

Please note some applications are currently closed. We would advise you to continually check the websites to look out for application opening times.

Acting:

[Open Door](#)

- 8-month part-time acting training programme designed to prepare you for Drama School
- **18+** based in **London, Essex and the South East** who are serious about pursuing a career in Acting
- Our **online Behind the Scenes** programme works with people aged between **17+ based across England, Scotland and Wales** who are serious about pursuing a career in Technical Theatre and Production Arts

[Old Vic Theatre Club](#)

- Free eight-week course that uses theatre skills to build confidence, foster connections and support wellbeing.
- Designed for adults aged 18+ who face barriers to accessing the arts
- Runs 3 times a year, 20 participants each term
- Weekly workshops, free theatre visits, backstage tours, an end-of-year celebration event, opportunity to join our OV Community Network.
- **Applications open on a term-by-term basis**

Theatre Making & Artist Development:

[Soho Theatre Maker's Lab](#)

- Programme for artists who want to be supported in making a one-hour show crossing different artforms.
- Limited number of bursaries available for people who are on Universal Credit, other benefits, or a low income
- actively welcome applicants who identify as LGBTQ+, disabled, people of the *Global Majority and people living in the London Borough of Waltham Forest.
**people who identify as Black Caribbean, Black African, South Asian, East Asian, Middle Eastern or Latinx.*
- Open to applications from mixed experience levels – from early career artists to more experienced makers. However, this Lab is not suitable for complete beginners.
- **Applications currently not open**

Omnibus Theatre – Engine Room

- Flagship artist support scratch program, offering theatre makers and artists the opportunity to experiment, play and develop ideas.
- Usually takes place once a month with 3-4 theatre makers
- Participants are offered: A 20-minute performance slot in the theatre, or 30 minute reading of your piece for an invited audience, up to 3 days of free rehearsal space, a dramaturgical session with Literary Officer Sam Pout Technical assistance from our team, who will run your technical rehearsal and operate during the performance, meaningful audience feedback
- **Applications will open again in 2027**

Tech Skills:

Soho Theatre – Theatre Tech Training course

- Training opportunity followed by placement
- Learning how theatre lighting works (including: rigging lights, operating sound and lighting desk, looking after a professional stage)
- Successful candidates will receive 1-week free training from a top professional Theatre Technician at Camden People's Theatre. They will then be paid to continue their training in a professional venue for a week, putting their learning into practise on live productions.
- **To apply you must be aged 18 or over and be living, studying or working in Waltham Forest**
- Encourage applications from candidates who are likely to be underrepresented in the creative sector. These include people from Black, Asian and minority ethnic backgrounds, disabled people, LGBTQI+ people and women.
- Available Monday 4 September to Friday 8 September, 10am to 4pm everyday
- **Application deadline: Wednesday 9 August, 5pm**

Southbank Centre – Technical Academy

- Hands-on production training for people with little or no experience, taught by the technicians who do it every day. If you're 18+ and live in London, our three-week training programme could be your next step towards a brand-new career. Everyone is welcome.
- **Applications currently not open** (email emergingartists@southbankcentre.co.uk if you would like to be notified when it is)

Directing:

[Royal Court](#)

- Support for directors wanting to develop their craft staging new work – from paid roles and bursaries to open-access events and insights from some of the world's leading theatre-makers.

Writing:

[Royal Court](#)

- Variety of resources from their Writers' Card Membership (offering free support and exclusive events), to play submissions and accessing funding, resources and insights.

[Royal Court Writers Group](#)

- A structured community of support for early-career playwrights

[Soho Theatre Writer's Lab](#)

- Entry-level course designed to support new writers in creating their first play over the course of 9 months.
- **Applications re-open July 2026**
- From: £200, with some bursaries available
- 9 months (once a month on Tuesday evenings with occasional Saturday workshops)

[Southwark Playhouse – Black Writer's Collective](#)

- A writing group for anyone aged **18+ who identifies as Black**.
- Meet every other Monday during term times from 7.00 - 9.00pm, both in person at Southwark Playhouse and online

[Bush Writers' Group](#)

- For new playwrights at early stages in their careers
- Aims to support writers over a sustained period of time and help encourage work on a new full-length play

[New Writing – Criterion Theatre](#)

- Free programme aimed at developing playwrights' craft for larger venues
- **Applications open 1 September 2026**

- **Application details will be published in August 2026**

Stratford East – Freelance Royalty Scratch Nights

- Working on something new? A script, a song, a poem or something else entirely? Try it out in front of an audience at Stratford East Scratch Nights.

