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THEATRE

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TRAJECTORIES NEW WRITERS.

Lead Artist Recruitment Information Pack
August 2025

Call out for Lead Artist

Trajectories New Writers

A development programme for early-career playwrights to grow, connect and bring bold new stories to the stage

SUMMARY

We are seeking a **Lead Artist** with a strong track record of writing for theatre and an aptitude for supporting early-career young artists to develop their playwriting skills and theatre-making practice.

Trajectories New Writers is a fully supported early-career artist development programme, delivered through a combination of in-person and online workshops and masterclasses plus independent writing time, culminating in a showcase event of the young writers' work in January 2026.

Location: Glasgow and online

FEE **£3,630**

The fee is calculated at:

- Equivalent of 13 days @ £220 (mix of preparation, shared planning, in-person delivery and online sessions)
- 3 days tech/rehearsals including attendance at the performances @ £220
- 0.5 days evaluation @ £110

Depending on the home location of the selected Lead Artist, additional expenses for travel, subsistence and accommodation will be covered by the project to a maximum amount.

PROJECT BRIEF

Trajectories is a fully supported bursary programme that invests in early-career theatre artists making new performance work in Scotland. The New Writers programme aims to support them at this crucial stage in their career, to create high quality, small-scale new work, injecting the Scottish theatre sector with new vibrant, dynamic and diverse voices.

The Lead Artist will provide creative mentorship, writing and theatre expertise, and encouragement to the 4 young writers through a range of 1-2-1 engagements, group workshops and ongoing dramaturgical input throughout the writing and development process. They will be a key collaborator, enabling the young writers to take risks, explore their own distinct writing style and reflect on their learning and development.

The Lead Artist will be sensitive to the needs of those in the early stages of their career and able to respond with appropriate and inspiring prompts and guidance to bring their new writing to life. As the project progresses into the rehearsal phase, the Lead Artist will support the writers in handing over their scripts to a professional director and cast. They will help prepare the writers for this transition, offering insight into the collaborative nature of theatre-making and providing reassurance and advocacy throughout the process.

The Lead Artist will contribute to the curation of a series of masterclasses led by guest artists to extend participants' creative practice and act as stimulus for the work they are making. They will work closely with SYT's Artistic Producer to ensure the participants are well supported, the different elements of the programme are effectively delivered and project logistics run smoothly.

The previous Trajectories programme, focusing on theatre-making and performance, took place in Spring 2025 at Assembly Roxy, Edinburgh. You can read more about that programme [here](#) and get an inside look at the young artists developing new work [here](#).

SCOPE

Sep 2025	INDUCTION & PLANNING • Induction session • Contribute to project planning tasks both individually and with the Scottish Youth Theatre team	3 days
Oct – Dec 2025	YOUNG ARTIST DEVELOPMENT PHASE Personal time • Undertake personal preparation tasks to ensure the successful delivery of the programme • Read Young Writers' drafts and offer feedback • Contribute to a feature for SYT's online Dialogue programme In-person • Lead 2 creative development days in person with the group • Collaborate on the selection of guest practitioners and attend their masterclasses Online • Support the young artists through 1-2-1s and group discussions • Contribute to the learning programme sessions	10 days
Jan 2026	REHEARSALS AND PERFORMANCES • Attend agreed days of rehearsals and technical preparation, supporting the final staging of all four pieces and contributing equally to the development of each script in collaboration with the director and cast • Be present and actively support the performances, engaging with audiences and peers as part of the overall learning experience	3 days
Feb 2026	EVALUATION • Attend an online project debrief with SYT after the showcase event	½ day

REQUIRED EXPERIENCE, SKILLS & QUALITIES

- Sound experience of writing original performance in a professional theatre context
- Able to mentor and individually tailor support for young artists to facilitate their development and the progression of their creative work
- Strong skills in delivering playwriting workshops
- Effective dramaturgical skills, able to strike the balance between maintaining young people's ownership of their work and bringing theatrical know-how to make it the best it can be
- A natural collaborator and strong team player
- Effective communication skills with a range of stakeholders
- Respects different lived experiences, values and viewpoints
- Gives consideration to personal wellbeing and respects the wellbeing needs of others
- Acts responsibly with organisational/project resources and is actively committed to pro-environmental behaviours

CONTACT DETAILS

For further queries about the role, please contact Artistic Producer, Annie Lowry Thomas on: annie@scottishyouththeatre.org

ABOUT SCOTTISH YOUTH THEATRE

Scottish Youth Theatre (SYT) is a national young artists' development organisation. Our purpose is to **collaborate** with young theatre artists to **create** experiences and events that **reverberate** in their lives, their communities and their country. Scotland is our venue and we seek inspiration in its extraordinary and diverse young people, their untold stories, their aspirations and their creative leadership. No one needs permission to make theatre; SYT seeks to create the conditions and inspire the passion and commitment for young people to tell the stories they want to tell, at the helm of the creative process.

SYT exists to support the theatre that can be made now; contemporary, urgent work from the young creative minds of Scotland's diverse communities and intersections of lived experiences. We are ambitious for the young artists and their work, providing the right frameworks and inspiration to take their artistic aspirations to greater heights, celebrating their achievements, amplifying their voices and staging their performances on professional platforms. We aim to be the springboard that projects young artists to new heights and the safety net that gives scope for experimentation and risk as they explore their artistry and practice. We dive into that practice, helping them to reflect on their discoveries and give airtime to the passions, interests and challenges for young theatre-makers in Scotland today.



HOW TO APPLY

The application process is in two stages; a written application (or equivalent) and an online informal interview/conversation for shortlisted candidates.

Please include the following as part of your application:

- A CV (no more than 3 x A4 pages) including an artist bio and website link (if applicable). Please include the name and contact details of 2 referees who have recent experience of your work. Referees will not be contacted prior to interview.
- A response to the following questions (no more than 2 x A4 pages in total):
 - » How does your practice and skillset lend itself to the delivery of the Trajectories New Writers programme? *(it is useful to include links to work already completed in reference to this question)*
 - » What is your experience of mentoring and supporting young artists to make their best possible work?
 - » What excites and motivates you about the prospect of working with early-career writers in the current climate?

We recommend you save and attach your application as a **single PDF document**; the file size should not exceed 10MB. Please send your application to recruitment@scottishyouththeatre.org, titling your email 'Trajectories New Writers – Lead Artist Application'. Submissions will be assessed on the strength and depth of the CV and the responses to the questions above.

If you would prefer to apply in an alternative format, discuss access requirements or have questions regarding the application, please get in contact directly with Artistic Producer, Annie Lowry Thomas, on annie@scottishyouththeatre.org

On submission of your application, you will receive an automatic reply that will include a link to an anonymous Equalities Monitoring form. This is optional but we encourage all applicants to complete it to help us monitor the diversity of applicants who are applying for opportunities with Scottish Youth Theatre.

DEADLINE & TIMELINE

- The deadline for applications is **21:00 on Wednesday 10 September 2025**
- We aim to respond to all candidates by **no later than 18:00 on Tuesday 16 September 2025**
- Online interviews for shortlisted candidates will take place w/b **Monday 15 September 2025**

In recognition that recruitment can be used as a tool of inclusion and exclusion, we reserve the right to use recruitment to address under-representation through targeted recruitment and/or positive action.

To comply with legislation, the successful candidate will be asked to prove their right to live and work in the UK before a contract of employment can be issued.

You can read Scottish Youth Theatre's 'Commitment to Our Freelance Workforce' [here](#).

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