

Sadler's Wells

Young Associates 2023-24

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For an audio version of this document, please [click here.](#)

Welcome

Sadler's Wells is a world-leading dance house, with a spirit of creative innovation and artistic collaboration at its heart. We work closely with a range of individual artists from diverse dance backgrounds and lived experiences, providing a foundation for them to create exciting work.

The Young Associates programme supports talented 18-24-year-olds and 18-30 for d/Deaf and disabled choreographers for two years, providing a crucial first step into their career as choreographers.

The programme will recruit four young artists from a range of dance styles who will be selected for their potential to become the next generation of dance makers. The Young Associates will be supported by Sadler's Wells over a period of two years and receive a tailored programme of professional development. They will also be provided opportunities to collaborate with other young artists and to develop and present new work as part of two commissions within the Sadler's Wells Artistic Programme. The Young Associates will also receive mentoring and training from Sadler's Wells teams and a wide range of artists including the organisation's Associate Artists, as well as financial support in the form of a £8000 bursary and commissioning fees.

We anticipate this will be a competitive programme and will receive many more applications than we are able to offer places to. Applications are open every two years for the programme and you can reapply to any future application rounds whilst between 18-24 years of age or 18-30 years of age for d/Deaf disabled choreographers.



The programme

The Young Associates programme will combine training and professional development activities alongside the opportunity to collaborate with other young creatives to create innovative new work. These new creations will be presented by Sadler's Wells.

The Young Associates Programme aims to:

- Provide a 2-year programme of support and training for young choreographers aged 18–24 years and 18-30 for d/Deaf or disabled dancers
- Establish an important first step within the progression route that Sadler's Wells provides for choreographers
- Enable Sadler's Wells to be pro-active in developing a future generation of artists and leaders for the sector who are diverse, ambitious and open to collaborating with others
- Raise the profile of work created by young choreographers
- Utilise the experience and expertise of Sadler's Wells staff, Associates and other practicing artists to inspire, inform and develop young choreographers

Training and professional development activities will include:

- A series of choreographic intensives each year working with a range of artists and speakers from a wide spectrum of art forms. These intensives will be programmed with the needs of the Young Associates in mind.
- Individual mentorship throughout the programme, and an artistic mentor during the commission periods
- Opportunities to observe professional choreographers

associated with Sadler's Wells working in the studio

- Access to watching a wide range of dance performances at Sadler's Wells
- Engagement with other art-forms through talks and visits to other cultural organisations
- Workshops with staff from Sadler's Wells to include areas such as development and fundraising, marketing, budgeting and producing

Opportunities to create work will involve:

- First year commission: New work to premiere in the Lilian Baylis Studio (2023)
- Second year commission: New work to premiere at Sadler's Wells East (2024)
- Support to connect with other young creatives to collaborate on new works, including composers/sound designers, visual/digital artists and costume designers.

Financial support:

- Young Associates will receive a bursary of £8000, provided in instalments across the two-year programme, to support choreographic practice and development. This bursary includes commission fees for both the Lilian Baylis Studio commission in Autumn 2023 and the Sadler's Wells stage commission in 2024
- Tailored production budget for both the Lilian Baylis Studio and Sadler's Wells commission.

Who can apply?

- Those who are dance artists and choreographers with an interest in making new performance work
- Those who are aged between 18-24 or 18-30 for d/Deaf disabled choreographers
- Residents of Great Britain (England, Scotland, Wales & Northern Ireland)
- Those that are registered as self-employed.

Exclusions:

- Those individuals who are part of a Sadler's Wells associate programme (Associate Artists, New Wave Associates, Resident Companies, Associate Companies, International Associate Companies & National Partners)
- Those who reside outside of Great Britain.

Anthony Matsena © Stephen Wright



The application process

There are four stages in our application process:

Online application

The first step to applying to become a Young Associate is to complete the short expression of interest via the online form detailed on page 9.

Choreographic summer school

Selected young dance makers will then be invited to participate in a choreographic summer school at Sadler's Wells in August 2022.

Lilian Baylis Studio work-in-progress sharing

Following the summer school, 10 participants will then be given the opportunity to develop their ideas further during the autumn and to present a short 'work in progress' performance to an invited audience in the Lilian Baylis Studio in December 2022.

Final selection

After the performance, four of the participants will be invited to become the Young Associates for 2023 – 2024.



Above: Magnus Westwell © Camilla Greenwell / Below: Olive Hardy © Camilla Greenwell



Online application

Application is by an online form, and we will require three pieces of information for your application to Young Associates:

- Expression of Interest Form
- Link to footage of work (3-5 mins)
- Name of choreographic or dance reference

[Click here to complete the Expression of Interest Form](#)

In this form we ask for some basic information about you. We also ask you to tell us more about yourself and the work you make or would like to make. You might find it useful to use some of these questions:

1. Tell us about your artistic background?
2. What are you interested in?
3. What would you like to explore further?
4. What have you recently been experimenting with?
5. What have you not had the chance to explore in your choreography yet?

