



SCOTTISH YOUTH THEATRE NATIONAL ENSEMBLE 2019

Spend a year....

Learning from theatre professionals – working together as a theatre company – to devise and perform your own piece of theatre.

AUDITION INFORMATION

Audition Format

The audition process will be led by Scottish Youth Theatre's Creative Producer Mahri Reilly and 2018 National Ensemble performance Director, Ross McKay. They will take you through a short introduction to the Ensemble and detail how it will run over 2019. There will also be a handout for you to take away and an opportunity to ask any questions you may have.

The main audition will consist of three parts:

- A whole group workshop with all auditionees
- Pre-prepared solo performance pieces in front of each other
- Individual interviews with Mahri and Ross

Workshop

The workshop will last between 90 and 120 minutes and consist of a range theatre practices to measure your performance, devising and collaborative skills. You will be observed for your creative input, imaginative flair, openness and ability to work as part of an ensemble.

Individual Audition Pieces

Each person is invited to perform a pre-prepared solo piece inspired by the theme - see below. This can be in any art form and from any genre. It could be a monologue, song, poem, spoken word piece, a dance, physical theatre interpretation or a combination of these. Your solo performance could be self-written, an extract from an existing play, a news story, or anything else that inspires you. Think creatively and take the opportunity to show everyone who you are and what you can bring to 2019's National Ensemble. This solo performance should last no more than 2 minutes and should be completely self sufficient in terms of tech and props. You can bring your own acoustic instrument, a smart phone or any other item integral to your piece. This performance should be memorised as no prompt will be available.

Additional Information

Please arrive in good time for the audition, wear loose, comfortable clothing and footwear that allows you to move around freely. For the workshop, long hair should be tied back and jewelry should be kept to a minimum (no dangly earrings or necklaces). Please check your individual audition time carefully so you know what time you will be finished. Ensure you bring water and snacks if required. If there is a long gap between the workshop and your individual audition you may leave and return later. Please note, you are responsible for your own safety and timekeeping if you choose to do this.

Ensemble weekend dates: [January \(Glasgow\)](#), [February \(Away\)](#), [March \(Glasgow\)](#), [April \(Away\)](#),
[May \(Glasgow\)](#), [June \(Away\)](#), [September \(Glasgow\)](#)

Ensemble summer dates (5 weeks) [Monday 1 July – Saturday 3 August \(Glasgow\)](#)

THEME

23rd of June 2016: The United Kingdom voted to leave the European Union. The results were 52% Leave - 48% Remain.

29th of March 2019: The United Kingdom will leave the European Union.

Brexit = Britain Exit

What does this mean to you? Your family? Your friends? Your finances? Cheap easyjet flights? The cost of a pizza at your local takeaway ... ?

Over 5 weeks you will work together as a company with a professional Director to devise a new piece of contemporary theatre around the subject of Brexit. Specialist practitioners in a variety of theatre practice will work with you throughout the year to develop skills which you can use in the performance. The piece will be yours; from inception right through to devising and performing in, we're just giving you a starting point.

"As a creative avenue, the National Ensemble seems to be a winning route for Scottish Youth Theatre"
Herald review *Dye in the Goldfish Bowl* 2017

"Scottish Youth Theatre National Ensemble of young adults has created a two hour devised piece of exceptional range and power for a cast of 17" The Scotsman review *VENT*. 2018

EQUAL ACCESS

At Scottish Youth Theatre, we believe in supporting and enabling all young artists to achieve their creative potential. We are committed to the National Ensemble audition experience being a positive one and that every individual has an equal chance of success. This is about understanding that not everyone starts at the same vantage point and ensuring support is in place for participants who identify as requiring it.

If you wish to contact SYT about anything relating to access, please call Creative Producer Mahri Reilly on 0141 552 3988 or alternatively send an e-mail to mahri@scottishyouththeatre.org. All information discussed is completely confidential.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Will there be a second audition?

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SYT hopes to make a decision from the first auditions, but that is going to be a very difficult task! It is possible that we may wish to interview you again (which could be done via Skype) or call a second audition to make the final selection.

How will I find out if I have been successful or not?

Everyone who auditions will be sent an email to let them know if they have been offered a place in the National Ensemble. The date for this will depend on whether we need to hold second auditions. If you are offered a place you will be given a deadline to respond with your formal acceptance.

