

## Light The Blue 2025

### Call-Out for Proposals – Emerging Artist Programme

Aberdeen Performing Arts is looking for proposals for Light the Blue 2025, our annual multi-artform festival for and by young people. The next festival will take place from 1<sup>st</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> June 2025 across Aberdeen with a programme of theatre, dance, music, visual arts, film and more.

Light the Blue 2025 will invite artists and audiences to step **into the unknown** – abandoning expectations, exploring fresh ideas and embracing new experiences.

For more information on the Light the Blue, see our 2024 reflection page here:  
[www.aberdeenperformingarts.com/light-the-blue](http://www.aberdeenperformingarts.com/light-the-blue).

### Emerging Artist Programme

We are inviting submissions from artists aged 18 – 30 in the early stages of their career to be a part of our Emerging Artist Programme.

As part of our commitment to artist development, we will offer a series of opportunities in connection with Light the Blue 2025 giving space, time and resource to test out new ideas and develop craft.

This call-out invites submissions for work that will be ready to be seen by an audience in June 2025. We will be posting further call-outs in early 2025 offering opportunities which support the creation of new work.

Please read all information below before applying, ensuring your idea is something we might be looking for. Links to apply can be found at the end of the document.

### What are we looking for?

At this stage, we are looking for multi-artform work at various stages of development to be presented in our studio and stage spaces across the festival. We are interested in exciting, contemporary and relevant ideas made by passionate creatives.

We are particularly interested in ideas and material that would benefit from dramaturgical support, advice from industry professionals and feedback from a supportive audience.

You might have a show that's ready to go or you might be interested in presenting a work-in-progress performance. You might propose a studio piece to be performed as a standalone event, a short piece to be presented as part of a multi-bill artist development event, or something else. You might have a team assembled or you might be looking for support from us to bring your team together.

We are keen to hear ideas that respond in some way to the theme *into the unknown* – either in the story you’re telling or the way you’re telling it (i.e. experimenting with a new artform or approach).

Your work does not need to be suitable for young audiences, but you and the majority of your team must be aged between 18 and 30.

Successful proposals will be presented at our Emerge artist development event and other events across the festival from 1<sup>st</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> June 2025.

We are unlikely to support the creation of new work or programme engagement projects due to already committed work, however we’re happy to have a conversation before you apply if you have an idea you think we might be interested in.

### **Who are we looking for?**

You might be an independent artist, part of a collective or company. You might make live performance, digital or experiential work.

You and all/most of your team must be emerging artists aged between 18 and 30. We appreciate it is difficult to define ‘emerging’ – we are happy to hear from those in the early stages of their career and who are looking for support to present and develop their work.

In the interests of supporting artist development in Scotland, we will accept submissions from those based across the country, with a particular interest in hearing from those based in/around Aberdeen and the North East.

We are also particularly interested in hearing from those who feel their voices are not well represented on our stages, and those whose work promotes inclusivity.

### **Artforms**

We are particularly keen to programme (but are not limited to) the following artforms:

- Theatre
- Live music
- Dance and physical theatre
- Circus
- Short film
- Installation
- Visual Arts

We are unlikely to programme a piece that has been presented at a previous Light the Blue, unless it has been further developed or is being presented in a different form.

## Venue

Light the Blue 2025 will take place in Aberdeen Performing Arts venues – His Majesty’s Theatre, the Lemon Tree and the Music Hall – as well as other indoor and outdoor spaces across the city. If you would like to find out details about specific spaces to inform your proposal, please get in touch via the contact email below.

## What can we offer?

Artists selected for our Emerging Artist Programme will receive:

- A fee for presenting at Light the Blue, as well as reasonable expenses if based outside Aberdeen. *We are unlikely to fund creation costs.*
- A free programming slots as part of Light the Blue 2025
- Dramaturgical, outside eye and mentoring support throughout the process
- Technical support and access to limited equipment
- Set-up and/or technical rehearsal time with support from our team
- Dressing room or storage space for belongings whilst on-site
- Snacks and refreshments for those involved in day-long events
- Potential photography and videography depending on the event
- Free tickets to selected events across the festival programme
- Marketing & PR support as part of our wider festival campaign
- Producing and marketing support from our experienced team
- Networking opportunities with other artists involved in the festival

We will work with all programmed artists to ensure access requirements are provided for on performance days as well as in the lead-up to the festival.

We expect all artists who participate to contribute to the marketing and promotion of the festival through their own channels, and to engage with other events where possible.

## How do you apply?

Please submit your proposal by **Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> February 2025 at 11pm** via the following online form: <https://bit.ly/lbt25emergingartists>

The form asks for information about you/your collaborators, the piece you’re proposing, its suitability for Light the Blue and a suggested budget. A list of questions can be found via <https://bit.ly/lbt25eaqs> if useful for preparing answers before submitting.

When considering your budget, we expect all artists to be paid appropriate fees (we advise using ITC rates as a minimum: [www.itc-arts.org/resources/rates-of-pay](http://www.itc-arts.org/resources/rates-of-pay)). We are happy to support with costing projects for those who need it, feel free to get in touch before applying if that applies to you.

For accessibility, we are also happy to receive proposals by video or audio recording of no more than 5 minutes in length. Please answer all questions (<https://bit.ly/lb25eags>) and send by email (with a link to view or download via YouTube, WeTransfer or similar platforms) to [lightthebluefestival@aberdeenperformingarts.com](mailto:lightthebluefestival@aberdeenperformingarts.com).

If you require any additional support in submitting a proposal, such as receiving the call-out information in an alternative format, or you have any questions please contact us via [lightthebluefestival@aberdeenperformingarts.com](mailto:lightthebluefestival@aberdeenperformingarts.com).

### **What happens after the deadline?**

We will accept proposals until Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> February 2025 at 11pm. Any submissions received after this time will not be considered.

Proposals will be reviewed and discussed by the Aberdeen Performing Arts team as well as at least one local emerging artist.

We are unlikely to have the capacity to support all proposed works – we will select proposals that excite us the most, that best support artist development and that allow us to fulfil our ambition to create a diverse and relevant festival.

All applicants will be notified of the outcome of our selection process by Friday 7<sup>th</sup> March at the latest. As mentioned above, there will be further call-outs to support the creation of new work in early 2025.

We look forward to hearing your ideas.