

TRAJECTORIES.

LEAD ARTIST RECRUITMENT INFORMATION PACK.

May 2026

SCOTTISH
YOUTH
THEATRE

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CALL OUT FOR LEAD ARTIST

Trajectories – An early-career theatre-makers' development programme shaped around exploration, experimentation and exchange

SUMMARY

We are seeking a **Lead Artist** with a strong track record of professional theatre-making and an aptitude for supporting early-career artists who are developing their independent theatre-making practice.

Trajectories is a fully supported early-career artist development programme, delivered through a combination of in-person and online workshops and masterclasses plus independent development time, culminating in a showcase event of the young artists' work. The event will take place at Summerhall, one of Scotland's leading venues for contemporary performance, for a public audience in October 2026.

Location: Summerhall, Edinburgh and online

FEE **£5,320**

The fee is calculated at:

- Equivalent of 16 days @ £220 (mix of preparation, shared planning, in-person delivery, online sessions and evaluation)
- 2 weeks rehearsal and end event @ £900 per week

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 supported bursary programme that invests in 5 early-career theatre artists making new performance work in Scotland. The programme aims to support them at this crucial stage in their career, to create high quality small-scale theatre productions, injecting the Scottish Theatre sector with new vibrant, dynamic and diverse voices.

The Lead Artist will provide creative mentorship, theatre expertise and encouragement to the 5 young theatre-makers through a range of 1-2-1 engagements, group workshops and ongoing dramaturgical input throughout the development and rehearsal process. They will be a key collaborator, enabling young artists to take risks, explore their own artistic practice 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 work to life. In consultation with the participants, they will co-curate 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 Trajectories programme has previously taken place in association with A Play, A Pie & A Pint, Glasgow in 2026, Assembly Roxy, Edinburgh in 2025 and Civic House, Glasgow in 2022. You can read about the Trajectories project [here](#) and watch a selection of Trajectories films [here](#).

SCOPE

Pre-project	INDUCTION & PLANNING - Induction session - Contribute to project planning tasks both individually and with the Scottish Youth Theatre team	2 ½ days
Sep/Oct 2026	YOUNG ARTIST DEVELOPMENT PHASE Personal time - Undertake personal preparation tasks to ensure the successful delivery of the programme - Contribute to SYT's online Dialogue programme Delivery days (in-person and online) - Lead creative development days in person with the group - Collaborate on the selection of guest practitioners and attend their masterclasses - Engage in the process of young artists' Personal Development Plans (PDPs) to ensure learning objectives can be met - Support the young artists through 1-2-1s and group discussions - Contribute to the learning programme sessions	13 days
Oct 2026	REHEARSALS AND PERFORMANCES - Oversee 2 weeks of rehearsal and tech, ensuring equal input to the development of the different young artists' work - Collaborate with the Production Manager and Artistic Producer on the detail and logistics of the showcase event - Attend and support the delivery of the showcase event	2 weeks
Nov 2026	EVALUATION Attend a project debrief with SYT after the showcase event	½ day

"THERE ARE SO MANY VALUABLE PARTS TO THE PROGRAMME, I REALLY DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ELSE QUITE LIKE IT IN SCOTLAND."

CORA BISSETT, PREVIOUS TRAJECTORIES LEAD ARTIST

REQUIRED EXPERIENCE, SKILLS & QUALITIES

- Sound experience of making original performance work in a professional theatre context
- Able to mentor and support artists to facilitate their development and progression of their creative work
- Strong skills in delivering theatre-based 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
- Able to hold the overview of a project and offer individuals tailored input and support
- 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.



EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

We recognise that freelance artists are often asked to invest significant unpaid time and energy into application processes and that organisations may already be familiar with their work. With that in mind, we are asking for a short Expression of Interest and a CV as the first stage of recruitment; we do not require a detailed proposal.

Please complete the Expression of Interest form and upload your CV **via our website**.

You'll be asked to tell us why you are interested in being Lead Artist for Trajectories (to a maximum of 250 words). You may wish to touch on:

- The kind of performance work you make, and how your practice connects with the aims of the Trajectories programme
- Your experience of mentoring, collaborating with or supporting artists to develop original work
- Your approach to leading workshops, dramaturgy, or creative development processes
- What interests you about working with early-career theatre-makers at this point in time

Selected artists will be invited to an informal conversation with members of the SYT team.

We recommend you save and attach your CV as **a single PDF document**; the file size should not exceed 10MB. Submissions will be assessed on the strength and depth of the CV and your response to the Expression of Interest question.

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 expressions of interest is **21:00 on Tuesday 23 June 2026**
- We aim to respond to all candidates by **no later than 18:00 on Tuesday 30 June 2026**
- Online interviews for shortlisted candidates will take place w/b **Monday 6 July 2026**

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**.

EVERYONE STARTS SOMEWHERE



**SCOTTISH
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THEATRE**

Scottish Youth Theatre
www.scottishyouththeatre.org

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