

NATIONAL YOUTH THEATRE 2020 - 21

Ensemble Members Wanted!



APPLY FOR THE NATIONAL YOUTH THEATRE ENSEMBLE TODAY

We are now recruiting 20 young people to be members of the National Youth Theatre for 12 months from Autumn 2020.

**YOUTH
THEATRE**
IRELAND

About NYT

Members of the NYT Ensemble will:

- Work together to develop as a company under the guidance of a professional creative team led by Artistic Director, Veronica Coburn;
- Develop and produce a professional production of a new play commissioned especially for the National Youth Theatre;
- Participate as a member of the performing ensemble or, *new for 2020-21*, as one of four design and technical theatre ensemble members;
- Work, learn, live and play with 19 other young theatre-makers and develop theatre-making and life skills;
- Have the time of your life...

...all completely free of charge.

**BOOK YOUR
AUDITION NOW!**

**DEADLINE:
FRIDAY 31ST
JULY**

HOW TO APPLY

- To audition as part of the PERFORMING ENSEMBLE, please complete this [Google Form](#)
- To be considered for one of four DESIGN AND TECHNICAL THEATRE ROLES, please complete this [Google Form](#)



An Roinn Leanaí
agus Gnóthaí Óige
Department of Children
and Youth Affairs



ABOUT THE NATIONAL YOUTH THEATRE ENSEMBLE

The National Youth Theatre (NYT) is a programme run by Youth Theatre Ireland. It is an ensemble of young people from youth theatres across Ireland, led by Artistic Director Veronica Coburn. The twenty young ensemble members work with professional artistic and technical teams over 12 months, developing their individual and group performance and theatre-making skills. The programme culminates in a professionally produced performance over a week-long run. The National Youth Theatre is presented in collaboration with the Abbey Theatre.

NYT is an opportunity to showcase the artistic abilities and ambition of young people, and secures the place of youth theatre on the national stage.

In an exciting development, NYT 2020 - 21 will see the introduction of four additional Design and Technical Theatre places in the NYT Ensemble. These new roles will ensure that young people will be involved in all aspects of the National Youth Theatre production, making theatre that is truly BY, WITH and FOR young people.

THE NYT PROCESS*

For a fly-on -the-wall insight into the experience of NYT, watch this video diary made by 2018 - 19 Ensemble member, Olwyn Patterson - "My National Youth Theatre Experience":

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pAOD6tfm2W8&feature=emb_title

Step 1 – Auditions

Youth Theatre Ireland will hold open auditions for young people from youth theatres affiliated to Youth Theatre Ireland. The young people must be aged over 16 years or due to turn 16 by no later than 25th October 2020.

The first round of auditions are fun and relaxed and take the form of a workshop rather than a traditional audition format. Approximately 40 people are invited to

* Please note that due to the current restrictions around COVID-19, programme dates, location and format are subject to change in line with government and public health advice.

return for a second round of auditions where there is a greater focus on traditional casting.

Young people who apply for one of the four new Design and Technical Theatre ensemble places will also take part in a workshop, followed by an interview with members of the Creative Team.

Step 2—Company Residential & Development Week

The NYT Ensemble will participate in a five-day residential in Dublin from 26th – 30th October 2020. This will be an opportunity for the full NYT Ensemble, director, playwright and team to get to know each other.

The NYT Ensemble will meet again for a development week from the 15th – 20th February 2021 in Dublin. During this week the ensemble members will have the opportunity for skills development as well as working with the professional creative team to begin work on the NYT production. Design and Technical Theatre ensemble members will begin to work more directly on these aspects under the guidance of an assigned mentor.

In addition there will be two skills days between April and June 2021, dates TBC

Step 3—Rehearsals

The NYT Ensemble then come together for an intensive four week rehearsal and creation period on a full-time residential basis in Dublin. In Summer 2021, the ensemble members will work, live and play together over the following dates:

Week 1 Sunday 25 July to Friday 30 July 2021

Week 2 Sunday 1 August to Friday 6 August 2021

Week 3 Sunday 8 August to Friday 13 August 2021

Week 4 Sunday 15 August to Sunday 22 August 2021

Step 4—Performance!

