

AMPLIFY

FESTIVAL 2023

FESTIVAL APPLICANT INFORMATION PACK

The Amplify programme is here to support local artists

We know that the Midlands – both East and West, is full of talented theatre-makers and we want Nottingham Playhouse to be a hub for artists. Whether you're fresh out of education, early in your career, or someone who has been making professional work for several years, we want to be there for you. We are committed to developing a network where ideas can be shared, challenged and grown.

Throughout the year, we create opportunities and host events to help professional artists develop skills, showcase work and connect with other artists. These include the Amplify Festival, scratch nights, networking events, masterclasses, co-working opportunities and one to one mentoring and guidance sessions.

Amplify Membership

By becoming a member of Amplify, you become part of a network of artists connected to Nottingham Playhouse who live in or come from the Midlands (East or West). This comes with access to a jam-packed newsletter, exclusive events and workshops, ticket offers, one to one advice and guidance and much more.

Amplify Festival 18th -21st October 2023

Amplify Festival is an annual celebration of artists from across the wider Midlands regions, and takes place this year from 18-21 October. The festival will feature a host of new and exciting work from the region, alongside scratch performances, networking opportunities, workshops and panel discussions, it's a place for artists and audience to come together to delight and invest in local talent.

The festival will be made up of 5 strands:

Amplify Headline

Finished pieces of work

Amplify Digital

Work specifically designed for streaming / experiencing online

Amplify WIP

Work in progress / scratch performances

Amplify Connections

Artist spaces, social and networking opportunities

Amplify Development

Artist development opportunities

Accessibility

We are keen to programme work which has considered the access for audiences and artists in the making of the work.

We are keen also to ensure that the application process is accessible.

We will be hosting informal information sessions where:

- we will talk through the information contained in this information pack
- there will be an opportunity for artists to ask questions about
 - the application process
 - the Festival itself

These chats will take place

- in person session 1
 - Wednesday 26th April
 - 3.30 – 4.30 pm
 - In our community hub, Company at Nottingham Playhouse
 - No need to book, just turn up
 - Please contact beccyd@nottinghamplayhouse.co.uk if you have access requirements in order to facilitate your attendance / participation in this session
- in person session 2
 - Tuesday 2nd May
 - 3.30 – 5.00 pm
 - In our community hub, Company, at Nottingham Playhouse
 - No need to book, just turn up
 - Please contact beccyd@nottinghamplayhouse.co.uk if you have access requirements in order to facilitate your attendance / participation in this session
- online session 1
 - Wednesday 3rd May
 - captioned using zoom captions
 - 3.30 – 5.00 pm
 - Pre-register for the session online
 - Let us know of any access requirements in order to facilitate your attendance / participation in the session as part of your registration
- online session 2
 - BSL interpreted
 - Captioned using zoom captions
 - Monday 15th May
 - 6.00 - 7.30 pm
 - Pre-register for the session online
 - Let us know of any access requirements in order to facilitate your attendance / participation in the session as part of your registration

To register for either of the online sessions please fill in this brief form:

[Amplify Festival Information online session booking form](#)

Programming Eligibility and Guidelines

We are seeking applications from companies or individuals who live in / are connected to the Midlands. If you're an Amplify artist seeking a platform for your work, we want to hear from you. If you haven't yet joined Amplify, you can do so before (or after) completing your application. We encourage applications from people who are under-represented in the region's theatre landscape.

Submissions for physical theatre, spoken word, dance, devised, new writing, circus, clowning, music theatre, children's theatre are all welcome through our application form.

At this time there are four strands you can apply to:

Amplify Headline

- finished pieces of work
- 50-90 minutes in length,
- This strand will be programmed on a fee against a split – with a minimum guarantee of £300
- We acknowledge that various factors including access costs may you're your show requires a higher guarantee. Please specify in your application if your show needs a higher guarantee, and what the anticipated costs of bringing your (finished) show to the Neville Studio would be
- Please be aware that this is a festival, and as such there will be limited get-in and tech time for your piece. We do acknowledge that a company's access and / or the inclusion of embedded access within a production can prolong a get-in and tech, please do get in touch if this concerns your company or your show
- See page 8 for further technical information about the Neville Studio

Amplify Digital

- work intended for streaming / experiencing online
- this is a new strand of programming we are interested in exploring for the Amplify Festival
- please specify in your application
 - your tech requirements
 - the anticipated cost of bringing your show to digital audiences

Amplify WIP

- work in progress / scratch performances
- minimum 15 minutes (scratch), maximum 60 minutes (WIP) in length;
- please indicate the cost of bringing your work in progress piece for performance on your application – we will offer a contribution towards these costs.
- This is *not* an opportunity to apply for Nottingham Playhouse to produce a WIP of your script. It is for a slot at Amplify Festival for an artist-led and prepared performance to take place.
- There will be an opportunity to collect feedback from audiences for Scratch and WIP performances

Amplify Development

- got an idea for a workshop or panel discussion you'd like to lead on or facilitate? We'd love to hear from you. Please indicate in your application your usual rate / range of rates for workshop delivery.

What We Offer

Financial Information

At this stage we are wanting to allow for flexibility around programming, which means also having to have flexibility in the budget. If you wish to check in around finances prior to filling out an application please contact beccyd@nottinghamplayhouse.co.uk or attend one of our information sessions.

Ticket prices for shows will vary between £5 and £15 dependent on the development stage of your piece, the length of the work, and the space your work is being performed in.

There is a per-ticket fee of £2 where tickets are £10 or more

There is a per-ticket fee of £1 where tickets are over £5, under £10

Headline shows will receive a minimum guarantee against a split

Digital work will be negotiated on a case by case basis

WIP shows will receive a contribution towards the expense of bringing the show to the venue, to be agreed upon, dependent on stage of development, length of piece, etc.

