, supported sharings and table reads. We also program new work and host residencies from Liverpool artists in our Playhouse Studio. We try to start from a place of 'what can we do to help' and be responsive to artist needs. The best route for becoming a supported artists is to let us get to know you. Invite us to your work through the newworks@everymanplayhouse.com address, send us something to read or take part in a Scratch Studio. Please note that supported artists and companies must be based in or originate from Merseyside.

Script Submissions

Our New Works department accept unsolicited script submissions from writers originally from or based in the North Wes within a dedicated window from late March to May. Details can be found on our website.

Scratch Studio

Our monthly Scratch Studio session sees emerging creatives based in Liverpool share 10-minute extracts of work in progress and get feedback from the audience in a facilitated discussion. Tickets to Scratch studio cost £5 and include a coffee and a pastry. To submit something to a Scratch Studio email scratch@everymanplayhouse.com telling us a little about your work to date and a brief outline of what you'd like to share

The Writers Room

The Writers' Room is a quiet, free space to escape to and work on your current play or dip into our extensive script library. The Writers' Room is open from 11am-3pm (later if a show is on in the main house) Tues – Sat apart from when in use by Playwriting courses or regular reading groups.

Commission or support new work in development:

Yes

Financial deals:

All deals are negotiated and include box office splits and guarantees. We do not hire out our performance spaces for shows although we do offer commercial hires for other events.

Artists can contact us by:

Email

How far in advance: We are interested in hearing from artists all year round. If you would like us to come and see your work, we require two weeks' notice for shows in the Liverpool region and at least three for those outside of it. If you are making a programming or touring enquiry then we require 6 to 12 months lead in.

If you approach us, you can expect:

We aim to reply to every emailed programming enquiry, either to request more information and begin a conversation about the show, or to let you know that the work isn't of interest. We receive many proposals so this may take us up to two weeks, please bear with us. Due to the volume of emails, we cannot always respond to mail shots or generic emails.

We aren't interested in booking:

We will not book work that does not speak to contemporary Liverpool or that does not reflect our core values of relevance, courage and compassion. We are also not interested in work that does not represent the diverse make-up of Liverpool communities. We usually only programme work by Liverpool and Merseyside-based artists and companies into our studio space, so it's unlikely that we can take touring studio scale work.

Spaces & Capacities:

Everyman – thrust stage	450
Playhouse – proscenium end on	650
Playhouse studio – black box, thrust	70

Seasons:

Spring – Jan – June

Autumn/Winter – Sept – Dec

The Lowry, Salford



Programmer's Contact Details:

Name:	Antonia Beck Matthew Eames Grace Ng	Position:	Senior Producer: Artist Development Head of Theatres (Contemporary and Commissioning) Artist Development & Access Producer
Email:	Antonia.Beck@thelowry.com Matthew.Eames@thelowry.com Grace.Ng@thelowry.com	Telephone:	0161 876 2102 / 2067

Artistic Policy:

The Lowry is a large arts centre in Salford, Greater Manchester with three theatres programming a wide range of theatre, dance, circus, musicals, comedy, digital and cross-arts performance. Our Lyric and Quays theatre programme regularly features the latest productions from nationally and internationally renowned partners such as the National Theatre, Rambert, Birmingham Royal Ballet, Opera North, Matthew Bourne's New Adventures and Royal Shakespeare Company as well as the very best touring commercial theatre.

Alongside this, we welcome the freshest and most exciting work being made by emerging and mid-career theatre makers, performance artists and practitioners as part of our contemporary theatre programme. Newly created, innovative contemporary performance can be seen across all scales - Lyric, Quays and Aldridge Studio - encompassing and challenging all theatrical forms. Productions are often multi-disciplinary featuring physical, visual and digital practice, and stories old and new are told in innovative ways embracing linear and non-linear narratives and diverse cultural practice beyond the Western tradition. Contemporary circus, new writing, site-specific/responsive and immersive theatre, dance / movement-based work, new musical theatre and the most experimental cross-arts practice are all celebrated in the context of the programme. The Lowry is able to offer audiences and artists/companies a through-line in exciting, relevant performance-making that leads from the newest, bravest artists touring at the small-scale, to the nationally renowned companies working at the mid-scale, to international companies in the Lyric.

We find work by seeing as many performances as we can, discussing and sharing recommendations with other programmers and producers, meeting artists, and considering approaches made by email though we're less likely to book work from artists we haven't previously seen. We commission new work through our Artist Development schemes and this forms an important part of our programmes throughout the year.

