

TRAJECTORIES.

EARLY-CAREER ARTIST INFORMATION PACK.

May 2026

SCOTTISH
YOUTH
THEATRE

Supported by



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Trajectories

A young theatre-makers' development programme shaped around exploration, experimentation and exchange



SUMMARY

Do you find yourself sitting on an idea for a new new performance but need space, time, resources and support to make it a reality? And are you keen to connect with other theatre-makers, whilst learning from professionals currently working in the sector? Then **Trajectories** may be the programme for you!

We are seeking 5 bold, curious and committed Young Artists, on the cusp of entering professional practice, to undertake an intensive period of paid artist development, delivered through a combination of in-person and online workshops, masterclasses and one-to-one sessions with a range of leading industry professionals alongside independent making time. You will experiment with new ideas and refine your unique artistic voice, culminating in a showcase event. This will take place at Summerhall, one of Scotland's leading contemporary performance venues, where you'll perform your new work for a public audience in October.

Location: Summerhall, Edinburgh and online

Date: September – November 2026

BURSARY SUPPORT

£2,150

Plus access, travel, accommodation and production support

ABOUT THE PROGRAMME

Trajectories is a supported bursary programme that invests in early-career theatre artists making new performance work in Scotland. The programme supports you to create a high-quality small-scale theatre production of around 15 – 20 mins, injecting the Scottish Theatre sector with new vibrant, dynamic and diverse voices. Previous work made through Trajectories has gone on to be performed at BUZZCUT Festival, the Edinburgh Fringe, toured around venues in Scotland and received Creative Scotland funding for further research and development.

WHO YOU'LL BE WORKING WITH

- 4 other young theatre-makers
- An established Lead Artist who will mentor you, offering artistic and creative guidance and direct the showcase event
- Guest artists and facilitators who will deliver masterclasses and workshops
- The Trajectories Production Team who will help make your performance the best it can be
- Scottish Youth Theatre staff who will support your professional development

WHAT YOU'LL GET

Selected young artists will shape a collaborative learning community to explore and develop their arts practice, supported by leading industry professionals. Alongside your learning and artistic development, the programme is designed to support you to make and perform new work for in-person public audiences in October 2026. Artists will each be provided with:

- A trainee bursary of £2,150
- Access and wellbeing support
- Dedicated time with a professional producer from Scottish Youth Theatre
- Personal professional development planning
- Industry insight sessions with professionals currently working in the sector
- Dedicated marketing support from the Scottish Youth Theatre Digital Team
- Travel costs
- Accommodation fund (for those living a distance from Edinburgh)
- A production budget of £150 to spend on the design of your show

WHAT YOU'LL BRING

You may have recently graduated from full-time education or have developed your artistic practice independently and are now looking for the next opportunity to develop as a theatre-maker and performer. You may be interested in making live performance work but haven't yet had the chance to work in a professional context. As part of the Trajectories programme, you will experiment with innovative ideas, develop your practice and make a new piece of high quality work for industry professionals, peers and wider public audiences. You can choose to make a solo show or work in a small group for the showcase event on Saturday 31 October.

We don't expect you to know exactly what you're going to make yet; that's what Trajectories is for! We are interested in artists who have already begun a creative journey and have an idea of the type of work they want to explore during the programme. This could be (and is not restricted to):

- Movement/Physical Theatre
- Spoken word
- Live art
- Durational performance
- New writing
- Autobiographical performance
- Multi-art form
- Digital arts



Artists must commit to 2 days per week of learning and development sessions for 6 weeks (Mondays and Tuesdays, dedicated to a hybrid model of in-person and digital delivery) plus a rehearsal week and production week on the lead up to the showcase event. To ensure collaboration and mutual learning sit at the heart of the programme, all artists must attend both days. Some of this time will be for personal research and rehearsal but it is fundamental that artists have no conflicting commitments on these days. Please see the full timeline and key dates below.

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 Edinburgh where daily travel is not an option.

PROJECT TIMELINE

Applications open:	Thursday 7 May 2026
Application deadline:	21:00 on Thursday 4 June 2026
Applicants notified about shortlisting:	by 18:00 on Wednesday 17 June 2026
In-person workshop/audition:	Wednesday 24 June 2026 (Edinburgh)*
Applicants notified no later than:	18:00 on Friday 26 June 2026
Development Days:	7 & 8 September 2026 14 & 15 September 2026 21 & 22 September 2026 28 & 29 September 2026 5 & 6 October 2026 12 & 13 October 2026 <i>Mondays will be in-person, Tuesdays online</i>
Rehearsal Week:	19 – 23 October 2026 (Edinburgh)
Tech & Production Week:	26 – 30 October 2026 (Edinburgh)
Showcase Event:	Saturday 31 October 2026 (Edinburgh)
Evaluation:	15 November 2026 (online in the afternoon)

**travel will be reimbursed for those invited to attend*

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 annie@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.

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 a shortlist of artists to attend an in-person group workshop/audition in Edinburgh with members of the Scottish Youth Theatre team on **Wednesday 24 June**, from which the final 5 will be selected.

- 1) Please tell us a little bit about yourself, your journey in the arts so far, and the kind of work you make. [\(max 300 words\)](#)
You might want to tell us about any training, education, workshops, community projects, or self-directed learning that has shaped you as a theatre-maker. We're also interested in the themes, forms, styles or questions you're drawn to in your work and any lived experience or perspective that feels relevant to your work.
- 2) 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.
- 3) 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.

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 Thursday 4 June 2026**

If you would like to discuss if Trajectories is the right project for you before applying or would like to discuss your access requirements in advance, please get in touch with Annie for an informal chat on annie@scottishyouththeatre.org.

Please note, due to the time commitment and intensive nature of Trajectories, we are not accepting applications from people in full-time education. If you are in part-time education and are still available on all the dates listed then you are welcome to apply, but please contact Annie to discuss your suitability for the project. Please also note this programme is for Scotland-based theatre-makers only.

MORE INFORMATION

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](#).

"I AM SO LUCKY TO HAVE HAD THE TIME AND SPACE DURING TRAJECTORIES, BECAUSE I DON'T KNOW IF I COULD HAVE COULD HAVE CREATED SOMETHING AT THE LEVEL I DID WITHOUT IT."

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 have 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.



EVERYONE STARTS SOMEWHERE



**SCOTTISH
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Scottish Youth Theatre
www.scottishyouththeatre.org

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