The Bread & Roses Theatre

- Writer's Membership - (£20, £35 annually), provides access to bi-monthly Playwrights Circle, the chance to submit to The Platform, 15% off shows at The Bread & Roses Theatre, networking, fundraisers and organised socials, exclusive news and discounts.
- Playwright's Circle – supportive circle in which playwrights can share their work and work-in-progress
- Playwriting Award - a competition for full length theatre plays that have not previously been produced or published and feature at least half of female, non-binary or gender neutral roles by UK and Europe based writers.
- The Platform – New writing short plays and works-in-progress performed by the in-house Bread & Roses Theatre Company (BRTC). Takes place 2 times a year usually

CREW - Stanley Arts London

- Croydon Emerging Writers- Free peer-led writers group open to all
- For both aspiring and experienced writers to develop writing skills, learn, practice, share work, gain feedback, and talk through ideas in a non-judgemental space with other Croydon and South London creatives
- All forms of written creativity – playwrights, poets, novelists, and more
- Meets fortnightly: every-other Tuesday evening, majority meet at Stanley Arts but also opportunity to 'Zoom-in' if you can't make it in person
- Facilitated workshops and peer-led sessions

Get Over It Productions – The Scene Festival

- **Women-led theatre company**
- New writing script submissions narrowed down into short plays that are performed for a series of scratch nights

INK Theatre

- Platform dedicated to new writing
- [Writer's Hub](#) - Script Submission - For INK Festival, the UK's leading short play festival – a lineup of original plays, comedy, poetry, talk and performances.
- Free
- Welcome scripts from writers of all ages, all levels of experience, regardless of background, disability, ethnicity, gender identity, race, religion, or sexual orientation
- **Submissions Deadline – 30 September 2026, 11.59pm**
- **Student Submission Deadline – 31 October 2026, 11.59pm**

Jack Studio Theatre – Scratch Nights

- Host scratch nights every two months. 75-minute show of 5-6 performances of new material
- Looking for pieces or performances in development of 10 minutes or less in duration (might include theatre play extracts or a short play, film script, sketch comedy, performance poetry, spoken word, etc.)
- Audience provide feedback after the event
- **Scratch at the Jack is currently on pause and not currently open for submissions**

Community Engagement:

THE ENGAGE PROGRAMME - Hampstead Theatre

- Community initiative aimed at forging connections among adults in Camden. Theatre opportunities for participants to engage with include community nights, writing sessions and performances.

Newsletters:

Sign-up to London Playwrights Weekly Round Up:

<https://londonplaywrightsblog.com/category/weekly-round-up/>

Script Submission Services:

- [Royal Court](#)
- [Theatre 503](#)
- [Bush Theatre](#)
- [National Theatre](#)
- [Talawa](#) (for Black heritage writers across the UK)

- [Finborough Theatre](#)

Screenwriting:

[4Screenwriting](#)

- Offers 12 writers new to television drama an insight into how the industry works and to provide a “dry-run” of what it can be like to write under a television drama commission, specifically for one hour series and serial drama, and to work with them as they write an original drama script
- **Applications currently not open**

[BBC Writers Open Call](#)

- Annual open submission opportunity for all writers aged 18 and over and resident in the UK or Republic of Ireland.
- **Applications currently not open**

Facilitating:

[Talawa Creating Routes](#)

- FREE practical training programme for Global Majority* theatre makers aged 18+ and creatives who want to use their creative skills in community settings (e.g. working with groups in schools, community organisations, health settings, criminal justice, etc.)
**People who identify as Black Caribbean, Black African, South Asian, East Asian, Middle Eastern or Latina*
- **Applications currently not open**

Digital resources:

[Old Vic – The Hub](#)

- Free digital learning content devised by theatre creatives and professionals

[Home - Get into Theatre](#)

- Information and opportunities platform designed to help individuals pursue careers in theatre

Young People:

Old Vic:

