

Starting Blocks 2025 Call Out (Size 18 Font)

A development lab for new work from solo (or duo) theatremakers

Working alone or in pairs can be hard. Starting Blocks helps with that.

Starting Blocks connects and supports artists who have new, experimental ideas that need development. It invites artists to make a home at CPT for ten weeks, introduces them to others on the same journey, and supports them to realise their creative ideas as ambitiously – and in as supportive and fun an environment – as possible.

In recent years, Rachel Mars' hit show *The Way You Tell Them*, Louise Orwin's *Pretty Ugly*, Haley McGee's *The Ex Boyfriend Yard Sale* and 2018 Underbelly Untapped Award-winner *Queens of Sheba* by Nouveau Riche have all started life on Starting Blocks and gone on to national and international tours, four- and five- star reviews, with extended runs at CPT and beyond.

“Starting Blocks is THE artist support programme for emerging artists making work on the fringes” – Jack Boal (SB artist 2022)

“A safe environment that allows creation and playfulness” – Héctor Manchego (SB artist 2023)

“So special and brilliant” – Hannah Calascione
(SB artist 2023)

"Starting Blocks provided the confidence and support I needed to begin my first solo show —something I couldn't have achieved without it. This has been a pivotal experience, opening new doors in my career as an artist." - Sara Amini (SB artist 2024)

“Being on Starting Blocks is going to be a game changer. I've already broadened my network just as a result of the announcement.” - Michelle Hudson (SB artist 2024)

Starting Blocks is generously funded by the Paul Hamlyn Foundation.

Application deadline: Monday 4th November 2024 at 5pm

Please note: Starting Blocks runs from **Mon 3rd March to Fri 16th May 2025**. You are expected to be available to rehearse for approx. 1 day per week between these weeks, and to meet weekly on a Friday from 10:30-12:00. The sharing will take place between **17th-19th May 2025**.

What are we looking for?

We like shows which are like nothing we've ever seen before: new work, new ways of making theatre, new experiences for audiences. [Click here to take a look at CPT's artistic priorities.](#) We are looking for bold, innovative theatre and performance from early-career* artists, particularly where it engages with issues of cultural, social or political currency. (*And "early career" has nothing to do with age! We welcome early-career artists of all ages.)

Applicants can apply with just an idea, or with an idea that has undergone early-stage development, and now needs space, structure, and peer support to help bring it to life.

Please note: Projects that have been previously developed at another organisation, or with the financial support of a funding body, will not be considered. We are also unlikely to support new writing, revivals of classic plays, or pure dance projects.

What do Starting Blocks artists receive?

We will support 5 or 6 solo artists, or pairs of artists, across the programme. Each project will receive:

- A £1000 cash commission, paid up front
- Approx 9 days of free rehearsal space, across 11 weeks (1 day/week)

- Weekly creative discussion meetings with the other Starting Block artists on Friday mornings
10:30-12:00
- Creative, producing and marketing support and 1:1 time with the CPT team
- A slot to share what you've been working on, at a CPT Starting Blocks showcase as part of our 2025 Spring Season
- Professional production shots as part of the Starting Blocks showcase

Feel like we're missing something? Let us know!

Who is Starting Blocks for?

Starting Blocks is for solo or duo theatremakers, with CPT particularly keen to receive applications from solo artists. We prioritise proposals that demonstrate potential to find an audience. CPT is offering minimum 50% of places to artists from a low socio-economic background and/or who identify as:

- D/deaf and/or disabled
- Neurodiverse
- Global majority* and/or migrant
- LGBTQ+

*This includes people of Black Caribbean, Black African, South Asian, East Asian, South East Asian, Middle Eastern, Arab, Latinx, Jewish, Romany and Irish Traveller heritage.

How do I apply?

Application form: Please click here for the application form

- In order to apply you need to [create a free account with Eventotron, or sign into an existing account.](#)
- [Please complete the application form via Eventotron to apply.](#) Video and audio submissions can be accepted in place of a written application, just follow the instructions on Eventotron to submit.
- The form is split into three sections. The first collects basic details about you, the second asks for more information about you and your proposed project, and the third section is our Artist Monitoring Form. The third section should take no more than 5 minutes to complete. We cannot accept scripts, or any other documents outside of the application form.
- Applications should be submitted by **5pm Monday 4th November 2024.**
- For any questions, accessibility requirements, or if you require the application form in a different format, please email artists@cptheatre.co.uk
- A full copy of the call out & application questions can be downloaded at the bottom of the call out page on the CPT website.

What happens after applying?

We will contact you by 29th November to tell you if you have been shortlisted or not. Interviews will take place w/c 2nd December. If we invite you to interview, we will share the questions with you in advance, along with the names of those on the panel. The panel will include CPT staff members and either a previous Starting Blocks artist or a member of our community steering group.

We can offer individual feedback to all artists who apply but, depending on the volume of applications, this may take a while. We appreciate your patience.

Any questions?

