

Artist-Led Sessions

Information Pack
2026/27

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01 Welcome

Sadler's Wells is a world-leading dance house, with a spirit of creative innovation and artistic collaboration at its heart. A key mission is to fuel the evolution of dance by providing artists with opportunities to experiment, explore, and develop their practice. In 2023, we launched our Artist Development Programme, consisting of six offerings, all open or recruited by open call, designed to support the artistic community through non-outcome driven initiatives. Following its first three years, we are re-opening applications for three of our programmes and continuing the rolling registration for two others. We have also developed new programmes that support developing choreographers to present work with us. You can read more about the full programme [here](#).

This offer is a curated programme of Artist-Led Sessions. In the spirit of exchange, we are creating a space for artists and creatives to devise a session for the artistic community to facilitate skills, ideas, and resource sharing. The content is completely up to you! We will pay a fee for the planning and delivery of the session, provide a space at Sadler's Wells and producing support to realise your session.

This programme welcomes artists and creatives working in dance in all its forms, regardless of pathway, training, or background. If you have something to share with the community and are interested in cultivating a space for exchange, we are holding this space for you.

02 The Offer

What is it?

We want to create a space for artists and creatives to cultivate a sense of community and facilitate skills, ideas, and resource sharing.

Through our Artist-Led Sessions you can propose an idea for a session that you would like to deliver, and we'll provide:

- **Studio space at Sadler's Wells for one day between the hours of 09:00 and 22:00.**
- **Pay a fee of £525, which we envisage would be broken down as £262.50 per day for two days work to cover both the planning and delivery of your session.**
- **Producing support from the Artist Development team to realise your session, including technical equipment (laptop with Zoom, streaming camera, and plasma screen) to deliver your session in a hybrid format.**

In addition, to make the session a success for those with supplementary needs, we can offer a bespoke package of access support to suit your requirements.

We are open to all suggestions you would like to put forward. This could be anything from sharing and exploring a specific movement practice or artistic idea, to delivering a class or workshop, to opening a dialogue to find out more about different contexts for your work or exchanging some ideas. Some sessions might be movement-based in their entirety, and others may be more discursive in nature.

These sessions are open for artists and creatives to both submit an expression of interest and attend either in person or remotely. As such, we ask that these sessions are delivered in a hybrid format. We will produce this for you but in both your planning and delivery we'd like you to be mindful that some will join remotely via Zoom. As a guideline, the sessions will have an in-person capacity of no more than 30 people, which is flexible depending on the specific content of your session and we will work together on this.

We will advertise your session on our website on the [Open Sessions webpage](#) and run the booking system. It will be free for artists to attend. As part of the expression of interest we ask you to articulate what your session is, which will inform how to communicate the invitation to the artistic community that you would like to attend.

Who is it for?

We would like to support artists and creatives that:

- **Have an interest in sharing their practice and holding space for the community.**
- **Have a practice rooted in dance in any form.**
- **Are at any stage in their career.**
- **Are over the age of 18 and not in formal education or training.**
- **Are residents of the United Kingdom and Crown Dependencies (England, Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland, Isle of Man and Channel Islands).**

For us, the term artists and creatives is used to capture a wide range of individuals including choreographers, makers, dancers, and dance artists.

Unfortunately, we won't be able to support:

- **Individuals who are currently in formal education or training.**
- **Those who reside outside of the United Kingdom and Crown Dependencies (such as Republic of Ireland or other EU countries).**

This is a space for the artistic community and is not a place to propose projects to Sadler's Wells for commissioning or programming.

If you are unsure if this programme is for you and would like to talk to someone, please contact our team. You'll find contact details at the end of this pack.

When is it?

This programme takes place on a Tuesday in a studio at Sadler's Wells. You will define when the session happens that day and will have access to the studio from 09:00 until 22:00. If your session is more discursive and you would like a different kind of space, we will work with you to find a suitable alternative at Sadler's Wells, pending availability.

The dates for the upcoming sessions are included below:

Tuesday 10 November 2026

Tuesday 24 November 2026

Tuesday 15 December 2026

Tuesday 19 January 2027

Tuesday 23 February 2027

Tuesday 23 March 2027

As part of your expression of interest you will be able to let us know if you have a preference on the possible date for your session.