Workshop facilitators will be paid a fee

We cannot pay accommodation / travel costs in addition to the above.

What Else do we offer?

- A platform for your work at Nottingham Playhouse
- Technical support – shows programmed in the Neville will receive tech support, a short tech rehearsal slot and a technician who can operate the show if required;
- Ticketing managed through our box office
- The possibility of Digital asset creation via our in house Digital Producer (for some companies)
- Ushers / FOH staff for your show
- The option to collect feedback from audiences, to be arranged between the artist and our Artist Development Producer, Beccy.
- We also offer marketing support from Nottingham Playhouse' marketing department including
 - Inclusion in our Autumn brochure of work
 - Season emails sent to regular attenders and members
 - Inclusion in the Amplify newsletter and bulletins about the festival, sent to the Amplify network
 - Additional emails sent to promote Amplify Festival to bookers of similar work (eg new works)
 - Each event gets a bespoke event page and URL on our website
 - Festival press release to national and local press
 - Content posted / reposted on social media including Twitter, Facebook, Instagram and YouTube

Planned timeline

Monday 24 April	Applications Open
Wednesday 26 April	Information session / Q&A at co-working day 15:30 – 16:30
Tuesday 2 May	Information session / Q&A at Nottingham Playhouse 15.30 – 17.00
Wednesday 3 May	Information session / Q&A at online co-working day 15:30 – 17:00
Monday 15 May	Information session / Q&A online 18:00 – 19:30 (BSL interpreted)
Monday 5 June	Applications Close at 12 noon
Monday 17 th July	Line up finalised. All applicants will have been notified of the outcome of their application by this date.
Wednesday 19 July	All festival artists zoom meeting 17:00 – 18:30
Friday 28 th July	Companies / Artists Marketing Deadline; all marketing materials completed, deal memos returned; all access arrangements confirmed
Friday 18 th August	Line up announced and on sale
Friday 15 th September	Companies / Artists to confirm finalised tech requirements All access arrangements finalised (interpreters booked etc)
Friday 6 th October	Tech schedule confirmed
Wednesday 18 th October	First day of Festival
Saturday 21 st October	Last day of Festival
Friday 10 th November	Settlements to be finalised and sent to all artists
Friday 24 th November	All artists to have sent in final invoices by this date; payment will be made within 28 days of receipt of invoice.

What we expect

We expect all artists

- Where and when required, share with us how we can adapt our environment to accommodate any access requirements you may have, and be considerate of potential access requirements of others
- To treat each other, staff and audiences at Nottingham Playhouse respectfully
- To adhere to our anti-racist policy
- To adhere to the timeline outlined above, and to provide any further information asked for in a timely manner
- To present work of the nature and length described in your application – our schedule is programmed around the timings given in your applications, please be mindful of this when developing work as any change to this is likely to be costly to you as an artist – recharges will be applied for staff time, and shows may be cut short if they run over their allocated length

The Venue (Our Spaces)

There is the potential to use Nottingham Playhouse building and its spaces in creative ways. The festival will run across all of our spaces except the main auditorium, and can include outdoor (reminder it'll be October!) and non-stationary pieces of work.

The Neville Studio

98 seat, raked seats theatre space

Please see separate lighting rig and studio layout / dimensions documents on our website.

You're likely to have approximately 1-2 hours of technical time on the day of your performance to programme lights and sound as well as some time in the theatre without technical support to get in and familiarise yourself with the space.

As with most festivals there are limitations on get in time, technical time and turnaround between shows.

Please see the Amplify Festival application page of our website for downloadable documents detailing the lighting rig and tech specs for the Neville Studio.

The Ustinov Room

Carpeted room, 40 seats, can be configured how you like (no rake, no raised stage).

Fixed projector, 2 pillars, can be darkened. Access to portable speaker and domestic floor lamps.

Company One / Company Two

One large space, with our bar in it, that can be separated into two smaller spaces by use of bi-folding doors. Company Two houses the bar.

Capacity Company One – 60 total (seated audience 50 in end on, 45 in thrust), no rake.

Dimensions: 7.69m x 9.8m – 3 pillars

Capacity Company Two – 170 total (standing, seated capacity far lower, and dependent on layout of room)

Dimensions: 6.73m x 15.91m – 5 pillars

Please note: Company Two is the smaller of the two spaces, but has the larger capacity for fire regulations due to the number of fire exits.

Bifold doors open – capacity 280 (standing) – wouldn't be realistic to have this many in for a performance!

Built in speaker system that runs through Company 1 and 2. Alternatively there is a PA system that can be utilised in either space. No theatrical lighting, but LED ceiling lights can be dimmed.

More spaces on the next page...

The Understudy

An L shape space with below dimensions: (2 pillars)

Backwall width – 8m

Smaller length – 4.88m

Longer length - 6.76m

Glass front section – 4m

Up to 15 seats, one frosted glass wall, wooden floor, 1 large pillar. Would require portable speaker for sound. Access to domestic floor lamps.

The Upper Foyer

Open carpeted public space

The Pods

Carpeted small glass walled rooms, can contain 10 standing adults, or 6-8 seated

Site Specific

You are welcome to suggest spaces in and around the building

If you would like to arrange a time to come and look at the spaces please email beccyd@nottinghamplayhouse.co.uk

How to apply

Please fill in the application form here

[Amplify Festival Application Form](#)

We will only accept 1 application per artist / company though you can apply to multiple strands if you wish eg Headline and Development / WIP and Digital with different offerings.

If written form is a barrier to you / your company, please contact beccyd@nottinghamplayhouse.co.uk or call 01158736246 to arrange alternative means of application.

Thank you – and good luck!