OV Theatre Makers

- A UK-wide free training programme for ages **18–30**
- 6 months
- Explore contemporary theatre-making practices to provide you with a toolkit of skills to begin developing your own work and career.
- Developing a broad range of theatre making skills from writing and devising to directing and producing you will then have the chance to showcase your work in a Scratch Night at a professional theatre venue

OV Backstage

- Offer paid placements on an Old Vic main house production to six **18–30**-year-olds from underrepresented backgrounds in the arts
- 15 sessions
- Hands-on experience in one of the following disciplines: costume, lighting, set and staging, sound, stage management

OV Front Line

- Opportunity for 16-30 year olds to discover more about careers in theatre and develop key transferable skills through paid placements with our Front Of House team

National Theatre:

Young Producers

- This course is for 18 – 25 year-olds and is completely FREE to take part in. It will take place in-person at the National Theatre Studio on The Cut, SE1.
- Led by the National Theatre's Young People's Programme, and a host of cultural producers and mentors from across the creative industries, you will discover how exciting and versatile the role of the producer is. On the course you will learn about:
 - How to build a team
 - How to work with artists, venues and arts organisations
 - Budgeting, marketing and project management
 - How to pull this all together to create your own production or live event

National Theatre Skills & career explorers

- Digital careers resources, courses, workshops, placements and apprenticeship opportunities

Battersea Arts Centre:

[Next Gen Producers](#)

- Annual programme for people aged **18-29** who want to develop practical skills in live event producing. The programme takes place over 15 weeks between February and June.
- **Applications currently not open**

National Youth Theatre:

[Stepping Up](#)

- A 3-month acting and leadership programme for young people aged 19–25* (**or up to 30 if learning disabled*) in London who are unemployed or underemployed, and not in education, and do not have a foundation/degree in performing arts.
- 2 days/evenings a week on a Monday, & Tuesday or Tuesday & Wednesday on bank holiday weeks
- **Application deadline: Friday 3 July, 1pm**
- Audition dates: Wednesday 15th July, Thursday 16th July and Saturday 25th July

[Playing Up](#)

- A practical ten-month part-time drama training programme, offering young people aged 19 – 25* (**or up to 30 if learning disabled*) who are not in Education Employment or Training (NEET) the opportunity to gain a Level 3 qualification in drama
- **Applications closed 2026/27 programme**

[Script School](#)

- A 3-month theatre writing programme for young people aged 19-30* in London who are unemployed or underemployed, and not in education, and do not have a GCSE, A Level or foundation/degree in Drama and performing arts.
- **Applications are now closed**

Masterclass

- Talks with leading industry figures, onstage workshops, careers advice sessions, creative opportunities, paid apprenticeships for young people **aged 16 – 30**. They also offer £5 tickets to West End and Fringe theatre

TheatreCraft

- A free annual event for anyone aged **16-30** who is interested in an off-stage career in theatre.
- Workshops, talks, backstage tours and on-stage demonstrations
- November 2026
- Online for all ages
- Sign up to their newsletter for exclusive ticket offers, events, networking opportunities and updates about TheatreCraft

London Bubble:

Bubble's Young Ambassadors Programme

- A team of young adults aged 18 -30 who represent and support London Bubble by advising on our projects, promoting our mission and engaging with our community.

Lyric Theatre:

START

- Six-week performance programme for NEET (not in education, employment or training) young people aged 16-25 from West London

The Bill Cashmore Award

- A paid opportunity for two new one-act plays by writers aged 18-30, to be professionally produced at the Lyric Hammersmith Theatre. The two winning plays will run as a double bill and will be performed by the Lyric's SPRINGBOARD trainee actors
- **Applications currently closed**

SPRINGBOARD

- Free training programme that aims to find, shape, inspire, champion and sustain the next generation of performers from underrepresented backgrounds

- Designed specifically to support young people aged 18-25yrs who live in West London, have zero to little formal drama training and are currently underrepresented in theatre
- **Applications currently closed**

Stratford East Young Technicians

- A FREE introductory training programme offers **18–25-year-olds** the opportunity to develop practical skills in lighting, sound and stagecraft with industry professionals.
- For Young people aged 18-25 from East London*
- **Applications closed for 2026**