You can submit in any of the following formats:

- Written statement (500 words max)
- Audio or video recording (2-3 minutes max)

Links to footage of work:

We also ask you to submit a link to a video of between 3-5 minutes in length that you feel is a good example of the choreography work you are exploring. The video footage does not need to have any production values (such as lighting etc) or be professionally filmed, we just want to get an idea of the work you are interested in making. If submitting password protected links, please ensure the password is included, any links submitted without passwords will not be viewed.

Name of choreographic or dance reference:

Please submit the name, contact email, and phone number of someone who knows you and your work and who would be able to answer a few questions we may have during the short-listing process. Please ensure you ask permission before you submit their details.

We are committed to reducing unpaid labour within the cultural sector and as such we ask that you use the suggested word count or length as a rough guide – please don't spend time trying to edit your response to a precise number or time.

The deadline is Thursday 5 May at Midnight. You will receive an automatic response when your expression of interest has been received, if you don't receive an e-mail within 24 hours, please contact us via the details given on page 16 ([**here**](#)).



Above: Vidya Patel © Camilla Greenwell / Below: Christopher Thomas © Stephen Wright



Access

We are committed to being open and inclusive. We hope the process is accessible to all but realise that some may still encounter barriers in accessing this offer.

If this resonates with you, please get in touch by phone, text or e-mail to let us know what additional support you require to make your submission possible. Regrettably, we cannot give advice on your specific response to the expression of interest.

Contact:

Lucy Clarke-Bishop, Projects Producer

E-Mail: lucy.clarke-bishop@sadlerswells.com

Phone or Text: +44 (0)7545 208 381

Olive Hardy © Camilla Greenwell



Selection Process

Sadler's Wells has appointed a panel to review the expressions of interest submitted and select the longlist for the programme. Tim Casson (Choreographer and Young Associates Programme Leader), Anthony Matsena (Choreographer and Young Associate 2018-19), Lee Griffiths (Executive Producer at Botis Seva / Far From The Norm).

The panel will follow a name blind selection process, whereby the personal information given in the form is separated from the response submitted. Programme recipients will be shortlisted based upon their written, audio or video statement only.

It is a challenge to articulate precisely what practices might appeal to the panel during this process., but Sadler's Wells are interested in supporting artists whose work aspires to some or all of the following qualities:

- Offer new perspectives on existing dance forms, and the world around us
- Challenge people to think differently and agitate existing structures
- Be authentic and original, celebrating individuality and freedom of expression
- Be committed, rigorous and well researched
- Be playful, experimental, adventurous and fearless.

Timeline

The timeline for the open call is as follows:

Wednesday 6 April 2022

Call out opens for expressions of interest

Thursday 5 May 2022

Deadline for expressions of interest (midnight)

Week commencing Monday 30 May 2022

Responses sent to all

Monday 8 - Saturday 13 August 2022

Choreographic Summer School

November 2022

Lilian Baylis Studio Work in Progress Sharing

December 2022

Four artists invited to become Young Associates 2023-24

We commit to responding to all who submit an expression of interest by the date above. Should there be a change to the timeline, we will write to inform you.

We are committed to supporting under-represented voices and as such, we aim to offer at least 2 of 4 places to:

- Artists who do not have a relationship or history with Sadler's Wells
- Artists from systemically marginalised groups (including, but not limited to, artists who identify as disabled, financially disadvantaged, LGBTQIA+, Black, brown and artists of colour)
- Artists that identify as female or non-binary

FAQ

What style of dance is eligible?

This opportunity is to support young choreographers no matter what style their practice is rooted in. We are open to hearing from a wide range of artists from a range of artistic backgrounds.

Do I have to have formal dance training to apply?

No formal dance qualifications are required. All we ask is that you have had experience with choreography and making work previously and have an appetite to develop this creative practice.

What are the dates for the programme?

The third cohort of Young Associates will begin in January 2023 and will finish in December 2024. Recruitment will take place across Summer and Autumn 2022, exact dates are detailed above.

Is there access to help me apply?

Yes, the materials are available in large print and audio description. If you need further assistance with access, including our support with the understanding of terms used in this document, we can help. Please use the contact details at the bottom of this page.

How old do I have to be to apply?

Between the ages of 18-24 or 18-30 for d/Deaf and disabled choreographers.

Can I apply if I live outside of Great Britain?

No, this offer is only available to artists with permanent residence in England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

I am having trouble with the form, please help:

Should you experience any IT issues in completing or submitting the expression of interest form, please contact us using the details following this.

If you require any further information, please contact:

Lucy Clarke-Bishop, Projects Producer

E-Mail: lucy.clarke-bishop@sadlerswells.com

Phone or Text: +44 (0)7545 208 381

John-William Watson © Jacob Sutton

