

SCOTTISH
YOUTH
THEATRE

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WORLD FAMOUS
A PLAY A PIE
AND
A PINT



TRAJECTORIES NEW WRITERS.

Early-Career Artist Information Pack

August 2025

Trajectories New Writers

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



SUMMARY

Do you find yourself sitting on an idea for a new play but need space, time and support to bring it to life? Have you been developing your writing practice through Scratch nights, playwriting groups or informal sharings and now looking for the next step? Are you keen to connect with other writers and theatre-makers, and learn from professionals currently working in the sector?

Then **Trajectories New Writers** may be the programme for you! We are seeking 4 bold, curious and committed Young Writers to undertake an intensive period of paid artist development, including a combination of in-person and online workshops, masterclasses and one-to-one sessions with a range of leading industry professionals alongside independent writing time. You will sharpen your writing skills, experiment with new ideas and develop your unique playwriting voice, culminating in a professionally directed showcase of your work at **A Play, A Pie and A Pint** in January 2026.

Location: Glasgow and online

Date: October 2025 – January 2026

BURSARY SUPPORT

£2,000

Plus access, travel and accommodation support

ABOUT THE PROGRAMME

Trajectories is a fully supported bursary programme that invests in early-career theatre artists making new performance work in Scotland. The **New Writers** programme supports you to develop your own playwriting voice and create an original 20-minute script, which will be professionally directed and performed by actors as part of **A Play, A Pie and A Pint** showcase in January 2026 – one of Scotland's best-loved platforms for new writing.

WHO YOU'LL BE WORKING WITH

- 3 other young writers
- An established Lead Artist who will mentor you, offer dramaturgical support and curate the learning programme
- Guest artists and facilitators who will deliver masterclasses and workshops
- A professional Director who will help bring your script to life for the showcase
- Actors who perform your work
- Scottish Youth Theatre staff who will support your professional development
- A Play, A Pie and A Pint staff on the lead up to the showcase

WHAT YOU'LL GET

Selected Young Writers will create a collaborative learning community to explore and develop their writing and artistic practice, supported by leading industry professionals. Writers will each be provided with:

- A trainee bursary of £2,000
- Access and wellbeing support
- Masterclasses with skilled professional playwrights
- Industry insight sessions to help you thrive and survive in the sector
- 1:1 dramaturgical support
- Dedicated time with a professional producer from Scottish Youth Theatre
- Personal professional development planning
- Travel costs
- Accommodation fund (for those living a distance from Glasgow)

WHAT YOU'LL BRING

You may have recently graduated from full-time education and are now looking for the next opportunity to develop as a playwright. Or you may be interested in writing for live performance but haven't yet had the chance to work in a professional context. As part of the New Writers programme, you will experiment with innovative ideas, develop your playwriting voice and ultimately write a new 20-minute script, ready to be performed for public audiences as part of A Play, A Pie and A Pint showcase in January 2026.

Artists must commit to 2 days per week of learning and development sessions (on Mondays and Wednesdays through in-person and digital delivery), as well as independent writing time to develop their script. They will also be expected to attend a few days of rehearsals on the lead up to the showcase event in January.

To ensure collaboration and mutual learning sit at the heart of the programme, all writers must attend the scheduled days. Some of this time may be for personal research and writing, but it is fundamental that writers have no conflicting commitments on these days. Please see the timeline and dates on page 3.

For all artists, travel costs will be covered to attend the in-person days and accommodation costs will be covered for those who live further away from Glasgow where daily travel is not an option.

PROJECT TIMELINE

Applications open:	Tuesday 12 August 2025
Application deadline:	21:00 on Tuesday 2 September 2025
Applicants notified about shortlisting:	by 18:00 on Monday 8 September 2025
Informal conversations for shortlisted applicants:	Friday 12 or Monday 15 September 2025

Development Days:	20 & 22 October 2025
	27 & 29 October 2025
	3 & 5 November 2025
	10 & 12 November 2025
	17 & 19 November 2025
	24 & 26 November 2025
	<i>Mondays will be in-person, Wednesdays will be online</i>

First Script Submissions:	w/c Monday 1 December 2025
Final Script Submissions:	Monday 5 January 2026
Rehearsal & Tech:	12 – 16 January 2026 (Glasgow)
Showcase Event:	16 & 17 January 2026 (Glasgow)
Evaluation:	Wednesday 28 January 2026 (online)

HOW TO APPLY

To apply, please complete the online application form on our [Take Part page](#).