03 Expression of Interest

To apply, please complete an [Expression of Interest Form](#) on our website.

In this form, we ask:

- 1. Please tell us about your creative practice.**
- 2. What session would you like to deliver? Think about how you would communicate this invitation to the artistic community that you would like to attend.**
- 3. What considerations would you make to this session being offered in a hybrid manner, being inclusive of attendees both in person and remotely via Zoom?**

You can submit your responses to the questions above in either of the following formats:

- **Written statements each with a word count of up to 250 words**
- **Audio or video recordings each with a duration of 2-3 minutes**

It's best that you prepare your responses before you click through to complete the form. Once you have prepared your responses, the form should take no more than 10-minutes to complete.

We are mindful of the unpaid labour undertaken for open calls and as such invite you to keep your response to the approximate length requested.

This open call launches on **Wednesday 15 April** and you have until **Sunday 10 May at midnight** to apply. 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 at the end of this pack.

04 Selection Process

The initial shortlisting of this programme will be done by members of the Programming team at Sadler's Wells. All expressions of interest that present a tangible and thought through idea for a session with a consideration of who you want to attend and how those joining remotely will engage with the offer, will be put on the long list.

The final selection will be made by an online random selection tool.

We are committed to foregrounding under-represented voices and as such, we aim to offer at least four of the six sessions to:

- **Artists from systemically marginalised groups including, and not limited to, disabled artists, artists from the global majority and LGBTQIA+.**
- **Artists that identify as female or non-binary.**

The timeline for this initiative is as follows:

Wednesday 15 April

Open call launches for expressions of interest

Sunday 10 May

Deadline for expressions of interest (midnight)

Friday 17 July

Responses sent to all who submitted an expression of interest

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

We anticipate this will be a competitive programme and are regretful that we will receive many more expressions of interest than sessions we are able to offer. Unfortunately, we will not be able to offer feedback.

05 Access Requirements

We are committed to being open and inclusive and 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 expression of interest possible. Regrettably, we cannot give advice on your response itself as we will remain impartial in the process.

There is [a large-print, plain text version](#) of this pack. You can also [listen to an audio version](#) of this pack. There is a **read aloud function** available in the PDF, which is available to download [here](#).

Contact:

**Valentina Vela – Senior Producer,
Artist Development & Programming
E-Mail: Valentina.Vela@sadlerswells.com
Phone or Text: +44 (0) 7872 506 803**

Valentina is available from Monday to Friday between 10:00-17:00. Please allow two working days for a response.

We can offer additional access support to help with overcoming barriers that would usually make your participation in this kind of initiative prohibitive or challenging.

If you are successful, we will discuss these requirements with you and create a bespoke package of access support to suit your needs.

06 Frequently Asked Questions

Can we apply as a collective or is this just for individual artists and creatives?

Yes, we welcome expressions of interest from a collective of artists but please note the fee offered per session is fixed no matter how many people work on the session, so please consider this before you apply.

If I wanted to deliver a discursive session or a talk, is there another space that I could use other than a studio?

Yes, although this will be dependent on availability. We are happy to work with you to find the best location within Sadler's Wells for you to deliver your session.

Do you have expectations for the duration of the session?

We are happy for you to make this decision, depending on what content you will be delivering and at what time of the day you think is most suitable for who you want to engage. We ask that you are considerate of the limitations of the resources offered and plan your session within these means.

Can I apply if I am already working with Sadler's Wells?

Yes, this programme is open to everyone.

Is there access support to help me apply?

Yes, the materials are available in large-print plain text and audio. 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 end of this pack.

Are there age restrictions for this programme?

You must be aged 18 or over to apply. We acknowledge that everyone's journey is different, therefore there are no specific age specifications.

Can I apply if I live outside of the United Kingdom?

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

I am having trouble with the form; please can you help?

If you experience any IT issues in completing or submitting the expression of interest form, please contact us using the details at the end of this pack.

07 Contact

If there is other information that you need or questions you would like to ask, please get in touch with **Valentina Vela, Senior Producer** by e-mail at **Valentina.Vela@sadlerswells.com**. You can also call or text Valentina on **07872 506 803** from Monday to Friday between 10:00-17:00. Please allow two working days for a response.

Read more about the **Artist Development Programme** [here](#).