Get in touch at artists@cpttheatre.co.uk

Application Questions

The Basics

Enter your contact details (Name, Email, Phone Number & Address)

Full name of the artist/theatre company

Enter your website or social media (if you have one)

About your project

VIDEO/AUDIO APPLICATIONS: If you prefer to answer the following five questions via video or audio file please upload your file to a sharing platform (Youtube, Vimeo etc) and copy and paste the link here. Videos or audio must not exceed 5 minutes. *If you submit a video/audio link, please type "n/a" in the response box for the next five questions. Please ensure your link is viewable by others. Broken links, or those set to "private" will not be considered.*

Short summary of your project (280 characters)

About the artist/company: what you've done, where, who with, what you're passionate about (Max 300 words)

About the project you're proposing: big ideas, inspiration, who is it for? How might an audience member experience it? What new lens or angle are you approaching the subject matter from, and why is now the right time to make this piece? (Max 300 words)

If you have started developing the work, please describe the stage it's at: (Max 120 words)

What impact would Starting Blocks have on your artistic development? Why is now the right time? (Max 300 words)

Supporting documentation - please add your Artistic CV or any other relevant documentation. **Please note *we do NOT have the capacity to read scripts* and if you**

*submit them these will not be considered as part of your application. You may only submit **two pieces** of supporting documentation.*

Secondary supporting documentation.

Please note any periods in Mar-May 2025 that you are not available:

Are you available for regular (weekday, daytime) rehearsals between 3rd March and 16th May 2025, a regular Friday meeting 10:30 – 12:00, & a Starting Blocks Sharing between 17th-19th May 2025?

Please use this space if you have any additional notes on your availability

Artist Monitoring

1) As the lead artist of the show, do you identify as the following:

- Woman
- Man
- Non-binary
- Prefer not to say
- In another way

2) What is your sex?

- Female
- Male

- Intersex
- Prefer not to say

3) Is your gender identity the same as the sex you were assigned at birth?

- Yes
- No
- Prefer not to say

4) Would you describe yourself as:

- Bisexual
- Gay man
- Gay woman / Lesbian
- Heterosexual/ Straight
- Prefer not to say
- Queer
- In another way

5) Please select your age group:

- 0-19
- 20-34
- 35-49
- 50-64
- 65+

- Prefer not to say

6) Please state if you identify as the following:

Asian/Asian British

- Indian
- Pakistani
- Bangladeshi
- Chinese
- Any other Asian background

7) Please state if you identify as the following:

Black/Black British

- African
- Caribbean
- Any other Black background

8) Please state if you identify as the following:

- Arab
- Latinx
- Prefer not to say
- Other

9) Please state if you identify as the following: White

- British
- Irish

- Traveller/ Irish Traveller
- Any other white background

10) Please state if you identify as the following: Mixed

- White and Black Caribbean
- White and Black Asian
- White and Black African
- Any other mixed background

11) Do you identify as being a migrant in the UK?

- Yes
- No

12) Do you consider yourself to be Deaf and/or disabled or have a long-term health condition which has (or has had) a substantial adverse effect upon your ability to carry out normal day to day activities?

- Yes
- No
- Prefer not to say

13) Do you identify as neurodivergent?

- Yes
- No

- Prefer not to say

14) What is your postcode?

The following questions are recommended by The Jerwood Arts Toolkit and Arts Council England to help us collate data on the socio-economic make-up of our artists. We know the questions are a bit different, but it's really valuable information for us.

15) What type of school did you go to between the ages of 11-16?

- State school
- Faith school
- Grammar school
- Independent / private
- Home school
- Other

16) Were you eligible for free school meals?

- Yes
- No
- Not Applicable
- Other

17) What was the occupation of the highest / main income earner in your household when you were 14.

- Modern Professional Occupations (Teacher/lecturer, nurse, physiotherapist, social worker, welfare officer, actor, artist, musician, police officer (sergeant or above), software designer)
- Clerical and intermediate (E.g. secretary, personal assistant, clerical worker, office clerk, call centre agent, nursing auxiliary, nursery nurse)
- Senior Managers and Administrators (Usually responsible for planning, organising and coordinating work for finance such as finance managers, chief executive etc)
- Technical and craft occupations (E.g. motor mechanic, fitter, inspector, plumber, printer, tool maker, electrician, gardener, train driver)
- Semi-routine Manual and service (E.g. postal worker, machine operative, security guard, caretaker, farm worker, catering assistant, receptionist, sales assistant)
- Routine Manual and Service (E.g. HGV driver, van driver, cleaner, porter, packer, sewing machinist, messenger, labourer, waiter/waitress, bar staff)

- Middle or Junior Managers (E.g. office manager, retail manager, bank manager, restaurant manager, warehouse manager, publican)
- Traditional Professional (E.g. solicitor, accountant, medical practitioner, scientist, civil/mechanical engineer)
- Short Term Unemployed (Claimed Jobseeker's Allowance or earlier unemployment benefit for a year or less)
- Long Term Unemployed (Claimed Jobseeker's Allowance or earlier unemployment benefit for more than a year)
- Retired
- Not Applicable
- Don't know
- Prefer not to say
- Other

18) How would you describe your class?

- Working class
- Lower-middle class
- Middle class
- Upper-middle class
- Upper class
- Prefer not to say

19) How did you hear about this opportunity?

- CPT website
- Facebook
- Twitter
- Instagram
- Other social media platform
- Word of mouth
- CPT newsletter
- Another organisation's newsletter
- Artsadmin Anchor
- Disability Arts Online
- Other

20) Have you performed at or been commissioned by CPT before?

- Yes
- No

21) Have you applied to a CPT call out before?

- Yes
- No