Alternatively, you may wish to apply via audio or video. The application questions can be found on page 4 of this information pack. Those applying in this way should send their responses in one audio/video file via [WeTransfer](#) to recruitment@scottishyouththeatre.org. Files should last no more than 5 minutes.

If you would prefer to apply in an alternative format or have questions regarding the application, please contact Annie Lowry Thomas on annie@scottishyouththeatre.org.

MORE INFORMATION

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](#).

If you would like to discuss if Trajectories is the right project for you before applying, please get in touch with Artistic Producer Annie Lowry Thomas at annie@scottishyouththeatre.org for an informal chat.



THE APPLICATION

The first stage of the application process is written questions via the **online application form**, which are also copied below. From this, Scottish Youth Theatre will invite up to 10 shortlisted writers to attend an informal individual online conversation with members of the Scottish Youth Theatre team on either **Friday 12 or Monday 15 September**, from which the final 4 writers will be selected.

If you are shortlisted for the conversation, we will also ask you to submit a 1-2 page writing sample. This doesn't need to be a finished script – just a piece that gives us a sense of your creative voice and ideas.

- 1) Please tell us a little bit about yourself as a writer. **(max 250 words)**
For instance, you might want to tell us about why you write, what drives you to tell the stories you do, or what you hope audiences take from your work.
- 2) Please tell us about the type of work you write. **(max 250 words)**
You might want to tell us about the themes, ideas or stories you're drawn to, the style or form you enjoy writing in, and what inspires your work.
- 3) Please tell us about a performance, piece of theatre or any other artwork you have seen that has stuck with you. **(max 250 words)**
Please describe it and tell us how this work inspired you, what it made you think of and what your audience experience was like.
- 4) If you could bring any story to life with any size of budget, with anyone alive or dead, anywhere in the world, what would you do? **(max 250 words)**
We encourage you to dream big – this is not a real project or the one you will work on if you are successful for Trajectories New Writers.

We actively encourage applications from artists who feel they or their work is underrepresented in the Scottish theatre sector to apply.

Application deadline: **21:00 on Tuesday 2 September 2025**

"[THE PROGRAMME HAS BEEN] SO COMFORTING, INSPIRING AND COMPELLING. IT'S GREAT HAVING OTHERS TO LEARN FROM AND WITH, AND TO FEEL SAFE SHARING WORK BOTH IN THE REALLY EARLY STAGES AND IN THE LATER STAGES. I'VE LEARNT THAT, THOUGH A LOT OF WRITING IS SOLITARY, IT DOESN'T HAVE TO BE LONELY... KNOWING I HAVE A NETWORK OF WRITERS WITH VERY DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVES, VOICES AND STYLES WHO ARE KEEN TO GIVE ME INSIGHTFUL FEEDBACK... MAKES ME MORE CONFIDENT IN TAKING THE WORK FURTHER THAN JUST THE PAGE."

– textLAB Artist

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.

Our Vision

Diverse, bold young artists shaping theatre across Scotland.

What we expect of you

We ask you to commit to the whole process, to be open to experimentation and ready to go beyond what you already know. You'll need to be supportive of your collaborators and appreciative of what they bring to the space. Essentially, you need to sign up to our company values as part of your participation in our projects:

- Cultivating creative possibility
- Weaving collaboration and connection
- Embedding wellbeing and care
- Grounding integrity in all things

EQUALITIES MONITORING

We are currently piloting a new system for Equalities Monitoring of young artists engaged across our projects. This is a really important part of our practice, to address under-representation in our sector and ensure our recruitment processes are fair and equitable for everyone. On submission of your online application, an anonymous Equalities Monitoring form will open in a new tab on your browser. This is optional but we encourage all applicants to complete it to help us monitor the diversity of individuals who are applying for opportunities with Scottish Youth Theatre. The data you share is anonymous and will not be stored with any identifying information.



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