



AMPLIFY

IDEAS SUBMISSIONS

Amplify Ideas Submissions

Nottingham Playhouse opens their ideas submissions window yearly, providing an opportunity for artists with a connection to the Midlands to present their ideas, whatever the stage of development they are in, and ask for support.

This is a great way to open up dialogue, to tell us what you are excited about working on or towards, and to create bespoke packages of support for you and your work.

What are we looking for?

Your ideas. At any stage of development. And what you want to do with them next.

What can artists expect?

We don't know what we're going to receive, applications-wise so it's difficult to say what will come out of it each year.

Your ideas will be reviewed by a panel. Last year, the panel included Beccy D'Souza, Hannah Stone and Issy Abdul-Rahim.

The panel thought about the following when reading applications:

- Why this play, or this story, now?
- Who is this play for?
- What questions are being asked, but not answered, by this play? What are we exploring with an audience?
- What is the story / narrative arc of the piece?
- What kind of night out would this be for an audience?

But we recognize these questions might feel specific to a script at a certain stage of development. Stronger applications will have thought about their audience, and why this idea is a timely one.

We then asked ourselves the following:

- What is the artist asking for?
- Can we offer that?
- Is there something else we can offer at this stage that might be useful in helping them develop the idea?

We'd like to stress that we are open to *ideas* – this might be a script, but it might also be an idea for a series of workshops, a festival or a one off event relating to theatre. Or something else entirely. Do you have an idea that you feel like you know where you want to go with it but aren't sure of the next step? Send it through. Know what the next step is but need help getting there, or think it could go bigger? Send it in.

This year's panel will again be curated by and include Beccy D'Souza.

Following review by the panel, each applicant will be contacted with feedback on their application, which may include an offer of support from Nottingham Playhouse.

Managing Expectations – our programming policy

If you've got a show you want us to programme in the Neville Studio as a visiting work, [you can fill in this form.](#)

If you're looking for us to produce your play, it might be helpful for you to know that we aim to produce 2 studio productions a year – one is the children's Christmas show for 3-8 year olds for which we do an open callout for the writer / composer and director. The other is often a co-production with an independent theatre company. Historically the independent theatre companies we've worked with have been well established. We have already programmed our in-house productions for 2024.

Got your eye on the main stage? It's not impossible but...

Case Studies

1. 6 years ago Samson Hawkins applied to the first ideas submission window with his script *Village Idiot*, asking for support so that he could put the show on in his local village hall. In 2022 *Village Idiot* was produced by Nottingham Playhouse and Stratford East as a Ramps on the Moon production on our main stage. There hasn't since been a script received that has gone on this same journey.
2. In our last ideas submission window in February 2023 Charlotte East applied asking for support with an R&D for her new script *The King Stone*; we provided Charlotte with £500 towards the R&D, connection with director Hannah Stone, in kind support of space in the building, mentoring and tech support and an offer of a slot at Amplify Festival. Charlotte has since received an Arts Council Project Grant for a 3 week R&D, culminating in a presentation of an excerpt of *The King Stone* as part of the *Womens Writes* triple bill at Amplify Festival 2023, and a reading of the full script at our most recent *Cold Reads* session. *The King Stone* is still in development and I'm certainly excited to see what comes next.

Many of the applicants from the last submissions window received follow up 1-1s, support with planning next steps, connections to other artists and other development opportunities. For us it's a brilliant way to get to know what you're working on and to be able to advocate for you in other conversations and spaces.

Still got questions? Email through to beccyd@nottinghamplayhouse.co.uk and I'll help if I can.

To submit your idea

Timelines

- | | |
|------------------|---|
| 16 February 2024 | Submissions window opens |
| 19 March 2024 | Submissions window closes at 10 am |
| 25 April 2024 | All applicants to have received feedback on their applications on or before this date |

To submit

Please visit [this link](#) to send us your written or video submission.

Please note that we will accept a maximum of 1 submission per artist / company.

The link takes you to a short form which asks for (a) contact details, (b) EITHER a written application OR a film upload to answer the following questions:

1. Who you are, what's your creative discipline and a brief overview of relevant experience to date
2. What's your idea, and how did you come to it? If your idea is for development of a performance piece, how many performers do you think would be involved?
3. Whether you've done any development / received any support to date with the idea, and who from? Please include names and roles of any creatives attached to the project so far.
4. How you think we can support you with the next steps.

You can then upload any or none of the following supporting documents:

- Up to 10 pages of script (if you have one)
- A synopsis / treatment for / summary of your idea as a separate document or film (2 mins max)
- A film or document to give us an idea of your previous work
- A weblink to further information about your work

Equal Opportunities

Please do take the time to fill out our equality and diversity monitoring form, which is linked in the application form, or you can fill in here: [Equal Opportunities 2024](#)