



**BRITISH
YOUTH
MUSIC
THEATRE**

2026 SEASON

NEW MUSIC THEATRE AWARD

Information Pack

APPLICATIONS ARE OPEN!

BYMT is the largest commissioner of new musical theatre in the UK. We programme six full productions in leading venues across the UK. We also programme development camps where ideas for new shows can be trialled over a week with a group of young people in a residential setting. The development, interests and needs of young people are central to our programming.

BYMT has an Open Submissions period from early July until the 31st August 2025. Alongside this, we open applications for our New Music Theatre Award (NMTA), which supports new and early-career writers with the opportunity of a fully produced commission. All applications for the NMTA are automatically considered for wider programming, but proposals for our Open Submissions are not considered for the NMTA. Please read the eligibility criteria for the NMTA when preparing your submission.



HOW WE PROGRAMME

BYMT's programming is done in dialogue with our Young Company Panel. This is to ensure the work we produce is aligned with the interests and values of young people. Upon reviewing submissions, the BYMT programming team will select a longlist, which will then be discussed with the Young Company Panel. Their recommendations for the shortlist, along with discussions with venues and the Board, will form the 2026 programme. We programme works at all stages of development, from the inception of an idea, to fully written shows.



Productions at BYMT

Every production is given a two-week rehearsal process with a cast of 36 young people, a band of young people and professional musicians, and a full creative and production team, culminating with performances in a leading theatre venue. Past venues have included Birmingham Hippodrome, Lowry in Salford and Southwark Playhouse.

What is a Development Camp?

Development camps are 6 day residential R&D (research and development) periods, where writers can explore new ideas, and develop work with a group of 40 young people. Led by a professional creative team, writers can work on entirely new ideas or expand existing material in a collaborative environment.



What We Offer

- BYMT offers writers the rare opportunity to develop work on a large scale, as we only programme pieces that are suitable for a cast of 36.
- We work with a full creative and production team of leading industry professionals to develop and stage new work in top theatre venues across the UK.
- The opportunity to be an integral part of the staging of new work, to have involvement in the casting process for productions, and contact time onsite during rehearsals and the production week.
- Dramaturgical support from the BYMT team.
- Support in future licensing, or strategy for your show.
- Marketing & PR support.
- An ongoing relationship with BYMT beyond just programming, including supporting writers' journeys as artists, not just the journey of a particular project.
- Opportunities for invited guests to see writers' work.

Submission Criteria

- Shows must be suitable for a cast of 36 young people. The cast should all have meaningful, named roles that contribute to the piece.
- Shows must be designed to engage young people, and have a clear reason for involving a young company.
- Shows should be original concepts, or writers should confirm they have secured the rights for existing IP prior to applying.
- BYMT shows are usually under 90 minutes without an interval, with 8-12 songs, the majority being ensemble numbers, and minimal solos.
- The show must be realistically achievable in a very short rehearsal period.
- The show must be suitable to be performed with a maximum band size of up to 6 (including one professional musician, and one professional MD).
- We programme works at all stages of development, from the inception of an idea, to fully written shows.

WHAT WE'RE EXCITED ABOUT



Gender-Inclusive Stories

Our auditionees are 70-75% female identifying, and we embrace both gender fluid and gender conscious casting in our programming.

Ensemble Driven Theatre Making

We'd love to receive pieces that embrace ensemble-led storytelling, and are specifically designed for large casts.

Writers who align with the ethos of BYMT

We want to meet writers who are excited about working with young people. We know how valuable the artistic voices of young people are, and we want to work with people who are committed to nurturing young artists.

Movement-led pieces

We usually programme one movement-led piece a year, where choreography is integral to the storytelling.

Adaptations

Our young people are interested in new, innovative and unconventional ways of telling well known stories. Our young companies are particularly interested in fairy tales and mythology.

Real world issues

Historical or present day, our young people are interested in real stories, and important issues that matter to them.