We also have a large outdoor and off-site programme working creatively with Salford communities to bring great performances to their doorsteps across the year – whether in parks, pubs or other public spaces.

Artist support:

The Lowry's Artist Development Programme is a leading hub for the development of dynamic and engaged artists, creatives, companies, and their work. Our programmes support artists at all stages of their careers, working across the fields of contemporary performance, visual arts, interdisciplinary performance practices, and socially engaged/participatory work. We nurture talent, providing a range of bespoke pathways for artists to develop and present work that is original and bold to audiences at our home in Salford, and at venues across the UK and internationally.

ARTIST NETWORK

The Lowry's Artist Network is a free open access scheme for those who aspire to work creatively in the arts and cultural sector. Our Artist Network receives a monthly newsletter with details of the latest opportunities and events coming up at The Lowry including workshops, training, advice surgeries, ticket discounts and social events to meet like-minded peers. Sign up to our mailing list via our website and fill in the application form: thelowry.com/artist-network

DEVELOPED WITH THE LOWRY

Developed with The Lowry is our flagship artist development programme offering 12-18 months of creative and strategic development support to early and mid-career artists and companies who are looking to take that next step. This includes creating and presenting a new production or exhibition at The Lowry and professional development through bespoke mentoring and support.

ASSOCIATE ARTISTS

Our Associate Artist relationships are bespoke partnerships with artists and companies who want to tackle the challenges of our industry as well as develop their creative practice. Aimed at experienced midcareer artists and companies who are confident in their practice and their artistic voice, and who want to invest time and effort in a relationship with a venue in order to develop themselves and the industry at large.

Commission or support new work in development:

Yes

Financial deals:

We offer a range of different financial deals from fees through to guarantees and splits depending on the needs of the work, our relationship with the artist or company and how confident we are that there is a strong audience for the work.

Artists can contact us by:

We would prefer contact via email so that we can spend time considering your project when we won't be disturbed or working against other deadlines.

If you have a finished show, send us:

- Tour pack including images, reviews, short tech spec (if you have them)
- But please don't send documents larger than about 4MB because our inboxes are small.

If you are looking for support for a new show, tell us about:

- Your company and your experience to date
- Your proposed project and its audiences
- How the project will move forward your practice
- What kind of support you will need, bearing in mind that often we will be more able to give support in kind than cash.

How far in advance: We programme finished touring work between nine months and a year in advance. We are open to discussions about new projects from an early stage – please contact us once you have a plan and a clear sense of what you need to take the next step.

If you approach us, you can expect:

An email response. If we are interested in programming or supporting the development of your show, we will let you know what further information we need.

We aren't interested in booking:

We don't take hypnotists, magic shows, tribute acts or ice shows. We are less likely to book productions of well-known titles in the Studio as these are well represented on our other stages. We do programme new writing productions but we don't provide development opportunities or commissions for playwrights because as a receiving house, we don't have the resources needed to take a script through to production ourselves.

Spaces & Capacities:

Lyric	1600
Quays	450
Studio	140

Seasons:

Jan to Apr, May to Aug, Sep to Dec

The Viaduct Theatre, Halifax



Programmer's Contact Details:

Name:	Sarah Horsley	Position:	Director
Email:	sarah@viaducttheatre.org.uk	Telephone:	01422 849227

Artistic Policy:

Mid-scale receiving venue. Emphasis on Drama & New Writing, preferably reflecting the locality of the Theatre. Building a younger audience. Ideally able to perform in a traverse setting.

Artist support:

Additional Marketing & Media support, Rehearsal Space

Commission or support new work in development:

Yes

Financial deals:

Usually splits. Occasional guarantees

Artists can contact us by:

Email, 6-12 Months in advance.

If you approach us, you can expect:

A response detailing if your work is/isn't suitable for our programme and why.

We aren't interested in booking:

Dance, Circus

Spaces & Capacities:

Main Auditorium	355-150 (amphitheatre 355, traverse setting 310, end on 150)
Theatre Bar	65-80

Seasons:

Feb-June, Sep-Dec

Unity Theatre, Liverpool



Programmer's Contact Details:

Name:	Gordon Millar	Position:	CEO / Artistic Director
Email:	info@unitytheatre.co.uk	Telephone:	

Artistic Policy:

We produce and present innovative combined arts that challenge the status quo. More details of our ever-evolving practices can be found at www.unitytheatreliverpool.co.uk

Artist support:

Rehearsal and R&D space is available to hire.