The final stage of the National Youth Theatre journey is a production/ performance week where the Ensemble will present a professional production of a new contemporary play that has been commissioned especially for the National Youth Theatre.

APPLICATION PROCESS

Deadline Friday 31st July

Performing Ensemble

For those wishing to be considered as a member of the performing ensemble, the first-round of auditions takes the form of a workshop. The workshop is fun and relaxed and participants will take part in a range of drama games and exercises as part of a larger group. There is no need to prepare a piece or bring anything except yourself and comfortable clothes (trousers/tracksuit bottoms & soft shoes).

Audition workshops will take place in the week beginning 17th August 2020, with second-round auditions for approximately 40 shortlisted applicants taking place across September. We will contact you with details of the exact time and place after the application deadline.

To apply as a member of the performing ensemble please complete this [Google Form](#)

Design and Technical Theatre

There are four places available for young people who have already demonstrated an interest and aptitude for design or technical theatre at a local level.

Applicants will also be called to participate in a workshop followed by an interview with members of the artistic and creative teams before places are allocated.

Please note that you can only apply for either a Design and Technical Theatre role OR as a member of the performing ensemble. You cannot apply for both.

Prospective candidates must be nominated by a youth theatre leader and complete this [Google Form](#) only.

Application Criteria

- The NYT Ensemble is open to all young people who are members of Youth Theatre Ireland affiliated youth theatres and who meet the age criteria.
- NYT Ensemble members must be no younger than 16 or older than 20 on October 25th 2020. *Proof of age will be requested at the latter stages of the audition process.*
- Applicants must be able to fully commit to all aspects of the programme as outlined.

Format of Auditions and Covid-19

In line with the [Government's Roadmap for Reopening Society and Business](#) we expect that in-person auditions with small groups will be possible with social distancing and hygiene measures in place to reduce the risks associated with COVID -19.

However, we are aware that applicants may have different levels of comfort and ability to return to physical spaces by August. In the application form we are asking you to communicate your level of comfort with participating in an in-person audition, and the responses to this question may influence the format of the audition process.

WELFARE

The Ensemble members will be accommodated in suitable residential accommodation in Dublin for the duration of the residential, development week, rehearsal and performance period. A team of welfare officers will be assigned to the project to ensure the wellbeing and care of all participants in accordance with Youth Theatre Ireland's Child Safeguarding Policy. NYT is an alcohol and drug free programme and participants aged 18+ are expected to comply with the same conditions as younger participants. A group contract will be agreed by the Ensemble with the programme leaders at the start of the project.

NYT COST

Participation in the NYT Ensemble is free for all members.

There are no fees or costs for participation in the National Youth Theatre. This includes all meals and accommodation in Dublin. Participants will have to cover their transport costs to and from Dublin but should notify Youth Theatre Ireland if this presents a challenge.

The National Youth Theatre is made free to young people due to funding from the Arts Council of Ireland as well as the Department of Children and Youth Affairs, private donors and in-kind supports from programme partners.

A NOTE ON COVID-19 and NYT

We are launching NYT at a time when the country is beginning to re-open. Many challenges lie ahead for the theatre sector. We can expect that social distancing measures will continue for some time and we are also mindful that the roadmap for re-opening is not set in stone. With this in mind we launch the National Youth Theatre programme from a place of hope and commitment.

The programme outlined is our ideal programme but it may be subject to change as public health guidance changes. We *hope* we can deliver the programme as close to our plan as possible and we *commit* to going on a journey with the NYT ensemble, confident that we have the creativity, support and experience to provide an immersive experience in theatre making whatever constraints or challenges that may emerge.

CONTACT

For more information contact Alan King, Youth Theatre Officer by email at alan@youththeatre.ie