

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, connect with other artists and audiences and sustain careers in the arts.

These include AMPLIFY: SEASONS, networking events, masterclasses, co-working opportunities, access to the Amplify Forum, 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 members' online forum, a newsletter, exclusive events and workshops, ticket offers, use of space in the building, 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.

What are we looking for?

Your ideas. At any stage of development. What you want to do with them next. Ideas about how we might help you get there.

What is an idea?

It might be

- a script
- a devised project
- a musical in development
- an idea for a series of workshops
- a festival
- a one-off event relating to theatre
- It could be something else entirely!

What do we mean by “any stage of development”?

- We genuinely mean any stage – BUT if you can’t articulate the idea yet, and haven’t done any work on it at all, then we imagine it will be *really* hard for us to figure out what you are wanting support with, and how we can be useful.
- We want to be excited by your proposals, so whatever stage you’re at, you need to be able to talk about it clearly – and if it is very early stages, it’s useful if you can share previous examples of your work.

We encourage you to think about how well positioned we might be to support you with your project. We are a producing theatre, with a main auditorium theatre of over 700 seats, and a smaller black box theatre of 98 seats. We have a participation department which runs approximately 50 regular programs for groups all ages. We are a Theatre of Sanctuary. We have an active artist development programme and network with over 1000 Midlands artists, and are always on the lookout for new [Amplify Associates](#). We also programme visiting work – you can read more about our programming policy below. We can and do provide support to artists who might not aim to present here, but we maintain a focus on theatre. If your project is predominantly dance or digitally based, we might not have the expertise to support you – however, if you think we have, feel free to get in touch.

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 – what we do at our end:

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.

The panel is usually made up of industry professionals from the region, including a freelancer and representation from other theatre companies or organisations as well as Nottingham Playhouse. Last year, the panel included Laura Turner (Literary Associate Artist at Nottingham Playhouse), Manya Benenson (Lakeside Arts Centre, Nottingham), Leila Glen (Stage One Trainee Producer, Nottingham Playhouse), Jayne Williams (New Perspectives) and Beccy D'Souza (Artist Development Producer, Nottingham Playhouse).

Stronger applications give a clear sense of the artists' connection to the project so we get a clear idea of why this play, story or idea is relevant today 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 understand, 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?

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, artists are welcome to book in for a short 1-1 to discuss the outcome of their submission at a later date. When submitting your idea, if you would prefer *not* to receive any feedback at all via email, you can opt out. In this case you will receive information about how the panel made decisions more generally, but nothing relating specifically to your work.

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.

The other studio production is often a co-production with an independent theatre company and needs to sustain a three week run. Historically the independent theatre companies we've worked with have been well established either locally or nationally, or both. This year we have produced Jane Upton's [*Scene From A Friendship*](#), which we commissioned and is running for four weeks.

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 – these applications are accepted year round and SEASONS is programmed on a rolling basis – this means you can apply anytime.

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

Case Studies

1. 9 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 since 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 one of our *Cold Reads* sessions. *The King Stone* was then supported as part of R&D at the National Theatre Studios and in 2026 went on tour, including a few days at Nottingham Playhouse.

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

8 May	Submissions window opens
18 June	Submissions window closes at noon
19 - 30 June	Ideas submissions panel meets
1 – 22 July	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 Monitoring Form 2026](#)

Still got questions? Email through to beccy.dsouza.01@nottinghamplayhouse.co.uk and I'll help if I can.