In addition, we have a free creative membership called 'Creative Pool' with benefits for Merseyside artists including subsidised tickets and free workshops. All details of this can be found online

Commission or support new work in development:

Yes, for Merseyside Artists only

Financial deals:

Fees, splits and hires

Artists can contact us by:

Emails

How far in advance: 9-12 months

If you approach us, you can expect:

To hear back from us within 2 weeks but please be aware we are inundated with requests so might be longer

We aren't interested in booking:

Everything is considered though we prefer the contemporary to classics and we prefer work that is innovative and challenges the status quo

Spaces & Capacities:

Unity 1	150
Unity 2	88

Seasons:

All year except January, July and August

Waterside Arts Centre, Trafford



Programmer's Contact Details:

Name:	Andrew Aughton	Position:	Programming Manager
Email:	programming@watersidearts.org	Telephone:	0161 912 5616

Artistic Policy:

Waterside is an award-winning vibrant destination for performance, culture and events. Opened in 2004, the venue houses live theatre and event spaces, galleries, bar & coffee house and workshop studios. Waterside is currently going through a period of significant change as we refocus to support the Trafford Cultural Strategy and order to provide resilience and a sustainable future. We are inviting audiences, theatre makers, practitioners and peers to contribute towards our artistic vision to create a place to inspire and nurture creativity at all ages and supporting the creation of new and engaging work. We want to facilitate deeper relationships with our audiences, to encourage a sense of ownership from the community. Our main house, The Robert Bolt Theatre is a flexible space for performance, music, events and immersive theatre. Our studio, The Chambers is a stunning art-deco space, suited to intimate performance, development work, comedy and music. An additional performance space (the Plaza) on the banks of the Bridgewater Canal, is located outside the venue and is ideal for seasonal programming.

The venue also utilises the nearby Walkden Gardens to present outdoor theatre. Waterside also has a number of exhibition spaces, including the Lauriston Gallery, presenting professional works, both of regional and national importance. Waterside is the home of the Cosgrove Hall Films archive. In addition, there are multiple spaces used for workshops, conferencing and artist development.

As part of Trafford Council, Waterside presents work with Creative Industries Trafford, providing opportunities, support and participation for theatre-makers, emerging artists, writers and practitioners.

Waterside's year-round programme includes: Theatre: combining classic texts with work for schools & young people, new writing, professional work from local artists, ballet, contemporary dance, multi-form theatre (such as genres incorporating circus techniques, or which Page 92 fuse dance & drama) and occasional experimental work. We also work in partnership with other Greater Manchester venues and organisations to present work on various festival themes, including Black History, LGBT and Science, among others, to include in our own programme. Comedy including familiar and not-so-familiar stand-up names, a monthly Buzz Comedy club and famous names on the cabaret and music-in-comedy circuits. We also support the region's annual Women in Comedy Festival with performances at Waterside.

Music: a live programme across a wide range of genres, from jazz and folk to contemporary rock, acoustic & pop, including new and emerging names from both the regional and national scenes. Children & Families (around 20 to 25 productions per year, for pre-school to teens, in both the Chambers and RB Theatre).

We work in partnership with the other members of the Big Imaginations consortium (administered from Z-Arts in Manchester and funded by Arts Council England) to identify and support the best and most original new productions for children, families and young people available, regionally, nationally and internationally.

Annually we present the Pride in Trafford Festival, supporting and developing queer artists and presenting work for our LGBTQ+ community. The festival focuses on artistic output rather than the more traditional elements of Pride festivals.

Refract is our annual ten-day festival presenting experiential performance, music and events. The spirit of which is to challenge our audience to 'see things differently'.

Held in July, Waterside hosts around 30 performances and participatory events both inside and outside the venue. The programme provides a platform for artists that are new to Waterside, or a familiar face with a piece of work that is somewhat jilted from convention

Artist support:

Creative Industries Trafford (CIT) provides artists and creatives with professional development opportunities in partnership with Waterside, Trafford Council with support from Arts Council England. We aim to nurture artists and theatre makers, supporting the creative process with the outcome of delivering high-quality artistic work, whilst providing the tools to help build sustainable careers in the arts and broadening their skill sets. CIT presents a calendar of events, including workshops, opportunities, networking sessions, talks, conferences and masterclasses from leading practitioners across a number of fields including theatre, visual arts, literature, animation, craft & design.

