

Light The Blue 2025

Call-Out for Proposals – Young Audience 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 1st – 15th 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.

What are we looking for?

We are inviting submissions from professional artists who create work for young audiences across Scotland and beyond to be a part of our Young Audience Programme.

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.

We are inviting proposals for the following:

Family Arts Day – Sunday 8th June 2025

for professional artists with multi-artform work for those aged 0 – 12

We're looking for professional artists who would like to present something at our Family Arts Day taking place at His Majesty's Theatre and Union Terrace Gardens, as well as other indoor and outdoor locations on Sunday 8th June 2025.

Building on the success of 2024's Family Arts Day, the event will return with a programme of mostly free events for primary school aged children and their families. The event will take place across indoor and outdoor locations with pop-up, studio and interactive performances by young and professional artists; art installations and drop-in sessions; taster workshops; backstage tours; co-creation events and more.

We are interested in (but not limited to) programming the following:

- pop-up, walkabout and/or interactive theatre, music and dance performances to be presented in indoor and outdoor public spaces
- low-tech performances of up to 60 minutes to be presented in indoor studio or stage spaces
- sensory, interactive and/or experiential work to be presented in indoor and outdoor spaces
- work-in-progress material to be presented in indoor or outdoor spaces

We are particularly interested in ideas that responds in some way to the theme *into the unknown* – either in the story you’re telling or the way you’re telling it.

We are also interested in approaches that involve young people in the creation and/or presentation, and those making work which promotes inclusivity.

All work must be suitable for those aged 0 – 12 and their families, although we will consider work that is most suited to a specific age group within that range (i.e. for ages 4 – 7).

Successful artists may be invited to collaborate with young participants in addition to performing their own piece as part of wider Family Arts Day activity, to be discussed at time of programming.

Standalones – 1st – 15th June 2025
for professional artists with work for those aged 0 – 25

We have some capacity to programme professional work for young audiences as standalone events across the festival. If you have a show that’s suited to those aged 12 – 25 or something that is technically more complex than our Family Arts Day schedule would allow, we’re happy to hear from you.

You might propose a studio performance; a film; a visual art exhibition; a sensory or experiential piece for young audiences to be presented in one of our studios, public spaces or elsewhere. By young audiences, we mean any age group between 0 and 25 (i.e. babies, 4 – 7 or 14+).

We’re also interested in hearing ambitious and alternative ideas that offer young audiences a unique experience.

As above, 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. a new approach to making your piece).

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 will be experienced in and passionate about making work for young audiences.

We will accept submissions from those based across Scotland, with a particular interest in hearing from those based in/around Aberdeen and the North East. We will also accept submissions from artists based across the UK and beyond – get in touch with us before applying if you’re based outside Scotland.

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 Young Audience 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 slot as part of Light the Blue 2025
- 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 groups to ensure access requirements are provided for on performance days as well as in the lead-up to the festival. We expect all groups 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 9th February 2025 at 11pm** via the following online form: <https://bit.ly/lbt25youngaudiences>

The form asks for information about you/your group, 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/lbt25yauudqs> 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). 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/lbt25yauudqs>) and send by email (with a link to view or download via YouTube, WeTransfer or similar platforms) to 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.

What happens after the deadline?

We will accept proposals until Sunday 9th 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 with input from young people who will be involved in the co-creation of select events across the programme.

We are unlikely to have the capacity to programme all proposed works – we will select proposals that excite us and our young panel the most, and that support our ambition to create a diverse and relevant festival programme for young audiences.

All applicants will be notified of the outcome of our selection process by Friday 7th March at the latest.

We look forward to hearing your ideas.