



# **AMPLIFY**

## **IDEAS SUBMISSIONS**

### **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 newly launched AMPLIFY: SEASONS, networking events, masterclasses, co-working opportunities and one to one mentoring and guidance sessions.

### **Amplify Membership**

Amplify is free to join. You can sign up [here](#).

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 Ideas Submissions**

Nottingham Playhouse ideas submissions windows provide an opportunity for artists with a connection to the Midlands to present their ideas, whatever the stage of development they are at, 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 work with us to create bespoke packages of support for you and your work.

This year we will open ideas submissions twice; January and September.

We will also be using the ideas submissions callouts to begin programming for [AMPLIFY: SEASONS](#).

## About AMPLIFY: SEASONS

This is a new, quarterly event which will replace Amplify Festival, providing year-round opportunities for Amplify artists and Midlands audiences to come together and delight and invest in local talent. These are nights where we will exclusively programme Amplify Artists' work – usually a double or triple bill of work-in-progress, followed by a longer standalone piece. We will host four of these events annually; moving away from the festival model, allowing for greater investment in and flexibility for artists.

Artists who receive a slot in SEASONS events will have:

- time in the Neville Studio with tech support either the day of or the day prior to their performance
- the opportunity for audience feedback
- support with making the work accessible for audiences, and working to ensure taking part in SEASONS is accessible for the artists involved.
- mentoring from our Artist Development Producer
- box office and marketing support for the events

Headline shows (50 – 70 minutes long) will be programmed on fee against a split\* – with a minimum guarantee of £400.

Work in progress shows will receive a contribution towards expenses, with an expected minimum of £50 for 10-15 minutes of 1-hander work in progress work, up to £250 for a longer / larger performance (max 30 minutes).

Dates for upcoming AMPLIFY: SEASONS events are:

SEASON	Rehearsal date	Performance
2025		
<b>SUMMER</b>	3 July	4 July
<b>AUTUMN</b>	16 October	17 October
2026		
<b>WINTER</b>	22 January	23 January
<b>SPRING</b>	23 April	24 April

**Artists who apply to be part of AMPLIFY: SEASONS will be asked to indicate the date(s) they would like to be considered for. Those artists whose ideas excite the panel will then be invited to fill in an invited expressions of interest form, where we will ask for further information about your show (show length, marketing information etc.) which will be presented to the SEASONS programming panel.**

**Further expressions of interest may be invited by the Artist Development Producer outside of ideas submissions. SEASONS programming panels will be open to Amplify artists and members of the Nottingham Playhouse creative community; places will be bookable via box office. Please see [timelines](#) below.**

## **Ideas Submissions: further information**

### **What are we looking for?**

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

### **What might you ask for?**

There's a short selection of things you might want us to consider on the submissions form, but we are very open to you making your own suggestions of what support might look like for you.

### **About the process – looking at your ideas:**

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 Laura Turner (Associate Artist at Nottingham Playhouse), John Kirkby (Attenborough Arts Centre, Leicester), Leila Glen (Assistant Producer, Artist Development, Nottingham Playhouse) and Beccy D'Souza (Artist Development Producer, Nottingham Playhouse)

Stronger applications give a clear sense of the artists' connection to the project and panelists get a clear idea of why this play, story or idea is relevant now and who it would speak to in terms of audience. Those applications which give a sense of the artists' voice within the submission, both in the writing sample (where one is provided) and in the section that asks "how did you come to the idea" are often those which jump out to the panel. If you are clear about why you are passionate about your project, so are we.

Applications which are clear about what would be helpful at this stage are easier to assess, even if we aren't always able to offer the support requested.

When looking through applications the panel will think about 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.

## Managing Expectations

### Feedback and outcomes

Following review by the panel, each applicant will be contacted regardless of the outcome of their submission. Though initial emails may not include detailed feedback for each application, artists are welcome to book in for a short 1-1 to discuss the outcome of their submission at a later date. Booking links will be included in the outcome emails. Those artists who have indicated they'd like their idea to be considered for [SEASONS](#) will potentially be asked for further details to present to the programming panel. Some artists may receive direct offers, others may be offered further opportunity to talk about their idea to see how we might be able to support them.

### Producing and co-producing policies

If you're looking for us to produce your play, it might be helpful for you to know that we aim to produce a maximum of 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. Those callouts are currently live and can be found here: <https://nottinghamplayhouse.co.uk/about-us/jobs/> Deadline for director callout is 20 January, and for writer / composer role(s) is 3 February.

The other Neville production is often a co-production with an independent theatre company. Historically the independent theatre companies we've worked with have been well established either locally or nationally, or both.

If you are interested in bringing a completed show to our Neville studio and would like to be considered for a performance slot for touring work you can do this any time of year via this page:

<https://nottinghamplayhouse.co.uk/for-artists/neville-studio-programming/>

You can also apply to be part of the SEASONS programme – if this is something you'd like to be considered for please do send in your idea.

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

### Case Studies

1. 7 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, after much development, *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 the 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 will be spending a week in R&D at the National Theatre Studios this month - 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.

### **Timelines**

13 January	Submissions window opens
13 February	Submissions window closes at noon
14 – 21 February	Ideas submissions panel meets
21 February	Invites sent out to artists for SEASONS expressions of interest
10 March	SEASONS expressions of interest deadline
12 – 14 March	SEASONS panel to meet
17 – 21 March	Outcomes communicated to artists

## **How to submit your idea**

### **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 and confirmation of eligibility / Amplify membership, (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. How you think we can support you with the next steps. What opportunities you'd like to be considered for and how and why the support you're asking for would be useful to you at this time.
4. 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.

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 2025](#)

\*A guarantee against a split means that you will receive a minimum guarantee of (in this example) £400, OR a pre-agreed percentage of box office takings (often 70/30), whichever is greater. If your show made £1000 at box office, after box office fees, and were on a 70/30 split, you'd receive £700, and the venue would keep £300. You can read more about deals for visiting work in the [In Good Company Midlands Touring Guide](#).

Still got questions? Email through to [beccy.dsouza.01@nottinghamplayhouse.co.uk](mailto:beccy.dsouza.01@nottinghamplayhouse.co.uk) and I'll help if I can.