We're really proud of the brilliant artists we have worked with through commissioning, co-production, seed funding and in-kind support.

Commissioned work includes Bi-Topia by Sam Danson, First Time by Nathaniel Hall & Dibby Theatre and works by Mighty Heart, Thick Richard, Square Peg Theatre and

partnered in the delivery of work by Girl Gang: Millennial Pink, Hawk Dance Theatre: A Moment, HDT and Knotted Project, Minute Taker: Wolf Hours and David Hoyle: Hedda.

We pride ourselves in how we embrace artists into the family, adapting specialist support for each artists and we do this with integrity, dedication and care.

If you wish to find out more about our theatre development work, drop us an email theatre@watersidearts.org

Commission or support new work in development:

Yes

Financial deals:

All types, including guarantees, box office splits, guarantee v split etc

Artists can contact us by:

Sending tour packs, info on the shows and availability for programming to programming@watersidearts.org and for theatre development theatre@watersidearts.org

How far in advance: 9-12 months

If you approach us, you can expect:

We collate seasonal programming options and as such may take us a while to reach out if we are in a position to programme your work.

We aren't interested in booking:

Spaces & Capacities:

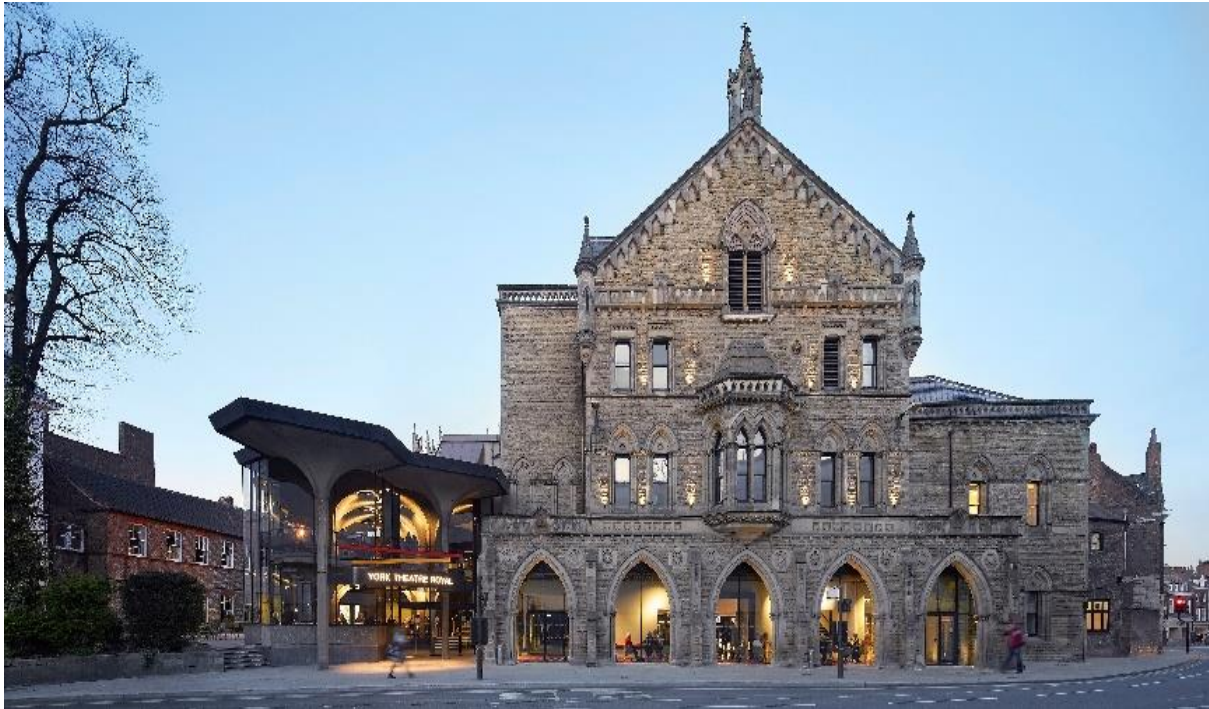
Robert Bolt Theatre (fully seated)	322
Robert Bolt Theatre (standing)	422
The Chambers (studio space)	40-120
Waterside Plaza (outdoor)	500

Seasons:

SPRING/SUMMER March – August

AUTUMN/WINTER September - February

York Theatre Royal



Programmer's Contact Details:

Name:	Clare Bewers and Jenny Jenkins	Position:	Programming and Planning Co-Ordinator (Job-share role)
Email:	programming@yorktheatreroyal.co.uk	Telephone:	01904 550153

Artistic Policy:

York Theatre Royal is an ambitious 278 year old producing and presenting theatre with two end-on stage spaces.