Do I need to give photo consent to participate in the Ensemble?

You can withhold photo consent for SYT to use your image in the promotion of the Ensemble and the organisation more widely. You should be aware that you may perform in open public places and therefore the general public may film or photograph the Ensemble at work.

If I'm not selected for the Ensemble this year can I audition in future years?

You can audition in following years for the Ensemble provided you are within the specified age limits and still meet the eligibility criteria.

How long is the Ensemble commitment?

Your first Development Weekend will take place in January and then there will be one a month until you start the devising process for your show. This starts on Mon 1 July and will run Mon – Sat for 5 weeks.

Can I be part of the Ensemble for more than one year?

No. We want as many young people as possible to have the experience of being part of the National Ensemble so at the moment we limit the opportunity to one year.

If I'm not selected for the Ensemble and want to take part in SYT's Summer Courses, will I have to audition again?

Not all of our activities require an audition; for those that do, you will need to audition separately for each opportunity. This is because different artists and directors lead different things for the organisation.

What if I can't make all the dates for the Ensemble?

If you are offered a place in the Ensemble, you need to be able to commit to all the dates for the weekend gatherings and the summer production weeks as part of your acceptance of the place (see below). If something happens that will prevent you from attending at any point in the year, you must contact SYT as soon as you know this to discuss it further.

Where will the weekend gatherings take place?

Half of the weekends will take place at SYT's home base in Glasgow and half of them will take place in other parts of Scotland.

What are the times for working during the weekends and summer production weeks?

It's very full on! Weekend gatherings will be party packed with different things so you should expect to be busy most of the time from Friday evening through to the end of Sunday afternoon, with a bit of time for socialising and sleep of course! Development weekend times are as follows:

Fridays: 6pm to 9pm
Saturdays & Sundays: 10am to 6pm

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You need to be available during the summer rehearsal period **Monday-Saturday, 9.30am-9.00pm**. Some days will be shorter but we don't know this in advance.

Will I have to book and pay for my own travel and accommodation when activities are taking place away from my home region?

To make sure everyone has a chance to be part of the Ensemble, it is SYT's intention to find ways to contribute to the cost of travel and accommodation for Ensemble participants. We are currently seeking funding but this is not yet in place so there are no guarantees. We expect the Ensemble to conduct their own fundraising campaign to help cover their own costs and we will give you a fundraising guide to give you some ideas. If SYT is able to cover travel and/or accommodation, we will make these arrangements for you.

There is no audition or participation fee for the SYT National Ensemble 2019.

Where can I find out about places to stay?

If we need you to book your own accommodation, SYT will research affordable places to stay in the different locations where the Ensemble will meet and we'll try to negotiate a cheaper deal for everyone.

Who will be directing the Ensemble?

The Ensemble is led by SYT's Creative Producer, Mahri Reilly. We will be employing a guest Director and team of specialist artists to help you create the main production in the summer. Other highly skilled theatre practitioners will also work with the Ensemble over the course of the year. They will help develop you as a performer and a theatre maker!

What kind of work will the Ensemble be doing?

Being part of the Ensemble will give you chance to do a range of things. You will create theatre that is relevant to you and your peers and you will be involved in creating the content of the main summer production. Being part of the Ensemble is also about developing you as a theatre maker so you will be given time to work with other Ensemble participants to experiment, share and debate work.

I have some additional needs to enable me to participate; what support is available?

At Scottish Youth Theatre we believe in supporting and enabling all young artists to achieve their creative potential. This is not about treating everyone the same but about making sure no one is disadvantaged by barriers they experience. We strive to support any Ensemble participant who asks for it.

If you require specific additional support or adjustments, then please get in touch as soon as possible. If you wish to contact SYT please call us on 0141 552 3988 or alternatively send an e-mail to ensemble@scottishyouththeatre.org. All information discussed is completely confidential.

Where is SYT's building in Glasgow?

We are based in the Merchant City area of Glasgow which is right in the city centre. We are half a mile from Central Station (about 10 minutes walk) and Queen Street Station is even closer (about 7 minutes walk). Address: The Old Sheriff Court, 105 Brunswick Street, Glasgow, G1 1TF.

Map and travel information available on SYT's website: scottishyouththeatre.org

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