The theatre presents a diverse range of work across the main stage and studio including drama, panto, musicals, dance, live music, comedy, locally based amateur companies and guest speaker events.

As well as producing exciting and engaging theatre as part of our main stage programme, we work with a number of other UK Theatre companies, such as Wise Children and Pilot Theatre, on co-productions throughout the year.

We also produce large scale community productions for the communities of York and the surrounding area to come together and participate in.

York Theatre Royal is a brave creative hub at the heart of the city, and it is here for you.

These stages, buildings and our city will thrive with live performance of exceptional quality made with you: the world's most exciting artists.

Artist support:

We largely support North Yorkshire based artists and companies through our Creative Hub which can be signed up to via our website. We provide free space for R&D, commission new work, support companies to go to the Edinburgh Fringe Festival through the Pleasance Pathways scheme and having one Associate Company in residence each year. We also consider co-producing and other forms of partnership, particularly in helping companies launch tours from our venue. We prioritise North Yorkshire based work in our Studio space. We do consider approaches from artists and companies outside of North Yorkshire - particularly where there is strong relevance to our city and/or innovation in the proposal - but there is less available resource for this.

Link to relevant page on website: <https://www.yorktheatreroyal.co.uk/be-part-of-it/artists/>

Link to sign up to our Creative Hub: <https://form.jotform.com/220902407106040>

Commission or support new work in development:

Yes

Financial deals:

Box office splits, calls, guarantees or guarantee versus box office splits

Artists can contact us by:

Email

How far in advance: Please get in contact as early as possible.

If you approach us, you can expect:

It's worth noting that our programming is looked after by an artistic planning team instead of an individual, all suggestions will be considered by the Artistic Planning team.

We aren't interested in booking:

Sporting events, tribute acts

Spaces & Capacities:

Main Stage	712 – 761
Studio (end on with retractable theatre seating or flexible black box theatre space)	70

Seasons:

All year except January and August

Z Arts, Manchester



Programmer's Contact Details:

Name:	Zoe Pickering	Position:	Head of Programming and Big Imaginations Manager
Email:	Zoe@z-arts.org	Telephone:	0161 226 1912

Artistic Policy:

Z-arts are Manchester's venue for children and families and only programme work for that audience, although it is possible to hire the venue for other work.

We also lead and coordinate the Big Imaginations network of venues across the North- West and West/South Yorkshire, who all share a commitment to bringing brilliant touring children's theatre to the region.

Artist support:

Z-arts mission is to inspire and enable generations of young people from Manchester and beyond to utilise creativity to maximise their potential. Artists are nurtured and supported by Z-arts to make excellent, contemporary theatre, performance and arts activities for children and families, through these strands:

- Artist development programme including residencies delivered with partners
- Creative facilitator training programme
- Space available for artists making work for children and families
- Commission opportunities for new work for children and families
- Artist support and commission opportunities with the Big Imaginations network for 24 organisations across the North-West / Yorkshire.

If Artists are making work for children then we will always look at what support we can offer. We have a focus on Global Majority artists and artists based in the North West.

Commission or support new work in development:

Yes but with a focus on Global Majority artists and artists from the North West.

Financial deals:

We offer all of our companies a fee.

Artists can contact us by:

Email

How far in advance: As soon as you have something to talk about or share. Invite us to any R&D, tours. We need to see the work. We generally programme 6-12 months in advance that can vary.

If you approach us, you can expect:

An email response. We will let you know what further information we need.

We aren't interested in booking:

Anything that isn't for children and families.

Spaces & Capacities:

Theatre	225
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Seasons:

Seasons Spring Jan – Apr / Summer May- Aug / Autumn Sept- Dec

This edition of Routes In: A guide to getting new work programmed in the North of England was published by Venues North in July 2023.

We hope you have found it useful. If you have any questions, suggestions or comments about how we can improve it, please email: artist.development@arconline.co.uk